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Weekly Update



June 19 - 23, 2017

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Latest News

- The House and Senate were in session this week. This week, the Senate considered the nomination of Brock Long to be Administrator of FEMA, while the House considered multiple homeland security bills. Additionally, hearings on the investigation into the Russian interference of the 2016 election, and hearings on gang violence occurred this week in both the House and Senate. Next week, the House is expected to consider legislation to reauthorize the Department of Homeland Security, which will be the first time the department has been reauthorized since its creation.
- **Crime Summit** - On June 20, the Department of Justice hosted a National Summit on Crime Reduction and Public Safety. The summit convened federal, state and local law enforcement to discuss how to support and replicate successful local violent crime reduction efforts. Topics that are being discussed include: ways to reduce gang involvement and gang crime; how to use intelligence, analysis, and research to drive good policing and catch violent criminals; strategies for improving homicide investigations and increasing clearance rates; strategies for reducing the drug supply and preventing drug abuse; approaches for protecting victims and witnesses; how to promote officer safety and wellness; and other topics. You can view Attorney General Sessions opening remarks [here](#), and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein's statement [here](#).
- **CLIENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT:** Bob Bushman, President of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC), presented on a panel at the National Summit on Crime Reduction and Public Safety. The topic was "Drug Supply Reduction and Prevention Strategies" and he presented alongside Kevin Sabet of SAM. Bushman made a clear and evidence-based argument for a recommitment to aggressive enforcement of laws against producing, trafficking, and selling drugs. Aggressive enforcement, combined with strong community prevention efforts and effective treatment can get us on the right track again - we saw big declines in drug use and violent crime over a generation, and that progress stopped and began to reverse a few years ago. Attorney General Sessions was in the audience for part of the panel and noted the importance of the NNOAC's message.
- **Public Safety Partnership** - The Department of Justice announced that 12 cities are joining the Department's newly organized National Public Safety Partnership. The partnership provides a framework for enhancing federal support of state, local and tribal law enforcement officials and prosecutors as they investigate and pursue violent criminals, specifically those involved in gun crime, drug trafficking and gang violence. You can view the announcement [here](#).
- **President's Opioid Commission** - The President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis held their first meeting on June 16. Discussions at the first



meeting focused on support of evidence-based treatment, evidence-based prevention and workforce development; expansion of long-term treatment; concerns with proposed cuts to Medicaid; and the expanded availability of naloxone, among other issues. You can view the first meeting [here](#). You can view more information on the commission [here](#).

- **Smart on Crime Initiative** - The Department of Justice Inspector General released its review of the department's implementation of prosecution and sentencing reform principles under the Smart on Crime Initiative. The report identified several shortcomings in the department's efforts, including some failures to update national and local policies and guidelines and a lack of communication with local law enforcement partners regarding changes to these policies and guidelines in some instances. The report made three recommendations to ensure that all federal prosecutors have clear and consistent guidance and fully understand all Department charging policies, and to enable the Department to more accurately measure the effectiveness of its charging policy decisions. You can view the report [here](#).

- **ARTICLES OF INTEREST:**

Jeff Sessions: Being soft on sentencing means more violent crime. It's time to get tough again.

The Washington Post | Attorney General Jeff Sessions

Drug trafficking is an inherently violent business. If you want to collect a drug debt, you can't, and don't, file a lawsuit in court. You collect it by the barrel of a gun. For the approximately 52,000 Americans who died of a drug overdose in 2015, drug trafficking was a deadly business. Yet in 2013, subject to limited exceptions, the Justice Department ordered federal prosecutors not to include in charging documents the amount of drugs being dealt when the actual amount was large enough to trigger a mandatory minimum sentence. Prosecutors were required to leave out objective facts in order to achieve sentences lighter than required by law. This was billed as an effort to curb mass incarceration of low-level offenders, but in reality it covered offenders apprehended with large quantities of dangerous drugs. The result was that federal drug prosecutions went down dramatically — from 2011 to 2016, federal prosecutions fell by 23 percent. Meanwhile, the average sentence length for a convicted federal drug offender decreased 18 percent from 2009 to 2016. **Continue reading** [here](#).

Changes forthcoming for DOJ on marijuana, deputy AG Rosenstein hints

Washington Times | Andrea Noble

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein hinted Tuesday there are changes on the horizon as to how the Justice Department handles marijuana enforcement in states that have legalized use of the drug in some form. "We follow the law and the science. From a legal and scientific perspective, marijuana it is an unlawful drug," Mr. Rosenstein said Tuesday during an appearance before a Senate appropriations committee. But he said there may be future changes to the Obama-era guidance issued by the Justice Department — known as the Cole memo — that limited federal enforcement of marijuana laws in states that had opted to legalize medical or recreational use. **Continue reading** [here](#).

Pot activists have been holding their breath for months on Jeff Sessions

CNN | Eli Watkins

Attorney General Jeff Sessions does not like marijuana. He has called regular marijuana use "only slightly less awful" than heroin dependence. He once made a joking comment about not minding the KKK until he found out they smoked marijuana. And as a senator, he was one of the most avowed opponents of legalization. A few months with Sessions as the nation's top cop have left pot supporters wondering how far he'll go to roll back Justice Department policy allowing states to set their own pot rules. **Continue reading** [here](#).

Hearings & Markups Happening This Week

House Homeland Security Committee - Counterterrorism Subcommittee Field Hearing

[Combating Gang Violence on Long Island: Shutting Down the MS-13 Pipeline](#)

June 20 @ 9:30 am - Central Islip, NY

Senate Judiciary Committee - Crime Subcommittee Hearing
[Concurrent Congressional and Criminal Investigations: Lessons from History](#)
June 20 @ 2:30 pm - 226 Dirksen

Senate Intelligence Committee - Full Committee Hearing
[Russian Interference in the 2016 U.S. elections](#)
June 21 @ 9:30 am - 216 Hart

Senate Judiciary Committee - Full Committee Hearing
[The MS-13 Problem: Investigating Gang Membership, its Nexus to Illegal Immigration, and Federal Efforts to End the Threat](#)
June 21 @ 10:00 am - 226 Dirksen

House Intelligence Committee - Task Force Hearing
[Russia Investigative Task Force Hearing with Former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson](#)
June 21 @ 10:00 am - HVC 210

House Judiciary Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - June 21 @ 10:00 am - 2141 Rayburn

[H.R. 495 - Protection of Children Act](#)

Status: To be considered by the House Judiciary Committee on 6/14

Summary: This bill amends the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 to eliminate the special repatriation requirements for unaccompanied alien children (UAC) who are nationals or residents of a country contiguous to the United States. (The same removal requirements are applied to all UACs who are not victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons and who do not have a fear of returning to their country of nationality or last habitual residence.) An immigration officer who finds an inadmissible UAC at a land border or port of entry shall return the child to his or her country of nationality or of last habitual residence. (Currently such authority is discretionary.) The Department of State is authorized to negotiate agreements between the United States and other countries for the repatriation of children. (Under current law, State is required to negotiate agreements between the United States and countries contiguous to the United States for the repatriation of children.)

[H.R. 2826 - Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act](#)

Status: To be considered by the House Judiciary Committee on 6/14

Summary: To provide for an annual adjustment of the number of admissible refugees, and for other purposes.

[H.R. 1096 - Judgment Fund Transparency Act](#)

Status: To be considered by the House Judiciary Committee on 6/14

Summary: This bill requires the Department of the Treasury to disclose details after payments are made from the Judgment Fund. Unless the disclosure is prohibited by law or a court order, Treasury must disclose to the public on a website: the agency or entity whose actions gave rise to the claim or judgment, the plaintiff or claimant, the counsel for the plaintiff or claimant, the amount paid, a description of the facts that gave rise to the claim, the agency that submitted the claim, and any information available on reports generated by the Judgment Fund Payment Search administered by Treasury.

Senate Homeland Security Committee - Full Committee Hearing
[Cybersecurity Regulation Harmonization](#)
June 21 @ 10:30 am - 342 Dirksen

House Appropriations Committee - CJS Subcommittee Hearing
[Federal Bureau of Investigation - Budget Hearing](#)
June 21 @ 3:00 pm - 2358C Rayburn

House Judiciary Committee - Crime Subcommittee Hearing
[Juvenile Justice Reform in the Modern Era](#)

June 22 @ 10:00 am - 2141 Rayburn

Senate Judiciary Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - June 22 @ 10:00 am - 226 Dirksen
[Nomination of Stephen Elliott Boyd](#), to be an Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs
Status: To be considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 6/22; Hearing held 5/24.

[S. 1312](#) - Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017

Status: To be considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 6/22.
Summary: To prioritize the fight against human trafficking in the United States.

[S. 1311](#) - Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017

Status: To be considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 6/22.
Summary: To provide assistance in abolishing human trafficking in the United States.

Legislation on the Floor This Week

House:

[H.R. 2834](#) - Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act

Status: To be considered by the House on 6/20
Summary: To improve the well-being of, and improve permanency outcomes for, children and families affected by heroin, opioids, and other substance abuse.

[H.R. 2857](#) - Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act

Status: To be considered by the House on 6/20
Summary: To support foster care maintenance payments for children with parents in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance abuse.

[H.R. 2132](#) - Traveler Redress Improvement Act of 2017

Status: To be considered by the House on 6/20
Summary: To require the implementation of a redress process and review of the Transportation Security Administration's intelligence-based screening rules for aviation security, and for other purposes.

[H.R. 625](#) - REPORT Act

Status: To be considered by the House on 6/20
Summary: This bill requires the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and, as appropriate, the National Counterterrorism Center, to submit to Congress an unclassified report on an incident of terrorism in the United States as soon as the investigation of such incident is completed by the primary government agency.

[H.R. 2131](#) - DHS FIRM Act

Status: To be considered by the House on 6/20
Summary: To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department of Homeland Security to improve consistency regarding discipline and adverse actions in the Department's workforce, and for other purposes.

[H.R. 2283](#) - DHS MORALE Act

Status: To be considered by the House on 6/20
Summary: To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve morale within the Department of Homeland Security workforce by conferring new responsibilities to the Chief Human Capital Officer, establishing an employee engagement steering committee, requiring action plans, and authorizing an annual employee award program, and for other purposes.

[H.R. 1282](#) - DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2017**Status:** To be considered by the House on 6/20**Summary:** To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Acquisition Review Boards in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.**[H.R. 2190](#) - Streamlining DHS Overhead Act****Status:** To be considered by the House on 6/20**Summary:** To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to make certain improvements in managing the Department's real property portfolio, and for other purposes.**Senate:****Note:** Due to Senate scheduling and rules, additional items not listed may be added to the calendar for consideration.**[Brock Long](#)**, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security**Status:** To be considered in the Senate on 6/19; Ordered to be reported favorably by the Senate Homeland Security Committee on 6/12; Hearing held on 6/7

Recap of Last Week's Hearings & Markups

Note: For more details on any of the following hearings, we can provide access to hearing transcripts upon request.Senate Homeland Security Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - June 12**[Brock Long](#)**, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security**Status:** Ordered to be reported favorably by the Senate Homeland Security Committee on 6/12; Hearing held on 6/7

Senate Appropriations Committee - CJS Subcommittee Hearing - June 13

[Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Justice](#)**Summary:** This hearing examined the Department of Justice budget request for fiscal year 2018. At this hearing, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein was asked about the investigation of Russian interference of the 2016 elections, and addressed rumors that President Trump was considering firing Robert Mueller, who is leading the special investigation. DAG Rosenstein stated that he has confidence in the work of Mueller, and at this time, sees no reason to fire him. Rosenstein was also asked questions regarding what the department is doing to combat the opioid and heroin crisis, and the steps they are taking to stop the flow of fentanyl from China. Additionally, Rosenstein answered questions regarding DOJ grants, the rape kit backlog, sanctuary cities, and cyber issues. DAG Rosenstein also hinted at possible upcoming changes with regards to enforcement of federal marijuana laws, which were relaxed under the previous administration. Some members of the committee were upset that AG Sessions did not appear before the committee.

House Appropriations Committee - CJS Subcommittee Hearing - June 13

[Department of Justice Budget Hearing](#)**Summary:** Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein also appeared before the House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee. Many of the same questions were asked at this hearing as with the previous Senate hearing. (See above Senate hearing for more information)

Senate Intelligence Hearing - Full Committee Hearing - June 13

[Attorney General Jeff Sessions](#)**Summary:** At his hearing, Attorney General Jeff Sessions testified regarding rumors and accusations made against him and his involvement with the firing of former FBI Director Comey, and his meetings with Russian officials. AG Sessions

clarified the extent of his meetings with Russian officials when he was still a U.S. Senator, and detailed his conversations with Comey and ultimately his decision to recommend Comey's removal. Overall, many of the questions that were asked AG Sessions could not answer because they were either private conversations with the president, or that they were questions surrounding the current investigation, of which he is not a part of.

Senate Indian Affairs Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - June 13

[S. 772 - AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act of 2017](#)

Status: To be marked-up by the Indian Affairs Committee on 6/13

Summary: To amend the PROTECT Act to make Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert grants.

Senate Homeland Security Committee - Full Committee Hearing - June 14

[Ideology and Terror: Understanding the Tools, Tactics, and Techniques of Violent Extremism](#)

Summary: This hearing heard from witnesses on the ideas of radical extremism and radicalization. Witnesses testified that we need to fight a war of ideas. The panelists agreed that a new path forward to combating political Islam and its state sponsors is needed.

House Homeland Security Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - June 14

[H.R. 2825 - Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017](#)

Status: Approved by the House Homeland Security Committee as amended on 6/14

Summary: To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

House Judiciary Committee - Full Committee Hearing - June 15

[Data Stored Abroad: Ensuring Lawful Access and Privacy Protection in the Digital Era](#)

Summary: This hearing heard from DOJ and UK officials, as well as law enforcement and tech companies on the ability of law enforcement to lawfully gain access to information with legal demand stored across borders. The first panel urged passage of legislation to permit U.S. authorities to enter into agreements to allow for easier data sharing. They discussed the proposed US-UK agreement. Rich Littlehale, from the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation testified on behalf of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies. He outlined the challenges that law enforcement is facing when trying to seek data pertinent to an investigation that happens to be stored in a server in another country. Littlehale went on to describe how you can have a victim of a crime in the U.S., the perpetrators located in the U.S., the data believed to be relevant originating in the U.S., however even with a warrant that data is out of reach because it was randomly assigned to be located on a server abroad.



Senate Judiciary Committee - [Full Committee Markup](#) - June 15

[Stephen Elliott Boyd](#), to be an Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs

Status: Held over by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 6/15; Hearing held 5/24

[Lee Francis Cissna](#), to be Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security

Status: Approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 6/15; Hearing held 5/24

Legislation Considered Last Week

House:

Nothing affecting the law enforcement or homeland security community.

Senate:

S. 782 - Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology To Eradicate Cyber Threats to Our Children Act of 2017

Status: Approved by the Senate on 6/15

Summary: To reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, and for other purposes.

Legislation Introduced Last Week

Date Introduced	Bill Number	Sponsor	Description
6/15/2017	HR 2922	Dan Donovan (R-NY-11)	To reform and improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Emergency Communications, and the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.
6/15/2017	HR 2920	Steve Cohen (D-TN-9)	To extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana.
6/15/2017	HR 2913	Grace Napolitano (D-CA-32)	To amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.
6/15/20017	HR 2909	Tom Massie (R-KY-4)	To require reciprocity between the District of Columbia and other States and jurisdictions with respect to the ability of individuals to carry certain concealed firearms, and for other purposes.
6/15/2017	HR 2905	David Young (R-IA-3)	To require the Attorney General to establish procedures for expedited review of the case of any person who unlawfully solicits personal information for purposes of committing identity theft, while purporting to be acting on behalf of the IRS, and for other purposes.
6/15/2017	S 1374	Cory Booker (D-NJ)	A bill to extend the principle of federalism to State drug policy, provide access to medical marijuana, and enable research into the medicinal properties of marijuana
6/15/2017	S 1370	Al Franken (D-MN)	A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.
6/14/2017	HR 2900	Nydia Velazquez (D-NY-7)	Synthetic Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Education Act - To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the prevention and treatment of the use of synthetic recreational drugs, and for other purposes.
6/14/2017	S 1355	Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	A bill to combat the heroin epidemic and drug sample backlogs.
6/13/2017	HR 2899	Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI-5)	Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2017 - To reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.
6/12/2017	S 1339	Tom Cotton (R-AR)	A bill to provide authority for access to certain business records collected under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 prior to November 29, 2015, to make the authority for roving surveillance, the authority to treat individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers, and title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 permanent, and to modify the certification requirements for access to telephone toll and transactional records by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.



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