

ATTORNEYS GENERAL

TABLE 4.22

Attorneys General: Consumer Protection Activities, Subpoena Powers and Antitrust Duties

State or other jurisdiction	May commence civil proceedings	May commence criminal proceedings	Represents the state before regulatory agencies (a)	Administers consumer protection programs	Handles consumer complaints	Subpoena powers (b)	Antitrust duties
Alabama	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C
Alaska	★	...	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Arizona	★	★	...	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Arkansas	★	...	★	★	★	●	A,B
California	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Colorado	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,C,D
Connecticut	★	(d)	★	★	★	●	A,B,D
Delaware	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,D
Florida	★	...	...	★	★	★	A,B,D
Georgia	★	★	★	★	★	●	...
Hawaii	★	★	★	...	★	★	A,B,C,D
Idaho	★	...	★	★	★	★	A,B,D
Illinois	★	...	★	★	★	●	A,B,C
Indiana	★	...	★	★	★	★	A,B
Iowa	★	★	★	★	★	★	B,C
Kansas	★	★	...	★	★	★	A,B,D
Kentucky	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Louisiana	★	...	★	★	★	(n)	A,B,D
Maine	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C
Maryland	★	★(e)	★	★	★	★	B,C,D
Massachusetts	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Michigan	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Minnesota	★	...	...	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Mississippi	★	★	...	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Missouri	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Montana	★	★	...	★	★	...	A,B
Nebraska	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Nevada	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
New Hampshire	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C
New Jersey	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
New Mexico	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C(g)
New York	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
North Carolina	★	★(f)	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
North Dakota	★	...	...	...	...	★	A,B,C
Ohio (c)	★	...	...	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Oklahoma	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Oregon	★	★(f)	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
Pennsylvania	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B
Rhode Island	★	★	...	★	★	★	A,B,C
South Carolina	★(a)	★(h)	★	...	(i)	●	A,B,C,D
South Dakota	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C
Tennessee	★	(e)(f)	(f)	★	...	★	A,B,C,D
Texas	★	...	...	★	★	●	A,B,D
Utah	★(j)	★	★(j)	...	★(k)	●	A(l),B,C,D(l)
Vermont	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C
Virginia	★	(f)	★	★(k)	★(k)	●	A,B,C,D
Washington	★	...	★	★	★	★	A,B,D
West Virginia	★	...	★	★	★	★	A,B,D
Wisconsin	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C(g)
Wyoming	★	...	★	★	★	●	A,B
Dist. of Columbia	★	★(m)	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
American Samoa	★	★	★	★	★	...	...
Guam	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
CNMI*	★	★	...	...	...	★	A,B
Puerto Rico	★	★	...	...	...	★	A,B,C,D
U.S. Virgin Islands	★	★	★	★	★	●	A

See footnotes at end of table

TABLE 4.22

Attorneys General: Consumer Protection Activities, Subpoena Powers and Antitrust Duties (continued)

Sources: The Council of State Governments' survey of attorneys general, state constitutions and statutes, October 2017.

*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Key:

A—Has parens patriae authority to commence suits on behalf of consumers in state antitrust damage actions in state courts.

B—May initiate damage actions on behalf of state in state courts.

C—May commence criminal proceedings.

D—May represent cities, counties and other governmental entities in recovering civil damages under federal or state law.

★—Has authority in area.

...—Does not have authority in area.

(a) May represent state on behalf of: the "people" of the state; an agency of the state; or the state before a federal regulatory agency.

(b) In this column only: ★ broad powers and ● limited powers.

(c) Also provides service to consumers through the Identity Theft Unit, administration of Ohio's Title Defect Rescission Fund, and the registration of non-charitable telephone solicitors.

(d) In certain cases only.

(e) May commence criminal proceedings with local district attorney.

(f) To a limited extent.

(g) May represent other governmental entities in recovering civil damages under federal or state law.

(h) When permitted to intervene.

(i) On a limited basis because the state has a separate consumer affairs department.

(j) Attorney general has exclusive authority.

(k) Attorney general handles legal matters only with no administrative handling of complaints.

(l) Opinion only, since there are no controlling precedents.

(m) In antitrust, not criminal proceedings.

(n) The office can issue Civil Investigative Demands, but would go to court in order to get a subpoena.