

Table 4.19
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
Alaska	★	★	★	★	★	★	B,C
Arizona	★	...	...	★	★	★	A,B,C
Arkansas	★	...	★	★	★	★	B
California	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D (c)
Colorado	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D (d)
Connecticut	★	(e)	★	★	★	●	A,B,D
Delaware	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,D
Florida	★	★(f)	★	★(e)	...	★	A,B,C,D
Georgia	★	★	★	...	...	●	B,C
Hawaii	★	★	★	★(e, g)	(g)	★	A,B,C,D
Idaho	★	...	...	★	★	★	D
Illinois	★	...	...	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Indiana	★	...	★	★	★	(e)	B,D
Iowa	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
Kansas	★	★	★	★	★	★	B,C,D
Kentucky	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,D
Louisiana	★	(f)	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Maine	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C
Maryland	★	★	★	★	★	★	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	★(h)	(h)	(e)	...	...	●	A,B,C,D
Nebraska	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,(d),D
Nevada	★	★	...	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
New Hampshire	★	★	★	...	★	●	A,B,C,D
New Jersey	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
New Mexico	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
New York	★	★	...	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
North Carolina	★	★(e)	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
North Dakota	★	...	★	★	★	★	A,B,D
Ohio	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
Oklahoma	★	(e)	(e)	★	★	●	B,D
Oregon	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
Pennsylvania	★	★	★	★	★	●	A (i),B (j),C (j),D
Rhode Island	★	★	★	★	★	★	A,B,C,D
South Carolina	★(a)	★(c)	★	...	★	●	A,B,C,D
South Dakota	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
Tennessee	★	(e, f)	(e)	...	...	★	B,C,D
Texas	★	...	★	★	★	●	A,B,D
Utah	★(d)	★	★(d)	...	★(g)	●	A (k),B,C,D (k)
Vermont	★	★	★(d)	★	★	★	A,B
Virginia	★	(e)	★	★(g)	★(g)	●	A,B,C,D
Washington	★	(e)	★	★	★	●	A,B,D (h)
West Virginia	★	...	★	★	★	★	A,B,D
Wisconsin	★	(e)	★	...	...	●	B,C
Wyoming	★	(e)	★	★	★	★	A,B,C
American Samoa*	★	★	★	★	★	...	...
Guam*	★	★	★	★	★	●	A,B,C,D
No. Mariana Islands	★	★	★	★	★	★	B,C,D
Puerto Rico*	★	★	★	★(e)	★(e)	★	A,B,C,D
U.S. Virgin Islands	★	★(l)	★	...	...	●	B (m),C

Sources: The Council of State Governments' survey, January 2002, and state constitutions and statutes. Information indicated by an * is from *The Book of the States*, 2000-2001.

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) When permitted to intervene.

(d) Attorney general has exclusive authority.

(e) To a limited extent.

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

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

(h) Only when requested by the state department of commerce or by a county attorney.

(i) In federal courts only.

(j) For bid rigging violations only.

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

(l) May prosecute in inferior courts. May prosecute in district court only by request or consent of U.S. Attorney General.

(m) May initiate damage actions on behalf of jurisdiction in district court.