

**Operation Bottom Dollar:
FTC, Federal and State Action Overview**

February 17, 2010

Matter Name / Location	Type of Action	Date / Matter Information	Responsible Agency	Press Contact
FEDERAL ACTIONS				
FTC Actions				
<p><i>FTC v. Abili-Staff Ltd, Equitron LLC, Pamela Jean Barthuly and Jorg Whilhelm Becker</i> (W.D. Tex)</p>	<p>Civil action alleging violations of Section 5 of the FTC Act</p>	<p>Complaint filed on February 2, 2010 in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division.</p> <p>Temporary Restraining Order entered on February 2, 2010.</p> <p>PI Hearing held on February 16, 2010.</p>	<p>Federal Trade Commission</p>	<p>FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180</p>
<p><i>FTC v. Darling Angel Pin Creations, Inc., Shelly R. Olson and Judith C. Mendez</i> (M.D. Fla.)</p>	<p>Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of the FTC Act.</p>	<p>Complaint filed on February 2, 2010 in Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division</p> <p>Temporary Restraining Order entered on February 2, 2010 and extended February 11, 2010; PI stipulated as to one defendant while PI decision as to individual defendants pending further briefing.</p>	<p>Federal Trade Commission</p>	<p>FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180</p>

<p><i>FTC and the State of Arizona v. Government Careers, Inc., Jon Coover, Richard Friedberg and Rimona Friedburg</i> (D. Ariz.)</p>	<p>Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act and of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act.</p>	<p>Complaint filed on December 28, 2009 in United States District Court for the District of Arizona</p> <p>Temporary Restraining Order entered on January 5, 2010.</p> <p>Stip PI as to Freidbergs on February 10, 2010; as to corporation and Coover on February 12.</p>	<p>Federal Trade Commission</p> <p>Arizona Attorney General's Office</p>	<p>FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180</p>
<p><i>FTC v. Independent Marketing Exchange Inc. and Wayne Verderber II</i> (D. N.J.)</p>	<p>Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act</p>	<p>Complaint filed in District Court of New Jersey on February 2, 2010.</p> <p>Temporary Restraining Order signed on February 2, 2010, and extended by stipulation until PI Hearing.</p>	<p>Federal Trade Commission</p>	<p>FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180</p>
<p><i>FTC v. Preferred Platinum Services Network, LLC and Rosalie Florie</i> (D. N.J.)</p>	<p>Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act</p>	<p>Complaint filed in District Court of New Jersey on February 1, 2010.</p> <p>Temporary Restraining Order entered on February 1, 2010.</p> <p>Preliminary Injunction entered on February 16, 2010.</p>	<p>Federal Trade Commission</p>	<p>FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180</p>

<i>FTC v. Real Wealth Inc. and Lance Murkin</i> (W.D. Mo.)	Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act	Complaint filed on January 21, 2010 in District Court for Western District of Missouri. Temporary Restraining Order with asset freeze entered on January 26, 2010	Federal Trade Commission	FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180
<i>FTC v. Resource Publishing Co., Jason Arthur Barnes and Racquelle Hart Barnes</i> (S.D. Fla.)	Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act	Complaint filed in Southern District of Florida on February 1, 2010. Stipulated Preliminary Injunction entered February 4, 2010.	Federal Trade Commission	FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180
<i>FTC v. Wagner Ramos Borges, d/b/a Job Safety USA, Sparkle Industrial, Sparkle Maintenance, Star Maintenance, Aim Janitorial and Flooring, and United Maintenance</i> (D. Md.)	Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act	Final Order for Permanent Injunction and Judgment Against Wagner Ramos Borges entered on January 28, 2010. Complaint was filed on June 22, 2009	Federal Trade Commission	FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180
<i>FTC v. Make You Famous Consulting, Inc., d/b/a A Penbrook Productions, Penbrook Productions and Process From Home, and Michael Allen Brooks</i> (C.D. Cal.)	Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act	Settlement filed on January 21, 2010. Entered on February 10, 2010. Complaint was filed June 25, 2009.	Federal Trade Commission	FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180

<p><i>FTC v. Career Hotline, Inc., and Susan Bright</i> (M.D. Fla.)</p>	<p>Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act</p>	<p>Final Judgment and Order with Susan Bright, entered on January 7, 2010.</p> <p>Final Judgment and Order as to Career Hotline entered January 29, 2010.</p> <p>Complaint was filed on August 4, 2009.</p>	<p>Federal Trade Commission</p>	<p>FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180</p>
<p><i>FTC v. Ziolo Cruz, also d/b/a International Marketing</i> (D. P.R.)</p>	<p>Modified Order following Contempt Hearing for violation of Final Order following Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act</p>	<p>Modified Order signed January 19, 2010.</p> <p>Cruz, who was a marketer of deceptive envelope stuffing scheme, was jailed for contempt on December 17, 2009. Original Injunction was filed December 18, 2008.</p>	<p>Federal Trade Commission</p>	<p>FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180</p>

USPIS / United States Department of Justice / FBI

<p><i>U.S. v. Cheryl Crown</i> (D. Minn.)</p>	<p>Sentencing: 5 years probation. Equitable Resources Inc., Capital Asset Investors Inc. and American Franchise Corporation advertised investment opportunities in vending machines; there were approximately 200 victims across the USA, who lost an estimated \$315,766.</p>	<p>Sentencing on April 27, 2009 in D. Minn.</p>	<p>USPIS Chicago Division / AUSA in D. Minn.</p>	<p>David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist (612) 664-5684</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. Evan Crown</i> (D. Minn.)</p>	<p>Sentencing: 2 years prison and \$100,000 fine. Equitable Resources Inc., Capital Asset Investors Inc. and American Franchise Corporation failed to render goods and services as defendants advertised investment opportunities for vending machines; there were approximately 200 victims across the USA, who lost an estimated \$315,766.</p>	<p>Sentencing on April 27, 2009 in D. Minn.</p>	<p>USPIS Chicago Division / AUSA D. Minn.</p>	<p>David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist (612) 664-5684</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. Stephen Crown</i> (D. Minn.)</p>	<p>Sentencing: 2 years, 6 months prison; 3 years supervised release; \$324,090 in restitution. Equitable Resources Inc., Capital Asset Investors Inc. and American Franchise Corporation failed to render goods and services as defendants advertised investment opportunities for vending machines; there were approximately 200 victims across the USA, who lost an estimated \$315,766.</p>	<p>Sentencing on April 27, 2009 in D. Minn.</p>	<p>USPIS Chicago Division / AUSA D. Minn.</p>	<p>David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist (612) 664-5684</p>

<i>U.S. v. Alberto Ferreriras (E.D. N.Y.)</i>	Sentencing: 125 months; 3 years probation; Court Ordered Restitution in the amount of \$16,955,366. Cashlink was a business opportunity telemarketing scheme selling cash-less ATM machines for between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Investigation uncovered over 800 victims.	Sentencing on July 21, 2009 in E.D.N.Y.	OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA E.D. N.Y. and S.D. Fla.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007
<i>U.S. v. John Joseph Magginis, Jr. (S.D. Fla.)</i>	Sentencing: 7 YEARS prison; 3 years probation; Court Ordered Restitution in the amount of \$4,276,386. Global Resources was a business opportunity scheme that fraudulently marketed pre-paid telephones and terminals to potential investors; 100 victims were defrauded out of more than \$3.5 million.	Sentencing on July 2, 2009 in S.D. Fla.	OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.	Alicia Valle Special Counsel to the US Attorney, S.D. Fla. (305) 961-9153 Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007
<i>U.S. v. Laura R. Fadlon (S.D. Fla.)</i>	Sentencing: 2 YEARS 3 months prison; 3 years probation; Court Ordered Restitution in the amount of \$803,117. Global Resources was a scheme that fraudulently marketed pre-paid telephones and terminals business opportunities to potential investors; 100 victims were defrauded out of more than \$3.5 million.	Sentencing on June 2, 2009 in S.D. Fla.	OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.	Alicia Valle Special Counsel to the US Attorney, S.D. Fla. (305) 961-9153 Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007

<p><i>U.S. v. Lawrence Alfred Taylor (S.D. Fla.)</i></p>	<p>Sentencing: 4 YEARS 3 months prison; 3 years probation; Court Ordered Restitution in the amount of \$203,764.00. Global Resources was a scheme that fraudulently marketed pre-paid telephones and terminals business opportunities to potential investors; 100 victims were defrauded out of more than \$3.5 million.</p>	<p>Sentencing on June 10, 2009 in S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>Alicia Valle Special Counsel to the US Attorney, S.D. Fla. (305) 961-9153</p> <p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. Stewart Michael Pope (S.D. Fla.)</i></p>	<p>Sentencing: 2 YEARS 3 months prison; 3 years probation; Court Ordered Restitution in the amount of \$4,313,093.00. Global Resources was a scheme that fraudulently marketed pre-paid telephones and terminals business opportunities to potential investors; 100 victims were defrauded out of more than \$3.5 million.</p>	<p>Sentencing on August 11, 2009 in S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>Alicia Valle Special Counsel to the US Attorney, S.D. Fla. (305) 961-9153</p> <p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. Dave Johnson (S.D. Fla.)</i></p>	<p>Guilty Plea and Sentencing: 3 YEARS 6 months prison; 3 years probation; Court Ordered Restitution in the amount of \$1,207,527.68. Nationwide CyberSystems and Transnet Wireless engaged in sale of business opportunities, particularly the sale of an Internet Kiosk franchise. NCS defrauded over 1,700 investors out of \$31 million. When NCS shutdown, it opened TW, which sold a similar Internet kiosk—it defrauded over 900 investors out of \$17 million until the FTC shut it down in 2005.</p>	<p>Guilty plea on July 10, 2009 to conspiracy to commit mail fraud; Sentencing on November 18, 2009 in S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>

<p><i>U.S. v. Jeffrey Samuel Burns</i> (N.D. Tex)</p>	<p>Sentencing: 1 YEAR 6 months prison; 2 years probation; Court Ordered Restitution in the amount of \$802,305.00. Nationwide CyberSystems and Transnet Wireless engaged in sale of business opportunities, particularly the sale of an Internet Kiosk franchise. NCS defrauded over 1,700 investors out of \$31 million. When NCS shutdown, it opened TW, who sold a similar Internet kiosk—it defrauded over 900 investors out of \$17 million until the FTC shut it down in 2005.</p>	<p>Sentencing on June 15, 2009 in N.D. Tex.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA N.D. Tex.</p>	<p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. Bradley Wayde Cartwright</i> (S.D. Fla.)</p>	<p>Sentencing: 78 months prison; 3 years probation. Nationwide CyberSystems and Transnet Wireless engaged in sale of business opportunities, particularly the sale of an Internet Kiosk franchise. NCS defrauded over 1,700 investors out of \$31 million. When NCS shutdown, it opened TW, who sold a similar Internet kiosk—it defrauded over 900 investors out of \$17 million until the FTC shut it down in 2005.</p>	<p>Sentencing on April 3, 2009 in S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. DLH Services, Hill Marketing, Superior Publishing and Freedom Publications</i></p>	<p>A Cease and Desist Order. The companies used P.O. Boxes in Fort Worth, Lake Worth, and Haslet, Texas to operate work-at-home envelope stuffing schemes.</p>	<p>C&D issued in December, 2009.</p>	<p>USPIS Ft. Worth Division</p>	

<p><i>U.S. v. Seth Lehrenbaum</i> (S.D. Fla.)</p>	<p>Indictment: Criminal case consisting of 8 count indictment against serial business opportunity scammer. Indicted for role in the Global Brands Corporation and Gold Star Vending, Inc. business opportunity schemes (placing pay-to-play games on tables at restaurants)</p>	<p>On October 6, 2009, Seth Lehrenbaum was indicted on eight counts of wire fraud.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>Alicia Valle Special Counsel to the US Attorney, S.D. Fla. (305) 961-9153</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. Orlando Moncada</i> (S.D. Fla.).</p>	<p>Indictment: Criminal case consisting of indictment for conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Indicted for role as a phony reference for a fraudulent South Florida business opportunity firm called American Merchant Technologies (“AMT”); firm provided cashless ATM machines.</p>	<p>On October 20, 2009, Orlando Moncada was indicted for conspiracy to commit wire fraud for his role.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.</p>	<p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. Anthony Antonelli, et al.</i> (D. R.I.)</p>	<p>Guilty Plea: Criminal matter alleging mail fraud. Guilty plea in connection with business opportunity sales at Elite Designs, Inc., a Providence, Rhode Island business opportunity firm that sold inventories of candles, jewelry, and racks.</p>	<p>On October 2, 2009, Anthony Antonelli, Robert Michaels, and Joseph Macchiarulo pled guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Rhode Island Division / AUSA D. R.I.</p>	<p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>
<p><i>U.S. v. Madeline Wagner, et al.</i> (D. Colo.)</p>	<p>Guilty Plea: Criminal matter alleging mail fraud.</p>	<p>On November 9, 2009, Madeline Wagner pled guilty to conspiracy to commit mail fraud.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Rhode Island Division / AUSA D. Colo.</p>	<p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>

<p><i>U.S. v Saferstein, et al</i> (S.D. Fla.)</p>	<p>Guilty Plea: Criminal matter alleging mail fraud, wire fraud and filing false tax returns in connection with GoInternet company Internet fraud.</p>	<p>On October 30, 2009, Neal D. Saferstein, 36, of Mount Laurel, NJ, pleaded guilty to four counts of an indictment stemming from a multi-million dollar telemarketing scam that defrauded as many as 400,000 small businesses out of as much as \$75 million. Saferstein pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud, one count of mail fraud, and two counts of filing false tax returns.</p>	<p>AUSA S.D. Fla.</p>	
<p><i>U.S. v. J.W. McLain</i> (N.D. Ga.)</p>	<p>Sentencing: 3 years in prison, and 3 years of supervised release for role in Prophet 3H home healthcare business opportunity fraud.</p>	<p>Sentenced on January 5, 2010. Guilty plea was August 10, 2009.</p>	<p>AUSA N.D. Ga.</p>	
<p><i>U.S. v. Mark Miller</i> [M.D. Fla.]</p>	<p>Indictment and Criminal contempt action. The indictment had charged Miller with violating a 2003 court order we had obtained in a civil case referred by the FTC. The order barred him from selling business ventures, and he continued to sell food and beverage vending machines.</p>	<p>On June 18, 2009, Mark Miller was indicted. On December 2, 2009, Mark Miller pled guilty to one count of criminal contempt in the Middle District of Florida.</p>	<p>OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA M.D. Fla.</p>	<p>Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007</p>

<i>U.S. v. Melissa Brewster</i> (S.D. Fla.)	Sentencing: 15 days' imprisonment, followed by three years' supervised release with four months under home detention for her role in sales and administrative support at Gold Star Vending, Inc. (a table top shooter business opportunity.) Brewster was also ordered to pay over \$100,000 in restitution to victims of the business opportunity investment scheme	On November 10, 2009, the court sentenced Brewster.	OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007
<i>U.S. v. Charles Nicol</i> [S.D. Fla.].	Indictment and Sentencing: 41 months' imprisonment for his role as a salesman in the Table Top Vending, Inc., and Gold Star Vending, Inc., business opportunity schemes	On April 2, 2009, Charles Nicol was indicted. On September 17, 2009 the court sentenced Charles Nicol.	OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007
<i>U.S. v. Ronald Wattu</i> [D.R.I.]	Sentencing: 78 months' imprisonment and \$1.3 million in restitution for his role in the Elite Designs, Inc. fraudulent business opportunity sales (Elite Designs sold inventories of candles and jewelry, and display racks).	On December 4, 2009, Ronald Wattu was sentenced.	OCL / USPIS Rhode Island Division / AUSA D.R.I.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007
<i>U.S. v. Jeffrey Pearson and Stephen Schultz</i> [S.D. Fla.]	Guilty Plea: To conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud in connection with the sale of business opportunities, as well as to eight counts of mail fraud and three counts of wire fraud. Schultz worked for USA Beverages et al., which sold coffee display racks, and greeting card racks.	On January 21, 2010, Stephen Schultz pled guilty.	OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007

<i>U.S. v. Paul David Angel</i> (D. Ariz.)	Sentencing: 70 months in prison, 36 months supervised release, and court ordered restitution in an amount to be determined an a March 2010 hearing. Defendant used businesses that solicited victims to purchase Web sites that purported to promote the victims as distributors of GPS units	Sentencing on January 25, 2010.	AUSA D. Ariz.	USA Dennis K. Burke AUSA Rachel Hernandez AUSA Peter Sexton
<i>U.S. v. John Aitken</i> (D. Nev.)	Guilty Plea: to mail and wire fraud. Defendant was co-owner and operator of Nationwide, which ran an envelope stuffing scheme.	Guilty Plea on April 6, 2009 in D. Nev.	AUSA D. Nev.	Russell Marsh, Criminal Chief AUSA D. Nev. (702) 388-6582 Stanley Boone, White Collar Crime Coordinator for EOUSA
<i>U.S. v. Gina Aitken</i> (for role in Nationwide company)	Guilty Plea: to misprision of a felony. Defendant was co-owner and operator of Nationwide, which ran an envelope stuffing scheme.	Guilty Plea on February 26, 2009 in D. Nev.	AUSA D. Nev.	Russell Marsh, Criminal Chief AUSA D. Nev. (702) 388-6582 Stanley Boone, White Collar Crime Coordinator for EOUSA

<i>U.S. v. David Banks, Demetrius Harper, Gary Walker, Clinton Stewart, David Zirpolo, and Kendrick Barnes (for role in Leading Team, Inc., IRP Solutions, Inc. and DKH Enterprises companies)</i>	Indictments: for mail and wire fraud in scheme to defraud staffing companies	6 Indictments on June 6, 2009 in D. Colo.	AUSA D. Colo.	Tom O'Rourke Chief, Econ. Crimes Section AUSA D. Colo (303) 454-0209 Stanley Boone, White Collar Crime Coordinator for EOUSA
<i>U.S. v. John Centracchio (D. R.I.)</i>	Guilty plea: to conspiracy to commit mail fraud in connection with the Golf Connection business opportunity sale. Defendants purported to sell inventories of golf accessories; \$400,000 in loss to approximately 30 victims	Guilty plea took place on October 30, 2009	OCL / USPIS Rhode Island Division / AUSA D. R.I.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007
<i>U.S. v. Braden Halterman (S.D. Fla.)</i>	Guilty plea: to conspiracy to commit wirefraud for role in Transnet Wireless Corporation/Nationwide Cybersystems fraud. These two companies defrauded over 1,800 victims in excess of \$48 million.	Guilty plea took place on December 18, 2009	OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007
<i>U.S. v. Dilraj Mathauda (S.D. Fla.)</i>	Guilty plea: to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud in connection with sale of business opportunities (coffee and beverage display racks) for USA Beverages and Omega Business Systems.	Guilty plea took place on January 13, 2010	OCL / USPIS Miami Division / AUSA S.D. Fla.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007
<i>U.S. v. Andrew Steinberg and Stephen Duffie (S.D. Fla.)</i>	Indictments and Convictions of both Steinberg and Duffie for fraud in connection with the Fidelity ATM business opportunity scheme.	Both indictments took place on April 30, 2009. Both convictions took place on December 1, 2009	FBI / OCL / AUSA S.D. Fla.	Charles S. Miller, DOJ Office of Public Affairs (202) 514-2007

STATE ACTIONS				
<i>FTC and the State of Arizona v. Government Careers, Inc., Jon Coover, Richard Friedberg and Rimona Friedburg</i>	Civil case alleging violations of Section 5 of FTC Act and of the Arizona Consumer Fraud Act.	Complaint filed on December 28, 2009 in United States District Court for the District of Arizona Temporary Restraining Order entered on January 5, 2010.	Federal Trade Commission Arizona Attorney General's Office	FTC Office of Public Affairs 202-326-2180
<i>California v. Independent Vending Concepts, The Financial Edge, Gary Mills, and Brian Jenson</i>	Civil Action for violation of Seller Assisted Marketing Plan Act. Case involves sale of vending machines stocked with energy bites.	Complaint filed on February 4, 2010.	California	Evan Westrup Press Office 510-622-4503
<i>Career Services International</i>	Investigation of unfair and deceptive trade practices related to employment service. Subpoena to be issued. Case No.: L10-3-1029	February 3, 2010	Florida AG's Office, Economic Crimes Division	Sandi Copes (850) 245-0150 http://www.myfloridalegal.com/
<i>Coretech Media LLC dba Netcadetpro.com dba Net Money Training fka Fun Web Profits; Coretech Media LLC dba Netcadetpro.com dba Net Money Training fka Web Money Training</i>	Investigation of unfair and deceptive trade practices related to home business opportunity kits advertised over the internet. Subpoenas issued. Case No: L09-3-1215	November 23, 2009	Florida AG's Office, Economic Crimes Division	Sandi Copes (850) 245-0150 http://www.myfloridalegal.com/
<i>Darling Angel Pin Creations, Inc.</i>	Investigation of unfair and deceptive trade practices involving work at home job opportunity. Subpoena issued. Case No: L10-3-1001	January 6, 2010	Florida AG's Office, Economic Crimes Division	Sandi Copes (850) 245-0150 http://www.myfloridalegal.com/
<i>GC Displays, Inc. d/b/a Atlanticpacificonline.com</i>	Investigation of unfair and deceptive trade practices involving job placement services. Subpoena issued. Case No. L09-3-1223	December 2, 2009	Florida AG's Office, Economic Crimes Division	Sandi Copes (850) 245-0150 http://www.myfloridalegal.com/

<i>Home Biz Ventures, LLC d/b/a Bidfuel.com and d/b/a Blogtoolkit.com</i>	Investigation of unfair and deceptive trade practices involving internet business opportunity which offers on-line membership access to training and products to sell on auction sites (negative option). Subpoena issued. Case No: L09-3-1186	October 15, 2009	Florida AG's Office, Economic Crimes Division	Sandi Copes (850) 245-0150 http://www.myfloridalegal.com/
<i>My Career Corp., Inc.</i>	Investigation of unfair and deceptive trade practices involving job placement services. Subpoena issued. L09-3-1148	July 14, 2009	Florida AG's Office, Economic Crimes Division	Sandi Copes (850) 245-0150 http://www.myfloridalegal.com/
<i>Pacific Webworks, Inc.</i>	Investigation of unfair and deceptive trade practices involving work from home opportunities. Subpoena issued. Case No: L10-3-1002	January 10, 2010	Florida AG's Office, Economic Crimes Division	Sandi Copes (850) 245-0150 http://www.myfloridalegal.com/
<i>Viable Marketing Corp.</i>	Unauthorized recurring charges associated with negative option "work at home" internet business opportunity. Subpoena issued. Case No: L09-3-1142	July 1, 2009	Florida AG's Office, Economic Crimes Division	Sandi Copes (850) 245-0150 http://www.myfloridalegal.com/
<i>People of Illinois vs. Glamour Model Talent, Inc., an Illinois Corporation; John Vuolo, individually, and as President of Glamour Model Talent, Inc.</i>	Civil Action against a modeling/talent agency.	Case to be filed February 17, 2010.	Illinois	Natalie Bauer, Press Office (312) 814-4632
<i>People of Illinois vs. Latte Model and Talent Agency, Ltd., d/b/a REM STUDIOS, an involuntarily dissolved Illinois Corporation; Robert Owczarek aka Robert Owczarek-Latte, individually</i>	Civil Action against a modeling/talent agency.	Case to be filed February 17, 2010	Illinois	Natalie Bauer, Press Office (312) 814-4632

<p><i>State of Kansas ex rel. Steve Six v. The Greatest Virtual Office LLC & Greatest EMarketing LLC & Sandra Kay Johnson, an individual, a/k/a Sandra Johnson Adaralegbe</i></p>	<p>Civil Action. The Defendants (operating out of Arizona) engage in the solicitation and sale of websites and marketing services to assist consumers in becoming online affiliate marketers for other, more well-known, companies such as eBay, Dish Network, Wal-Mart, etc. The State alleges the Defendants misrepresent their programs and cancellation policies in violation of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act (K.S.A. 50-623 <i>et seq.</i>), violate the Kansas No-Call Act, and fail to obtain signed confirmations from consumers as required by Kansas law.</p>	<p>Case filed on January 26, 2010 in the District Court of Shawnee County, Kansas.</p>	<p>Kansas</p>	<p>Communications Director, Ashley Anstaett at ashley.anstaett@ksag.org or (785)-296-3459.</p>
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<p><i>In the Matter of MultiVend, LLC, d.b.a. Vendstar</i></p>	<p>Consent Order of the Maryland Securities Commissioner, December 15, 2009</p>	<p>The Maryland Securities Division alleged that Multivend, LLC, d.b.a. Vendstar (“Multivend”), an Indiana limited liability company, violated the registration, disclosure and antifraud provisions of the Maryland Business Opportunity Sales Act in the offer and sale of 251 vending machine business opportunities in Maryland. Under the Consent Order, Multivend agreed to cease and desist from future violations of the Maryland Business Opportunity Act, make certain refund payments to Maryland buyers, and pay the Maryland Attorney General’s Office a \$100,000 civil monetary penalty.</p> <p>http://www.oag.state.md.us/Securities/Actions/2009/Multivend_CO_12_09.pdf</p>	<p>Maryland Attorney General’s Office, Securities Division</p>	<p>Melanie Senter Lubin, Maryland Securities Division mlubin@oag.state.md.us</p> <p>Raquel Guillory, Public Information Officer, Maryland Attorney General’s Office (410) 576-6357</p>
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<p><i>In the Matter of Family Tree Digital Video Corp. and Robbie Don Fritzer</i></p>	<p>Final Order to Cease and Desist, August 11, 2009</p>	<p>The Maryland Securities Commissioner issued a Final Order to Cease and Desist against Family Tree Digital Video Corp., a California Corporation, and Robbie Don Fritzer for violating the registration, disclosure and antifraud provisions of the Maryland Business Opportunity Act in the offer and sale to a Maryland resident, for \$46,000, of a business opportunity consisting of equipment, materials and training to allow the buyer to earn income producing and selling family history videos and CDs. The Securities Commissioner ordered Family Tree to permanently cease and desist from violations of the registration, disclosure and antifraud provisions of the Maryland Business Opportunity Act. http://www.oag.state.md.us/Securities/Actions/2009/Family%20Tree_FinalOrder_8_09.pdf</p>	<p>Maryland Attorney General's Office, Securities Division</p>	<p>Melanie Senter Lubin, Maryland Securities Division mlubin@oag.state.md.us</p> <p>Raquel Guillory, Public Information Officer, Maryland Attorney General's Office (410) 576-6357</p>
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<p><i>In the Matter of David Baginski and Secret Money Factory</i></p>	<p>Consent Order of the Maryland Securities Commissioner, February 3, 2010</p>	<p>The Maryland Securities Division alleged that David Baginski and his Maryland company, Secret Money Factory, promoted a home based business opportunity that was, in reality, a “gifting program,” which is a variation of a pyramid scheme and, therefore, an unlawful “security.” The Division alleged that Baginski marketed this gifting program through an Internet website known as www.SecretMoneyFactory.com. The Maryland Securities Commissioner ordered Baginski and Secret Money Factory to cease and desist from offering and selling the Secret Money Factory gifting program in violation of the Maryland Securities Act and pay a civil penalty of \$75,000, collection of which was waived in light of the respondents’ sworn affidavit of financial condition. Baginski consented to the entry of the Consent Order and the sanctions imposed by the Maryland Securities Commissioner.</p> <p>link to be posted on OAG website February 4, 2010)</p>	<p>Maryland Attorney General’s Office, Securities Division</p>	<p>Melanie Senter Lubin, Maryland Securities Division mlubin@oag.state.md.us</p> <p>Raquel Guillory, Public Information Officer, Maryland Attorney General’s Office (410) 576-6357</p>
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<p><i>State of Minnesota v. The Arthur Group, Inc., and Barry Trimble, individually</i></p>	<p>Civil Action. The Arthur Group, Inc. and its owner and chief executive officer, Barry Trimble, for baiting unemployed Minnesotans looking for jobs into paying up to \$4,500 for assistance in finding a job and then not living up to the company's promises.</p>	<p>Case filed September 29, 2009</p>	<p>Minnesota</p>	<p>Benjamin Wogsland, (651) 296-2069 www.ag.state.mn.us</p>
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<p><i>State of Ohio ex rel Attorney General v. Job Line, Inc et al.</i></p>	<p>Civil Action. Job Line promised employment related services, including exclusive access to job listings, for a fee of \$250. It failed to provide the services as represented.</p>	<p>To be filed on or before February 5, 2010</p>	<p>Ohio</p>	<p>Media Contact/Public Contact: i Kim Kowalski</p> <p>Deputy Director of Media Relations Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray 614-728-9692 (o) 614-893-6018 ©</p> <p>Erin B. Leahy Assistant Attorney General Consumer Protection Section Ohio Attorney General's Office 30 East Broad Street, 14th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 752-4730 direct (866) 768-2648 facsimile (800) 282-0515 toll-free erin.leahy@ohioattorneygeneral.gov</p> <p>If applicable, links to any place where information about the Action may be found.</p> <p>http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Briefing-Room/News-Releases</p>
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<p><i>State of Tennessee v. Linda McCluskey, individually and d/b/a Britton James & Associates, the Franklin Group of America, Hamilton Clark International, the Renaissance Group International, and Professional Solutions, LLC</i></p>	<p>Civil Action alleging violations of Tennessee Consumer Protection Act and Tennessee Employment Agency Act.</p>	<p>On October 6, 2009, Tennessee filed suit against Linda McCluskey alleging that she had violated the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act and the Tennessee Employment Agency Act .</p> <p>On February 5, 2010, the State of Tennessee filed a Motion to Amend the lawsuit to add Lorry Ronza, Kevin Shaw, and Continental Business Solutions as Defendants. The State alleges that these former employees of the companies included in the original complaint, have re-opened a substantially similar, if not identical entity called “Continental Business Solutions”.</p> <p>Http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/cases/mccluskey/mccluskey.html</p>	<p>Consumer Protection Division, Tennessee Attorney General’s office</p>	<p>Jeffrey L. Hill Senior Counsel Consumer Protection Division</p> <p>PO Box 20207</p> <p>Nashville, TN 372020207</p> <p>or for street address:</p> <p>425 Fifth Avenue North Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 741-2614 (615) 532-2910 (fax)</p> <p>jeff.hill@ag.tn.gov</p>
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<i>Mars Hill Media</i>	Administrative Citation alleging 93 violations of Utah's Consumer Sales Practices Act; company was running an online income system, purportedly allowing people to make money using Google	Citation issued on October 20, 2009.	Utah Division of Consumer Protection (falling under their Dept. Of Commerce)	Jennifer Bolton (801) 530-6646
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