

# Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Monitor – August 14, 2025

## WRITTEN BY

Ashley L. Taylor, Jr. | Clayton S. Friedman

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State attorneys general increasingly impact businesses in all industries. Our nationally recognized [state AG team](#) has been trusted by clients for more than 20 years to navigate their most complicated state AG investigations and enforcement actions.

*State Attorneys General Monitor* analyzes regulatory actions by state AGs and other state administrative agencies throughout the nation. Contributors to this newsletter and related [blog](#) include attorneys experienced in regulatory enforcement, litigation, and compliance. Also visit our [State Attorneys General Monitor microsite](#).

Contact our State AG Team at [StateAG@troutman.com](mailto:StateAG@troutman.com).

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## Troutman Pepper Locke Spotlight

### NAVIGATING MULTISTATE AG INVESTIGATIONS: TOOLS AND TACTICS

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#)

[Register Here](#)

**Wednesday, August 20 • 1:00 – 3:10 p.m. ET**

Members of Troutman Pepper Locke’s State Attorneys General (AG) team, Ashley Taylor, Clayton Friedman, and Namrata Kang, will participate in an upcoming CLE with myLawCLE for an in-depth exploration of AG investigations. This presentation will focus on multistate actions, recent trends, and emerging regulatory challenges. With decades of experience in both single and multistate AG investigations, the panelists will provide essential tools to help you effectively manage these complex processes.

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### STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL STEP UP ENFORCEMENT WITH REGULATORY SHIFT OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

By [Ashley L. Taylor, Jr.](#), [Clayton Friedman](#), [Michael Yaghi](#), [Natalia Jacobo](#), and [Warren F. “Jay” Myers](#)

Ashley Taylor, Clayton Friedman, Michael Yaghi, Natalia Jacobo, and Jay Myers of Troutman Pepper Locke LLP discuss stepped up enforcement efforts among state attorneys general in the face of the Trump administration’s broad deregulatory agenda and as federal agencies appear to shift litigation priorities.

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## **JUSTICES' AGE VERIFICATION RULING MAY LEAD TO MORE STATE LAWS**

By [Laura Hamady](#), [Jeff Johnson](#), [Jessica Birdsong](#), and [Chris Carlson](#)

*This article was originally published on August 4, 2025 on [Law360](#) and is republished here with permission.*

The digital age presents a complex challenge: protecting children online while also allowing free speech to continue to be a thriving marketplace of ideas.

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## **Multistate State AG News**

### **BIPARTISAN STATE AGS URGE CONGRESS TO GRANT ACCESS TO FEDERALLY REGULATED BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES TO STATE-REGULATED CANNABIS BUSINESSES**

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#), [Jean Smith-Gonnell](#), and [Cole White](#)

In July 2025, a bipartisan coalition of 32 state and territorial attorneys general (AG) sent a [letter](#) to congressional leaders urging the passage of the Secure and Fair Enforcement Regulation (SAFER) Banking Act. Their letter emphasizes that the legislation — a long-stalled federal reform — would provide legal clarity and a safe harbor for banks and financial institutions to serve state-licensed cannabis businesses. Such clarity, they argue, is urgently needed to address public safety risks and to improve the states' ability to regulate and tax the booming cannabis industry.

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### **STATE AGS JOIN \$202M SETTLEMENT OVER HIV DRUG KICKBACK**

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#) and [Timothy Shyu](#)

#### **What Happened**

On July 16, 49 attorneys general (AGs) announced that they joined a \$202 million settlement with Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Gilead). Previously [announced by the Department of Justice](#) in April, the settlement resolved allegations that the company incentivized doctors to prescribe its medication through HIV speaker programs.

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## **Data Privacy State AG News**

### **NEW JERSEY'S DATA DELETION LAW: IMPLICATIONS FOR RESOLD OR RE-LEASED VEHICLES**

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#), [Matthew Cali](#), and [Daniel Waltz](#)

On July 28, the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs [issued](#) a reminder to more than 3,000 auto dealerships regarding their obligations under the New Jersey data deletion law, N.J.S.A. § 56:12-18.1. This law, enacted and effective in January 2024, requires dealerships to offer data deletion services for consumer information stored in vehicles accepted for resale or lease. Dealerships are now on notice of their compliance obligations under the law.

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## **STREAMING UNDER SCRUTINY: ROKU'S RESPONSE TO MICHIGAN AG'S ALLEGATIONS OF COPPA AND OTHER PRIVACY LAW VIOLATIONS**

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#), [Angelo A. Stio III](#), [Laura Hamady](#), [Esther Kye](#), and [Kyara Rivera Rivera](#)

On April 29, Michigan Attorney General (AG) Dana Nessel filed a [lawsuit](#) against Roku, Inc. (Roku), the smart TV and device provider and streaming service, alleging Roku violated the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), federal and state privacy laws, the Michigan Consumer Protection Act, and other laws by collecting children's personal data and selling it without proper parental consent. The lawsuit sought damages and equitable relief on behalf of Michigan consumers who subscribed to Roku's streaming service. More information regarding this lawsuit can be found [here](#).

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## **Federal News**

### **WHITE HOUSE SEEKS AI PROGRESS THROUGH DE MINIMIS REGULATION AND ALLOCATION OF FEDERAL RESOURCES**

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#), [Gene Fishel](#), and [Nick Gouverneur](#)

On July 23, President Trump announced efforts to position the U.S. at the forefront of the global artificial intelligence (AI) race. "Winning the AI Race: America's AI Action Plan" details how the federal government will advance the AI industry and was issued pursuant to the president's January 23 Executive Order (EO) 14179, "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence."

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## **Other Single State AG News**

### **COLORADO AG SUES PETSMART OVER TRAP CONTRACTS**

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#) and [Blake Christopher](#)

Colorado Attorney General (AG) Phil Weiser has sued PetSmart LLC, alleging that its use of Training Repayment Agreement Provisions (TRAPs) violates state consumer protection and labor laws. The lawsuit reflects a broader effort by Weiser and other state AGs to combat purportedly exploitive employment agreements.

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## FLORIDA AG ANNOUNCES INVESTIGATIONS INTO CLIMATE SCORING ORGANIZATIONS

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#) and [Timothy Shyu](#)

### What Happened

On July 28, Florida Attorney General (AG) James Uthmeier [announced investigations](#) into two environmental, social, and governance (ESG) scoring organizations for potential violations of state consumer protection and antitrust laws. This investigation is consistent with a [continuing trend](#) among Republican AGs to scrutinize entities directly and indirectly involved in encouraging ESG-based initiatives. For example, in the last three years, Republican AGs have targeted the Net-Zero Banking Alliance and the Net-Zero Asset Managers over antitrust and fiduciary duty concerns related to ESG. Membership in both organizations dwindled as a result.

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## AG of the Week

### JOHN FORMELLA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

John Formella was sworn in as New Hampshire's AG on April 22, 2021, following his nomination by Governor Chris Sununu and confirmation by the Executive Council. As AG, Formella serves as the state's chief law enforcement officer, chief prosecutor, and chief legal officer.

Before this role, Formella was Sununu's legal counsel, advising on significant legal issues and litigation affecting New Hampshire, including health care settlements, the opioid crisis response, criminal justice reform, and the COVID-19 pandemic. He began his legal career in private practice at Pierce Atwood LLP, focusing on business and environmental law.

Formella is active in the community, having served on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for Portsmouth and as a board member of McGregor Memorial EMS in Durham. In 2019, he was recognized as one of New Hampshire's "40 Under Forty" and one of the "10 to Watch" young professionals in the Seacoast region.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude* graduate of Florida State University and graduated with honors from George Washington University Law School, where he contributed to the *International Law Review*.

### New Hampshire AG in the News:

- As part of a coalition of 51 AGs, Formella [announced](#) the launch of Operation Robocall Roundup, a multistate effort to crack down on robocalls across the U.S.
- Alongside Governor Kelly Ayotte, Formella [announced](#) an expansion of the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit, increasing the number of New Hampshire Department of Justice investigators assigned to the unit from one part-time position to two full-time roles.
- Formella [issued](#) a consumer alert warning retirees and beneficiaries of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) about a series of alleged fraudulent attempts to redirect pension payments through falsified direct

deposit change requests.

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## Upcoming AG Events

- August: AGA | Chair's Initiative | Alaska
- September: RAGA | Fall National Meeting | Miami, FL
- September: DAGA | Denver Policy Conference | Denver, CO

For more on upcoming AG Events, [click here](#).

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Troutman Pepper Locke's State Attorneys General team combines legal acumen and government experience to develop comprehensive, thoughtful strategies for clients. Our attorneys handle individual and multistate AG investigations, proactive counseling and litigation, and manage ancillary regulatory issues. Our successful approach has been recognized by *Chambers USA*, which ranked our practice as a leader in the industry.

Our Cannabis Practice provides advice on issues related to applicable federal and state law. Marijuana remains an illegal controlled substance under federal law.

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