

Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Monitor – February 27, 2025

WRITTEN BY

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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.

TROUTMAN PEPPER LOCKE SPOTLIGHT

Troutman Pepper Locke Partner Ashley Taylor Named a ‘Go To Lawyer’ by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* for Business Litigation

[Ashley L. Taylor, Jr.](#), co-leader of Troutman Pepper Locke’s nationally ranked State Attorneys General Practice, was named to *Virginia Lawyers Weekly’s* “Go To Lawyers” for business litigation. The program recognizes the top lawyers across the commonwealth in a given practice area based on nominations and an independent selection process.

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PODCAST UPDATES

Bipartisan Leadership and Reform at NAAG: Insights From Brian Kane

By [Stephen Piepgrass](#) and [Clayton Friedman](#)

In this episode of *Regulatory Oversight*, Clay Friedman, co-leader of the firm’s State Attorneys General (AG) practice, welcomes back Brian Kane, executive director of the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG). They discuss the significant transitions and reforms at NAAG over the past two years, including the implementation of a bipartisan leadership structure and a comprehensive management review.

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STATE AG UPDATES

22 AGs Challenge New York's Climate Superfund Law

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#) and [Warren "Jay" Myers](#)

A coalition of industry associations and 22 state attorneys general (AG), led by West Virginia AG JB McCuskey, filed a lawsuit against the State of New York in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York challenging the validity of the state's recently enacted Climate Change Superfund Act. The complaint asserts that the act's retroactive imposition of multibillion-dollar fines on fossil fuel companies is both preempted by federal law and violates several bedrock constitutional principles.

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Minnesota AG Releases Report Detailing AI and Social Media's Impact on Minors

By [Troutman Pepper Locke State Attorneys General Team](#), [Kyara Rivera Rivera](#), and [Trey Smith](#)

On February 4, the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General (AG) released its second [Report on Emerging Technology and Its Effect on Youth Well-Being](#), outlining the effects young Minnesota residents allegedly experience from using social media and artificial intelligence (AI). The report highlights alleged adverse effects that technology platforms have on minors and claims that specific design choices exacerbate these issues.

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AG OF THE WEEK

James Uthmeier, Florida

James Uthmeier currently serves as the attorney general (AG) of Florida, having been appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis in February 2025 following the appointment of former AG Ashley Moody to a vacant Senate seat. Prior to this role, Uthmeier was the chief of staff for DeSantis, where he led the executive staff and oversaw 20 state agencies and more than 100,000 employees. He also served as the governor's general counsel, managing litigation and legal affairs for the governor and state executive agencies. Before his tenure in Florida, Uthmeier was a senior advisor and counsel to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and began his career as a litigation associate at Jones Day's Washington, D.C. office.

In addition to his governmental roles, Uthmeier is a professor at Florida State University College of Law. He and his wife, Jean, co-teach religious education classes at the St. Thomas More Co-Cathedral in Tallahassee. Uthmeier grew up in Destin, FL, and graduated from the University of Florida, where he was a varsity track and cross-country athlete for the National Champion Gators. He also holds a law degree from Georgetown Law.

Florida AG in the News:

- On February 20, Uthmeier and America First Legal [filed](#) a class-action lawsuit against Target Corporation,

alleging the company misled and defrauded investors by concealing financial risks.

- On February 19, Uthmeier [announced](#) his transition team that will provide advice and related feedback to the AG as he organizes the office.

Upcoming AG Events

- March: AGA | Women's Empowerment Summit | Del Mar, CA
- March: RAGA | Spring Golf Retreat | Pinehurst, NC
- April: NAAG | AG Symposium | Nashville, TN

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

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