

Troutman Pepper State Attorneys General Monitor — August 22, 2024

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 [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.

Contact our State AG Team at StateAG@troutman.com.

Regulatory Oversight Podcast

NAVIGATING ESG: THE GROWING IMPORTANCE AND COMPLIANCE CHALLENGES (PART ONE)

Speakers [Stephen Piegrass](#) and [Michael Yaghi](#)

In the first of a two-part series focused on the complexities of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, Troutman Pepper Partner Mike Yaghi is joined by Brooke Hopkins and Rob Sayegh from Alvarez & Marsal. They dive into the growing importance of ESG, particularly in Europe, where stringent regulations like the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) are being implemented. The discussion contrasts this with the ongoing political debate in the U.S., highlighting the need for companies to prepare for upcoming ESG requirements by 2026.

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State AG Updates

STATE AGS SAY KROGER-ALBERTSONS MERGER WILL INCREASE GROCERY MARKET COMPETITION

By [Troutman Pepper State Attorneys General Team](#) and [McKayla Riter](#)

As litigation to block the proposed Kroger-Albertsons merger wages on at the state and federal level, four state attorneys general (AG) have jumped into the fray in support of the merger as the cases heat up on all fronts.

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STATE AGS TAKE ACTION TO QUELL PROLIFERATION OF INTOXICATING HEMP PRODUCTS

By [Jean Smith-Gonnell](#), [Chris Carlson](#), and [Nick Ramos](#)

Concerns over consumer protection are mounting as the sales of intoxicating hemp products continue to rise. In response to a fragmented regulatory landscape that has led to inconsistent enforcement and compliance challenges, state attorneys general are stepping in to fill the void left by the absence of comprehensive federal regulations. These state-level actions aim to safeguard consumers and stabilize the rapidly growing hemp industry.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AG SUES STUBHUB FOR ALLEGED “DARK PATTERNS” AND HIDDEN FEES

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

On July 29, the attorney general (AG) for Washington, D.C. sued StubHub, Inc. (StubHub) for violations of the district’s Consumer Protection Procedures Act. The complaint accuses StubHub of employing “dark patterns,” including the use of hidden fees that mislead consumers and inflate ticket prices.

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NEW STATE JUNK FEE LAWS SET CORPORATE ADVERTISING BAR – FOR NOW

By [Clayton Friedman](#), [Michael Yaghi](#), and [Natalia Jacobo](#)

As U.S. elections heat up, Republicans have put Democrats on the defense about the economy and the public’s perception of it. One talking point for Democrats in response, including in President Joe Biden’s last two State of the Union addresses, has been federal efforts to combat so-called junk fees.

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AG Of the Week

ANNE LOPEZ, HAWAII

Anne Lopez assumed her role as Hawaii’s AG in December 2022, after being appointed by Governor Josh Green.

Before her appointment, she served as COO and general counsel for Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, the state’s community hospital system, as a special assistant to former Hawaii AG David Louie, and as an attorney in private practice prior to joining state government. Before attending law school, Lopez was an occupational therapist.

Lopez earned her J.D. from the University of Hawaii, William S. Richardson School of Law (*summa cum laude*) and her bachelor’s degree from San Jose State University in California.

Hawaii AG in the News

- On July 3, the Hawai'i Department of the AG [announced](#) the safe recovery of 11 endangered missing children and youth on O'ahu during a multiagency operation.
- In April, Lopez [released](#) the first phase of findings from a comprehensive investigation into the catastrophic Maui wildfires last year, showing how a combination of environmental and geographical factors, along with preparedness and response conditions, enabled the fire to rapidly intensify into an urban conflagration.”

Upcoming AG Events

- August: DAGA | Democratic National Convention | Chicago, IL
- August: RAGA | Victory Fund Golf Retreat | Pebble Beach, CA
- September: NAAG | Presidential Summit | Portland, OR

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

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