

Troutman Pepper State Attorneys General Monitor — July 18, 2024

WRITTEN BY

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

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.

State AG Updates

By [Michael Lowe](#), [Michael Yaghi](#), and [Tim Bado](#)

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Gone are the days when state attorneys general leave antitrust enforcement to their federal counterparts at the Federal Trade Commission or the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division.

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CALIFORNIA AG SETTLES WITH OIL COMPANIES

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

California Attorney General (AG) Rob Bonta announced a \$50 million settlement with Vitol, Inc. (Vitol) and SK Energy Americas Inc. along with its parent company SK Trading International (collectively SK), to resolve a lawsuit involving allegations of antitrust violations and unfair competition in California's gasoline market. The AG accused the companies of inflating gasoline prices after an oil refinery in Torrance, CA exploded in 2015.

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MONEY AND POWER AT ODDS: PE MEETS INCREASED OVERSIGHT FROM STATE AGS

By [Ashley L. Taylor, Jr.](#), [Jeremy Levy](#), [Michael Yaghi](#), and [Blake Christopher](#)

BACKGROUND

The number of private equity (PE) funds and the amount of capital deployed through private equity investing have grown dramatically over the last several decades. Some PE firms are buyout firms — they purchase controlling equity positions in (usually privately held) operating companies — while other PE firms make minority investments, either alongside other PE firms or on their own. In both cases, PE firms are typically granted significant controls and protections by the companies in which they invest.

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PRESIDENT BIDEN NOMINATES NORTH CAROLINA SOLICITOR GENERAL RYAN PARK FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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

President Joe Biden announced his nomination of Ryan Y. Park, the solicitor general of North Carolina, for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. This selection underscores the pivotal role that attorneys general (AGs) offices play in the legal landscape, not just as enforcers of state laws but also as training grounds for future judges who will bring their unique perspectives to the bench.

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AG Of the Week

BRENNA BIRD, IOWA

Attorney General (AG) Brenna Bird was elected as Iowa's AG in November 2022, taking office in January 2023. Before taking office, the AG served as a prosecutor for six years, first as the Fremont County attorney, and then since 2018 as the Guthrie County attorney. She was elected by her fellow county attorneys to leadership roles with the Iowa County Attorney Association, most recently serving as the Association's president.

Additionally, the AG has previously served as chief counsel to Governor Terry Branstad and taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Iowa College of Law.

The AG graduated from Drake University and received her law degree from the University of Chicago. She lives on a family farm in rural Dexter with her husband and their son.

Iowa AG in the News

- On July 16, the AG delivered a [speech](#) at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, WI.
- On July 2, the AG [discussed](#) the new statewide cold case unit, consisting of three full-time investigators and one prosecutor, to investigate Iowa's more than 400 unsolved murders.

- On July 1, [a new law in Iowa](#), backed by the AG, increasing penalties for human traffickers went into effect.

Upcoming AG Events

- July: AGA/NAAG | International Delegation | France
- August: DAGA | Democratic National Convention | Chicago, IL
- August: RAGA | Victory Fund Golf Retreat | Pebble Beach, CA

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

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