

The Antitrust Division was created in 1972 (Chapter 357, Acts of 1972). The Division enforces the Maryland Antitrust Act which governs restraints of trade, unfair competition, monopolies, and other acts or practices that restrain or tend to restrain trade and commerce within the State. The Act calls for both civil and criminal enforcement of its provisions and permits the Attorney General to cooperate with officials of the federal government and the several states in enforcing antitrust laws (Code Commercial Law Article, secs. 11-201 through 11-213).

CIVIL LITIGATION DIVISION

Evelyn O. Cannon, *Chief of Litigation*
Lawrence Fletcher-Hill, *Deputy Chief of Litigation*

200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 576-6330

The Civil Litigation Division represents State government and State employees in major federal and State civil lawsuits. By advising or acting as co-counsel, Division attorneys help agency counsel involved in or contemplating litigation. The Division reviews civil complaints for potential suits to be filed by the State, and all federal and State civil appellate briefs. The Division also approves the payment of all settlements and judgments.

CORRECTIONAL LITIGATION UNIT

Stephanie Lane-Weber, *Counsel*
(410) 576-6340

Within the Civil Litigation Division, the Correctional Litigation Unit is responsible for the representation of State's Attorneys in any lawsuit challenging their official actions, and of Sheriffs where the matter involves correctional matters. The Unit also represents State officials and employees who are sued in State or federal courts by prisoners for violations of their constitutional rights in Maryland prisons.

DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

William Leibovici, *Chief*
Lucy A. Weisz, *Deputy Chief*

200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 576-6557

Organized in 1967, the Division of Consumer Protection oversees the control and regulation of unfair and deceptive trade practices (Chapter 338, Acts of 1967). Through court litigation, administrative hearings, complaint mediation, and arbitration, it enforces civil remedies. The Division also recommends legislation to the Governor and the General Assembly to protect the public from fraudulent schemes and promotions.

Information about violations of laws affecting consumers is reported by the Division to other law enforcement authorities. Publishing educational materials for the public, the Division encourages business and industry to maintain high standards of honesty, fair business practices, and public responsibility in the production, promotion, and sale of consumer goods and services (Code Commercial Law Article, secs. 13-101 through 13-501).

The Division oversees five units: Arbitration; Complaint Handling; Health Club Registration; Health Education and Advocacy; and Investigative.

CONSUMER COUNCIL

Nancy T. Perry, *Chair*, 1998
(410) 576-6573

The Consumer Council was formed in 1974 as part of the Division of Consumer Protection. The Council advises the Division, undertakes studies and reports, and fosters cooperation among federal, State and local agencies, and private groups (Chapter 609, Acts of 1974).

The Council has ten members. Nine are appointed for six-year terms by the Governor with Senate consent. One serves *ex officio* (Code Commercial Law Article, sec. 13-202).

ARBITRATION UNIT

Alfred E. Lawson, *Director*
(410) 576-6591

The Arbitration Unit resolves disputes between consumers and businesses (Code Commercial Law Article, sec. 13-404). Both parties must agree to submit the dispute to arbitration. Neither party is charged for this service.

COMPLAINT HANDLING UNIT

Rebecca G. Bowman, *Director*
(410) 576-6554
Consumer Hotlines—Baltimore: (410) 528-8662
Hagerstown: (301) 791-4780
Salisbury: (410) 543-6620

The Complaint Handling Unit receives and conciliates consumer complaints (Code Commercial Law Article, secs. 13-401, 13-402). The Unit's three telephone "hotlines" provide consumers with prepurchase advice, business complaint histories, and instructions on how to file a complaint.

HEALTH CLUB REGISTRATION UNIT

Sidney Francois, *Administrator*
(410) 576-6350

The Health Club Registration Unit was started in the Division of Consumer Protection in 1986. The Unit registers Maryland health clubs and ensures that they are properly bonded (Code Commercial Law Article, secs. 14-12B-01 through 14-12B-08).