



UPGRADES TO SENTINEL

Greater accessibility: Now you can search Sentinel using Firefox, Google Chrome, Opera, Safari, and Internet Explorer.

New complaint contributors:

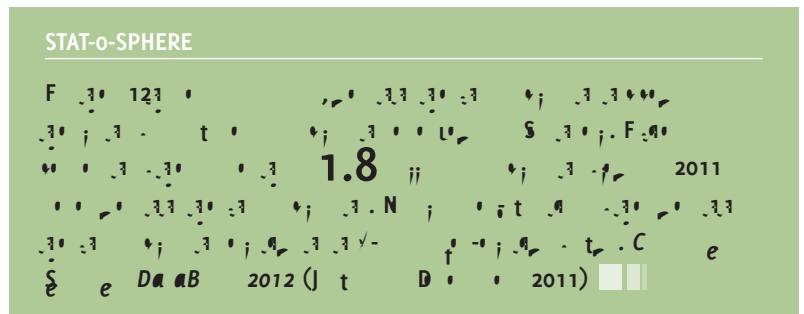
- ✦ Canadian Competition Bureau
- ✦ Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
- ✦ Idaho Attorney General
- ✦ Michigan Attorney General
- ✦ Mississippi Attorney General
- ✦ North Carolina Department of Justice
- ✦ Ohio Attorney General
- ✦ Oregon Attorney General
- ✦ Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs
- ✦ Washington Attorney General
- ✦ Minnesota Department of Public Safety ■■■

MASS JOINDER

At the FTC's request, a U.S. district court stopped an operation that took in more than \$1 million by allegedly selling bogus mortgage relief and foreclosure rescue products to homeowners. The FTC brought charges against Sameer Lakhany and five companies he controlled in a scam that tricked homeowners into thinking they would benefit from joining so-called "mass joinder" lawsuits against their lenders. Lakhany's firms charged homeowners \$6,000 to \$10,000 each, and falsely promised the suit could help stop their foreclosures, reduce their loan balances or interest rates, or get them title to their homes, free and clear of their existing mortgages.

The court's order froze the operation's assets and appointed a permanent receiver. This is the FTC's first case against alleged scammers who pitch these kinds of lawsuits. [Read more.](#)

Information for homeowners faced with possible foreclosure: [Mass Joinder Lawsuits: A New Twist on Foreclosure Rescue Scams.](#) ■■■



AUTO PA OFFS

Five car dealers have settled FTC charges that they tricked car buyers into thinking they wouldn't have to pay off the loans on their trade-ins. According to the FTC, Billion Auto, Inc., Frank Myers AutoMaxx, LLC, Key Hyundai of Manchester, LLC, Hyundai of Milford LLC, and Ramey Motors, Inc., told buyers they wouldn't have to pay the loan balances owed on their trade-ins, even if the balance exceeded the trade-in's value, meaning the trade-in had negative equity. Instead, the dealers added the negative equity amount to buyers' new vehicle loans. These cases are the first of their kind brought by the FTC. [Read more.](#)

Learn more: [Negative Equity and Auto Trade-Ins.](#) ■■■

