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Attorney General Frosh Joins Multistate Coalition in Fight to End Facebook's Illegal Monopoly

BALTIMORE, MD (January 14, 2022) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a bipartisan coalition of 48 attorneys general in continuing to fight to end Facebook's illegal efforts to stifle competition and protect its monopoly power. Today, the coalition filed an [appeal brief](#) arguing that the district court's ruling dismissing the states' case was in error. The coalition argues that the court was wrong to dismiss their case as time-barred, and made additional legal and factual errors. Over the last decade, Facebook, now known as Meta, illegally acquired competitors in a predatory manner and cut or conditioned services to smaller threats — depriving users of the benefits of competition and reducing privacy protections and services along the way — all in an effort to boost its bottom line through increased advertising revenue.

“Facebook's monopoly power jeopardizes the privacy of its users and hinders competition,” said Attorney General Frosh. “Our lawsuit seeks to bring balance back to the market, encouraging competition and protecting the privacy of millions of users.”

In [December 2020, the coalition filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to stop Facebook's anticompetitive conduct](#). The company filed a motion to dismiss, which was granted by the court last summer. Today's appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit asks the court to allow the coalition of attorneys general to move forward with their suit.

Separately, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) also filed an amended complaint against Facebook in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. In a ruling earlier this week, the court denied Facebook's motion to dismiss the FTC's complaint, allowing the FTC to proceed.

The appeal is being led by an executive committee comprised of the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and the District of Columbia. In addition to Maryland, the appeal is also joined by the attorneys general Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi,

Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the territory of Guam.

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