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## Attorney General Brown, State AG Coalition, and Justice Department Seek Limits to Google Business Practices to End Search Engine Monopoly

**BALTIMORE, MD (November 25, 2024)** – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown, along with a coalition of state attorneys general and the Justice Department, has proposed a robust package of remedies to end Google’s unlawful monopoly over internet search engines and to restore competition to the benefit of consumers.

In December 2020, Maryland joined a bipartisan coalition in filing a lawsuit alleging that Google illegally maintains its monopoly power over general search engines through anticompetitive contracts and conduct. The multistate lawsuit was filed in addition to an earlier federal antitrust lawsuit that the Justice Department filed in October 2020.

In August 2024, in a landmark decision, a D.C. federal district court judge ruled that Google violated federal antitrust laws by illegally maintaining a monopoly in online search and search text ads. The court will now impose remedies to end the conduct that stifled competition and harmed consumers and determine the steps necessary to restore competition.

The plaintiffs filed with the Court an initial [proposed final judgment](#) (PFJ), which seeks to

- End Google’s anticompetitive search distribution contracts and revenue-sharing agreements by prohibiting Google from paying manufacturers to be the initial default search engine on any phone, device, or browser;
- Require Google to share the data that it unlawfully obtained through its monopoly power with its rivals in order to improve the competitive choices available to consumers (Google must share this data in a manner that safeguards privacy and security);
- Require that Google sell the Chrome browser;
- Require that Google sell its Android operating system if Google fails to comply with certain remedies in the PFJ or if these remedies prove ineffective; and
- Prohibit Google from making Google Search or Google AI mandatory on Android devices and require that Google give publishers the ability to opt out of having their data collected by Google to train Google’s AI models or used in generative AI answers.

The states alone also propose a public education campaign, funded by Google, to inform consumers what Google did, why it is illegal, and what choices they have in search engines.

The proposed final order establishes a five-member technical committee of experts appointed by the Court to implement, monitor, and enforce the remedies for 10 years.

A hearing on the proposed remedies is currently scheduled to begin on April 22, 2025, and conclude by May 2.

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<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/112524b.pdf>