

December 11, 2007

STENEHJEM JOINS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND STATES IN LAWSUIT AGAINST “YOUR MONEY ACCESS, LLC”

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem today announced the state of North Dakota has joined the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and six other states¹ in a lawsuit against “Your Money Access, LLC,” “YMA Company, LLC,” and their principals Derrelle Janey of New York and Tarzenea Dixon of Florida for engaging in fraudulent and deceptive practices. The complaint alleges the defendants processed fraudulent banking transactions amounting to more than \$200 million between 2004 and 2006.

“Telemarketing scams often involve highly-complex financial transactions, and those who make it possible for the scam artists to steal, and who also profit from that theft, must be held accountable,” said Stenehjem.

The defendants are accused of serving as the financial go-between for multiple telemarketing scammers - including many located outside the United States – and their victims. The defendants operated a “third-party processor” business, which used bank account numbers to take funds directly from the victims’ bank accounts. The defendants processed transactions for scam operations claiming to offer government grant services, discount medical and prescription benefits programs, credit repair and credit restoration services, identity theft prevention services, credit cards and, ironically, telemarketing fraud prevention services.

Among other violations, the lawsuit alleges the defendants violated federal law by engaging in deceptive telemarketing acts by providing support to telemarketers engaged in fraud. In the 2007 legislative session, North Dakota lawmakers passed a new statute prohibiting third parties, like Janey and Dixon, from assisting and facilitating scammers. “I am pleased the Legislature gave my office an additional tool to fight consumer fraud and protect North Dakota citizens,” said Stenehjem.

The complaint was filed in US District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, on December 6, 2007. North Dakota is proceeding under the federal Telemarketing Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act and seeks to bar the defendants from engaging in fraud, a return of fraudulently processed funds, and other relief.

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¹ Joining North Dakota are Illinois, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio and Vermont.