

# The FTC's Criminal Liaison Unit

*Where consumer fraud meets criminal prosecution*

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the only federal law enforcement agency with broad civil jurisdiction over consumer fraud. It enforces the FTC Act and more than 60 laws that affect consumers.

When it comes to hard core fraud, the FTC brings civil actions in federal court to stop the scam and get money back for consumers or return illegal profits to the U.S. Treasury.

The FTC's cases often target conduct that also violates criminal laws, and so the FTC often refers defendants to criminal prosecutors.

That's where the FTC's Criminal Liaison Unit (CLU) comes in. It seeks to increase the criminal prosecution of consumer fraud. To learn more, call the CLU chief at **1-800-CLU-1234**.

## Criminal Liaison Unit:

- ▶ Partners with the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Attorneys and state criminal law enforcement authorities to promote prosecutions of consumer frauds, including those that deal with:
  - mortgage relief
  - telemarketing
  - bogus health products
  - sweepstakes
- ▶ Prepares FTC cases for referral and supplies evidence from FTC case files, including:
  - victim statements
  - undercover sales calls
  - undercover purchases
  - certified bank, business and phone records
  - insider testimony
- ▶ Provides Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys:
  - In select cases, FTC litigators have been designated as SAUSAs and have helped prosecute FTC Act offenders.
- ▶ Trains criminal authorities about:
  - leveraging FTC resources from existing cases
  - identifying suspects and witnesses using the Consumer Sentinel Network
  - distributing consumer/victim outreach materials
- ▶ Produces results. In FY 2013, referrals:
  - helped initiate 76 indictments or complaints against FTC defendants and their associates
  - led to 65 convictions or guilty pleas and an average sentence of more than 40 months
- ▶ Since CLU's launch in 2003, prosecutors have indicted more than 550 FTC defendants and their associates.