State Advocacy

The National Consumer Law Center offers its consumer law expertise to legal service attorneys, private attorneys, and advocacy organizations who share our goals of consumer justice. We assist states with one-off shorter-term advocacy projects as well as ongoing projects in Massachusetts. We also offer a wide range of free advocacy materials that state advocates can use.

- Massachusetts

Additional Resources

Model State Laws

Policy Analysis

Arbitration

- 50 State & D.C. Fact Sheets: How the CFPB’s Arbitration Rule Protects Victims of Wells Fargo Bank Fraud, August 2017
- 50 State Fact Sheets: Forced Arbitration Harms Consumers, Servicemembers, and Veterans, August 2017

Autos

- Auto Add-Ons Add Up: How Dealer Discretion Drives Excessive, Arbitrary, and Discriminatory Pricing, October 2017
- Shifting into Gear: A Revised Guide to Creating or Improving a Car Ownership Program, April 2014

Consumer Protection

- Letter supporting California Governor Newsom’s Proposal for a Dept. of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI) to protect consumers during the Covid-19 crisis and beyond, May 27, 2020
- Issue Brief: Stabilizing Consumer Finances During and After the Coronavirus Crisis in California, May 2020

Credit Reports

- Testimony of NCLC Attorney Ariel Nelson Before the House Economic Matters Committee of the Maryland General Assembly in Support of MD HB 0642, a Bill Designed to Address Problems with Accuracy in Background Screening Reports, Feb. 3, 2021

Criminal Justice
Written Testimony of NCLC before the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Joint Committee on the Judiciary Supporting H.4652, An Act Regarding Decarceration and COVID-19, May 5, 2020
Commercialized (In)Justice: Consumer Abuses in the Bail and Corrections Industry, March 2019
The Rent-to-Own Racket: Using Criminal Courts to Coerce Payments from Vulnerable Families, February 2019

Debt Collection

Fact Sheet: Support an Equitable Economic Recovery by Keeping More Money in the Pockets of Consumers Struggling to Make Ends Meet: An Act Relative to Fairness in Debt Collection, March 2021
Brief: Build a CA Seawall against Debt Collection Caused by Covid: Wage Garnishment, February 2021
Group letter supporting the Massachusetts Debt Collection Fairness Act, July 31, 2020
NCLC written testimony supporting §§ 1, 2 and 3 of Connecticut H.B. 5427, An Act Concerning Issues Relating to Debt Collection, March 10, 2020
50 State & D.C. Fact Sheets, May 2019
Debt Collection in the States and D.C..(consumer complaints and share of population with a debt in collection), May 2019
What States Can Do to Help Consumers Debt Collection, May 2019
What States Can Do to Help Consumers: Medical Debt, April 2019

Housing

Building a California Seawall against the Tsunami of Debt Collection Caused by COVID-19: Mortgage Relief, November 2020
Obtaining Mortgage Relief for Survivors of Disasters: A Practice Guide for Advocates, February 2020 [Note: To print, please select “Fit to Page” under Scale; for best online viewing, please open in Internet Explorer or Firefox]
  ○ Appendix A: Flow Chart: Homeowner Post-Disaster Road to Recovery [Note: To print, please select “Fit to Page” under Scale.]
  ○ Appendix B: Short Summaries of Loss Mitigation Rules for Government-Backed Loans
  ○ Appendix C: Long Summaries of Loss Mitigation Rules for Government-Backed Loans
Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Loans: The Perils of Easy Money for Clean Energy Improvements, September 2017
Toxic Transactions: How Land Installment Contracts Once Again Threaten Communities of Color, July 2016
What is a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Loan?September 2016
The Other Foreclosure Crisis: Property Tax Lien Sales, July 10, 2012

Installment Loans

Predatory Installment Lending in the States: 2020, February 2020
Issue Brief: Stop Payday Lenders’ Rent-a-Bank Schemes!, November 2019 (showing the states in which lenders are evading state interest rate caps)
Issue Brief: Payday Lenders Plan to Evade California’s New Interest Rate Cap Law through Rent-A-Bank Partnership, October 2019
Fact sheets on APR rates in Southern States, May 2019
Fact Sheet: State Annual Percentage Rate (APR) Caps for $500, $2,000, and $10,000 Installment Loans, March 2019
A Larger and Longer Debt Trap?: Analysis of States’ APR Caps for a $10,000 Five-Year Installment Loan, October 2018

Prepaid Debit Cards and Payroll Cards

- Updated Survey: Fees Dropping On State Prepaid Cards for Unemployed Workers, August, 2017
- 2013 Survey of State Unemployment Compensation Prepaid Cards, January 2013

Student Loans

- What States Can Do to Protect Consumers: Student Loans, January 2020
- Updated Report: Ensuring Educational Integrity: 10 Steps to Improve State Oversight of For-Profit Schools, June 2014, Update to Step 2: Protecting Online Education Students, Dec. 2015

Utilities

- Brief: Implementing a Roadmap to Utility Service as a Human Right, April 2021
- Brief: Essential Utility Services During the Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond: a Roadmap to Utility Service as a Human Right, March 2021
- Competing to Overcharge Customers: The Competitive Energy Supplier Market in Massachusetts, April 2018
- Helping Low-Income Utility Customers Manage Overdue Bills through Arrearage Management Programs (AMP), September 2013