

FTC Asks Court to Halt Operations Allegedly Easing Illegal Robocalls; TCPA Comments Due at FCC

The FTC sought a court order to block operations it said facilitate "billions of illegal robocalls to consumers nationwide, pitching everything from auto warranties, to home security systems and supposed debt-relief services," said a [release](#) Tuesday. The agency filed a [complaint](#) in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California alleging James Christiano and the companies he controls -- which operate a computer-based dialing platform "to blast out" robocalls -- violated a telemarketing sales rule that makes virtually all telemarketing robocalls illegal. A Christiano representative emailed: "As a responsible provider of software for over two decades, NetDotSolutions takes compliance seriously and has spent innumerable resources to ensure that it legally provides its software and services. NetDotSolutions and its president, Jamie Christiano, strongly deny any wrongdoing and will vigorously defend themselves against allegations they assisted or facilitated misuse of the NetDotSolutions software or are somehow vicariously liable for the actions of others." Comments are due at the FCC June 13, replies June 28 in docket 18-152 on interpretations and implementation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (see [1805150014](#)) following partial court reversal (see [1803160053](#)), [says](#) Wednesday's Federal Register. Google intends to implement Shaken/Stir (Secure Handling of Asserted Information using toKENS/Secure Telephony Identity [STI] Revisited) call authentication standards aimed at curbing call spoofing and unwanted robocalls. It voiced "concern about limiting the ability to obtain STI certificates and sign for calls to a narrow set of voice providers, and emphasized the importance of having all identity header fields delivered to devices in order to enable mobile applications to perform validation and spam detection," said a [filing](#) on discussions with FCC Chief Technology Officer Eric Burger and others in docket 17-59. Alaska USA Federal Credit Union [told](#) the FCC it backs a possible reassigned number database to further assist anti-robocalling efforts. The Minnesota Credit Union [said](#) it's "not necessarily opposed to the creation of a database" but concerns it "could be cost prohibitive" and "should not be the only solution." Comments on a [Further NPRM](#) are due Thursday (see [1803220028](#)).

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