



FTC ANNOUNCES UPCOMING SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING FORUM

Yesterday, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") announced that it will host a small business financing forum on May 8th at 9am. The forum is open to the public and will be held in Washington, D.C. at the Constitution Center. The forum will be webcast live on the FTC's website.

The purpose of the forum is to bring stakeholders together to discuss trends and consumer protection issues in the small business financing marketplace, including the recent proliferation of online loans and alternative financing products. In its announcement, the FTC noted reports of deception and other harmful practices by some companies offering small business financing.

It is not uncommon for the FTC to host stakeholder forums on various topics and publish staff reports following the forum. Over the last couple of years, federal and state legislators and agencies have called for increased oversight of small business funding providers and consumer protections for small businesses. See our ALERT dated May 11, 2016. The forum announcement signals that small business financing is on the FTC's radar, but whether the forum will necessarily lead to increased scrutiny of small business funding providers is unknown. □

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