

OPERATION BIDDER BEWARE CASE CHART

Agency	Subject	Type of Action/Case Description	Agency Contact
Federal Trade Commission	Unknown Parties Deceiving Consumers While Doing Business As or Using Premier-Escrow.com	Posed as Internet auction buyers and sellers, and an online escrow service to trick consumers into sending them money or merchandise, and then failed to deliver anything in return. Complaint filed on 4/16/03 and temporary restraining order obtained on 4/22/03.	Delores Gardner Thompson, Staff Attorney (202) 326-2264 Karen Leonard, Staff Attorney (202) 326-3597 Claudia Farrell (202) 326-2181
Federal Trade Commission Midwest Region	Thompson, James D. Germek, Susan B.	Used stolen IDs to conduct Internet auctions and then failed to deliver merchandise. Complaint filed and temporary restraining order obtained on 4/16/03.	Steven Wernikoff, Staff Attorney (312) 960-5630 Claudia Farrell (202) 326-2181
Federal Trade Commission Southeast Region	Engle, Morgan	Failed to deliver musical equipment sold via Internet auctions. Complaint filed and temporary restraining order obtained on 4/22/03.	Robin Rock, Staff Attorney (404) 656-1368 Claudia Farrell (202) 326-2181
Federal Trade Commission, Western Region	Stetzel, Eric	Failed to deliver computer equipment sold via Internet auctions. Complaint filed on 4/16. Preliminary injunction obtained on 4/23/03.	'Jerome Steiner, Staff Attorney (415) 848-5190 David Newman, Staff Attorney (415) 848-5123 Claudia Farrell (202) 326-2181
CATCH San Diego City Attorney	Morgan, Candice	Sold counterfeit Louis Vuitton handbags that she represented as "100% authentic" via Internet auctions. Pled guilty on 12/02/02 to 4 misdemeanor counts. Banned from Internet sales for 3 years and ordered to pay full restitution.	Cindy Davis, DCA (619) 533-5500 Maria Velasquez (619) 533-5800

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CATCH California Attorney General San Diego District Attorney	Forte, Michael Winslow, Michael Steinwart, Jennifer	Failed to deliver plasma TV monitors sold via Internet auctions. Charged on 8/26/02 with computer crimes, grand theft and forgery.	Michael Groch, DDA (619) 531-3660 Tawnya Boulan, DAG (619) 531-3660 Norma Davis (858) 715-2353
CATCH California Attorney General San Diego District Attorney	Shcroeder, Brent	Failed to deliver diamond sold via Internet auction. Charged on 11/15/02 with forgery, fraud, burglary, and grand theft.	Michael Groch, DDA (619) 531-3660 Tawnya Boulan, DAG (619) 531-3660 Norma Davis (858) 715-2353
CATCH California Attorney General San Diego District Attorney	Harle, Donald	Failed to deliver computer parts sold via Internet auctions. Charged with computer crimes, forgery, and grand theft. Prelim hearing 3/20/03.	Michael Groch, DDA (619) 531-3660 Tawnya Boulan, DAG (619) 531-3660 Norma Davis (858) 715-2353
CATCH California Attorney General San Diego District Attorney	Whitaker, Trevor	Sold stolen merchandise via Internet auction. Charged with grand theft and buying and receiving stolen property. Prelim hearing 3/11/03.	Michael Groch, DDA (619) 531-3660 Tawnya Boulan, DAG (619) 531-3660 Norma Davis (858) 715-2353
CATCH Orange County (CA) District Attorney Orange Police Department	Smith, Tara Jennings, Edward	Sold fraudulently obtained dental equipment via Internet auctions. Charged with conspiracy to defraud, grand theft, attempted grand theft, selling stolen property, and taking in excess of \$50,000. Pretrial hearing 4/4/03.	Bob Molko, ADA (714) 347-8700 R. Pawlowski (714) 568-1250

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Delaware Department of Justice & Attorney General	Cohen, Michelle Napoli, Vincent	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auctions. Civil complaint filed on 4/15/03.	Dirk Dirstein, DAG (302) 577-8510
Illinois Attorney General	Castillo, David Sircher, Amanda Demonic Toys	Failed to deliver collectible demonic toys and dolls. Civil complaint filed 4/03.	Adam Sokol, AAG (312) 814-4309
	Rzeszutko, Sabrina	Failed to deliver designer wallets and handbags. Civil complaint filed 4/03.	Adam Sokol, AAG (312) 814-4309
	Dachman, Ken	Failed to deliver or non-confirming goods (ski jackets). Civil complaint filed 4/03.	Adam Sokol, AAG (312) 814-4309
	Engle, Tim	Failed to deliver computer electronics sold via Internet auctions. Settled 3/6/03. Full restitution, civil penalty, and injunctive relief obtained.	Adam Sokol, AAG (312) 814-4309
	Coss, Alejandro	Failed to deliver Sony Playstation 2s sold via Internet auctions. Settled 10/30/02. Full restitution, civil penalty, and injunctive relief obtained.	Adam Sokol, AAG (312) 814-4309
Idaho Attorney General	Brad Bottom Financial Services	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auction. Signed letter of agreement to make restitution.	Michele Bartlett, DAG (208) 334-2424 or Bob Cooper (208) 334-4112
	Ward, Paul J.	Failed to deliver sunglasses, x-box consoles, and video game components sold via Internet auctions. Arrested on 2/13/03 on felony fraud charges.	Michele Bartlett, DAG (208) 334-2424 or Bob Cooper (208) 334-4112

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Iowa Attorney General	Hughes, Greg Hughes Online Services	Failed to deliver candles and clothing sold via Internet auctions. Assurance of voluntary compliance obtained.	Bill Brauch, SAAG & Dir. Consumer Protection (515) 281-8772
Kentucky Attorney General	Nivar, Vidal	Failed to deliver cameras sold via Internet auction. Indicted on 3/10/03 on charge of theft by deception.	Todd Leatherman (502) 696-5389 or Brian Wright (501) 696-5642
Louisiana Department of Justice	Lindsey, Jermaine; Spencer, Brandon; Lee, James; Ainsworth, Debra	Each separately failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auctions. Each received a warning notice.	Kordice Douglas, AAG (225) 342-3978 or Pam Laborde (225) 339-5133
Massachusetts Attorney General	Smith, Teresa	Failed to deliver computer equipment sold via Internet auctions. Civil complaint filed 7/02. Preliminary Injunction obtained. Also charged with mail and wire fraud by U.S. Attorney's Office and sentenced on 4/10/03 to 4 years, 9 months in federal prison.	Jack Christin (617) 727-2200 x2912 or Sarah Nathan (617) 727-2200 x2049
Maryland Attorney General	Rhymer, Michael Johnson, Michael	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auction. Assurance of Discontinuance obtained. Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auctions. Cease and Desist Order issued.	Philip Ziperman (410) 576-6568 or Sean Caine (410) 576-6357 Philip Ziperman (410) 576-6568 or Sean Caine (410) 576-6357

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Michigan Attorney General	U.S. v. Roy Pourchez	Failed to deliver laptop computers sold via Internet auctions. Pled guilty to mail fraud, and was sentenced on 1/10/03 to 33 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution. (Worked on case with U.S. Postal Inspection Service.)	Terrence Berg, AAG (734) 525-4151 or Sage Eastman (517) 241-9137
	State v. Marc Nance	Failed to deliver laptop computers offered for sale via Internet auctions. Pled guilty on 1/02/03 and was sentenced to 2 year's probation and 60 days either jail or alternative work force.	Terrence Berg, AAG (734) 525-4151 or Sage Eastman (517) 241-9137
	People v. Hunter	Failed to deliver computer games and accessories sold via Internet auctions. Sentenced to probation and ordered to pay restitution on 1/25/03.	Terrence Berg, AAG (734) 525-4151 or Sage Eastman (517) 241-9137

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Missouri Attorney General	Rowland, Jarrett	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auction. Civil petition filed 4/17/03.	Stewart Freilich (573) 751-7890
	Taylor, Dennis	Misrepresented that earrings sold via Internet auction were diamonds. Civil petition filed on 4/17/03.	Stewart Freilich (573) 751-7890
	Jensen, John	Failed to deliver sports trading cards sold via Internet auction. Civil petition on 4/23/03.	Stewart Freilich (573) 751-7890
	Merckle, Jo Don Merckle, Donald E. (aka Circle M; Great Computer Works)	Failed to deliver computers and other merchandise sold via Internet auction. Arrested on felony charges on 4/15/03.	Stewart Freilich (573) 751-7890
	Sheehan, John	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auctions. Civil petition filed 4/23/03.	Stewart Freilich (573) 751-7890
	Gilmore, Jeremy Gilmore, Cindy	Failed to deliver computers sold via Internet auctions. Arrested on felony charges on 4/25/03.	Stewart Freilich (573) 751-7890
Nebraska Department of Justice	Jason Beard (dba Synx Solutions)	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auctions. Assurance of voluntary compliance obtained 4/22/03.	Rebecca Maahs, AAG & Dir. Consumer Protection (402) 471-3839
	Mylostclub.com	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auctions.	Rebecca Maahs, AAG & Dir. Consumer Protection (402) 471-3839

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Nevada Attorney General	<p>Thomas, Susan</p> <p>Zamora, Orlando (aka Michael Alvarez) Zamora, Paola (aka Sharon Jones)</p>	<p>Failed to deliver art items such as sculptures, statues and serigraphs sold via Internet auctions. Arrested on 4/8/03 and charged with six felony counts of theft by obtaining money under false pretenses.</p> <p>Used fraudulent escrow account to trick jewelry sellers out of their merchandise sold via Internet auctions. Arrested on 4/2/03.</p>	<p>Tracey Brierly, DAG (702) 486-3128</p> <p>Tracey Brierly, DAG (702) 486-3128</p>
New Jersey Department of Law & Public Safety	<p>Brening, Thomas</p> <p>Wolf, Alexander</p>	<p>Sold, or attempted to re-sell, football tickets unlawfully via Internet auctions (ticket scalping). Consent Judgment and Order obtained on 1/6/03.</p> <p>Sold, or attempted to re-sell, football tickets unlawfully via Internet auctions (ticket scalping). Consent Judgment and Order obtained on 11/14/02.</p>	<p>Benn Meistrich, Chief of Staff, Consumer Affairs Division (973) 504-6534 or Gene Morris (973) 504-6327</p> <p>Benn Meistrich, Chief of Staff, Consumer Affairs Division (973) 504-6534 or Gene Morris (973) 504-6327</p>
North Carolina Attorney General	Riddick, Charles	Failed to deliver athletic clothing and computer equipment sold via Internet auctions. Civil complaint filed and temporary restraining order obtained on 3/19/03.	Harriet Worley (919) 716-6014
Ohio Attorney General	<p>McGruder, Gregory Bonds, Antonio (aka Tony Banda) Jackson, Marvin Gordon, Joseph (all dba God's Toy Store and Crown Jewel Computers)</p>	Failed to deliver computers and computer equipment sold via Internet auctions. Civil complaint filed on 2/27/03. Preliminary injunction obtained on 3/7/03.	Valerie Roller, AAG (614) 644-9618 or Michelle Gatchell (614) 466-3840

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Oregon Department of Justice	<p>Stevens, Larry Xanadu Systems, Inc.</p> <p>Harris, Terry</p> <p>Wait, Brienne</p>	<p>Failed to deliver computers and computer parts sold via auctions. Sold used goods as new. Arrested on felony charges on 1/23/03. Pled guilty to ID Theft charge. Assurance of voluntary compliance obtained on 1/23/03. Permanently enjoined from selling on the Internet.</p> <p>Failed to deliver electronic items sold at internet auction sites. Assurance of voluntary compliance obtained.</p> <p>Failed to deliver computer and electronic items sold at internet auction sites. Assurance of voluntary compliance obtained.</p>	<p>Jan Margosian (503) 378-4732</p> <p>Jan Margosian (503) 378-4732</p> <p>Jan Margosian (503) 378-4732</p>
South Dakota Attorney General	Hjellum, Wilma Hjellum, Curt	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auctions. Assurance of voluntary compliance obtained.	Paul Cremer (605) 773-3215
Washington Attorney General	<p>Harper, Kevin</p> <p>Erden, Kenan</p> <p>Hudson, Jonathan</p>	<p>Failed to deliver DVD box sets sold via Internet auctions. Civil complaint filed 4/10/03.</p> <p>Failed to deliver gaming systems (i.e., X-Box, Playstation), gaming software and digital cameras sold via Internet auctions. Civil complaint filed 4/11/03.</p> <p>Misrepresented value of baseball cards sold via Internet auctions. Stipulated judgment obtained 3/3/03 enjoining sale of trading cards over the Internet, requiring payment of restitution and attorney's fees.</p>	<p>Paula Selis (206)464-7662 or Chris Jarvis (206) 464-6432</p> <p>Paula Selis (206)464-7662 or Chris Jarvis (206) 464-6432</p> <p>Paula Selis (206)464-7662 or Chris Jarvis (206) 464-6432</p>

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Wisconsin Attorney General	JDS Systems, Inc. dba Variety Video and Pizza Swenson, Wendell ("Dell") Dumond, Joyce Swenson, Dale Roskaz, Ben	Failed to deliver merchandise sold via Internet auctions. Civil complaint filed 4/21/03.	Jim Jeffries (608) 267-8901 or Brian Riselman (608) 266-1220
West Virginia Attorney General	Boggess, Randy Randy's Stereo Outlet	Failed to deliver stereo equipment sold via Internet auctions. Civil complaint filed 2/27/03.	Jill Miles (304) 558-8986