



Department of Justice

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The Department of Justice yesterday filed a civil antitrust suit against Allied Finance Adjusters Conference, Inc., a national association of repossessors located in Westminster, California.

The suit alleged a conspiracy to restrain competition in the independent repossession service market, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

Repossessors, or adjusters as they are sometimes called, provide services for banks, credit unions and other lenders that seek to recover merchandise sold under a security agreement.

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said that the suit was filed in United States District Court in Los Angeles, California.

Sanford M. Litvack, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the complaint alleged that, beginning sometime prior to 1975 and continuing to the present, Allied Finance Adjusters agreed to, published, and disseminated fee schedules for various repossession services. The complaint alleged also that the association restricted membership to one member in each geographical area and restricted the area in which each member could advertise and operate.

As a result, competition in the provision of independent repossession services has been restrained, the complaint said.

The complaint asked that the defendant be enjoined from continuing or renewing the conduct alleged in the complaint and any other conduct having the same purpose or effect.

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