Summary

Surprising Reach of Discrimination Statutes in Consumer Cases

A number of federal and state discrimination laws having a surprisingly varied applicability in consumer cases, including the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA), Fair Housing Act, several Civil Rights Acts, state discrimination statutes, the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), and the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA):

- Reverse redlining claims against predatory lending
- Disparate impact claims for discriminatory pricing schemes and hidden finance upcharges
- Limits on requirements for spouse and others to co-sign loans and liability of one spouse for the other’s debts
- Notice requirements related to granting and denial of credit, counter-offers
- Record retention requirements
- Discrimination in application procedures and credit evaluation
- Discrimination based on receipt of public assistance, age, or change in name or marital status
- Discrimination law’s applicability to credit reporting

Powerful Remedies

Credit discrimination laws offer consumers powerful remedies, including:

- Punitive damages
- Injunctive relief
- Consequential damages for pain and suffering
- Other forms of actual damages
- Attorney fees.

Praise

"There are no other resources that we count on to get us to the right answer as often and as quickly as NCLC’s manuals." — Robert S. Green, Green Welling, LLP

Related Titles

- Fair Credit Reporting
- Fair Debt Collection
- Credit Regulation
- Class Actions

Source: National Consumer Law Center, Credit Discrimination [7th ed.], updated at www.nclc.org/library
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