

# NEWS FROM SCDCA

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Carri Grube Lybarker, Administrator



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *SCDCA Celebrates Fortieth Anniversary with Agency Retrospective*

COLUMBIA, SC - The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) is celebrating forty years of consumer protection with the release of its retrospective outlining the evolution of the department and its impact on South Carolina's consumer marketplace.

SCDCA was established by the SC Consumer Protection Code, which went in to effect on January 1, 1975. Since its inception, SCDCA has undergone many changes, including shifts in organizational structure, increases in statutory responsibility, transitions between Administrators and the integration of new technologies.

Over the past forty years, through all of the changes, SCDCA has managed to accomplish so much, including:

- 1.) Saving consumers and businesses **\$2,974,514,524** through advocacy, complaint mediation and enforcement activities.
- 2.) Fielding over **181,000 complaints** from consumers.
- 3.) Overseeing **15 regulatory programs** including, registered creditors, physical fitness facilities, pawnbrokers, mortgage brokers and more.

Making these accomplishments even more remarkable is the size of the department, which is comprised of six divisions with only 40 full time employees. "SCDCA is a small agency doing big things," said current Administrator Carri Grube Lybarker. "While the state and Agency have seen many changes over the past four decades, SCDCA has maintained a passionate, resilient staff dedicated to the Agency's mission of protecting consumers from inequities in the marketplace."

Learn more about what SCDCA has accomplished during its first forty years by downloading the retrospective, which is available in digital form at [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) under News Releases and Publications, then Agency Reports.

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs aims to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, complaint mediation, enforcement and education. For more information, educational materials or to file a complaint about an abusive debt collector, please contact the Department at [www.consumer.sc.gov](http://www.consumer.sc.gov) or call toll free 1-800-922-1594.

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