

Registration Information

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail _____

- ☐ **Group 1:** Designated representatives of CFA member groups. **Fee: \$90.00**
- ☐ **Group 2:** Government, academic, and non-CFA public interest groups. **Fee: \$110.00**
- ☐ **Group 3:** Industry and trade association representatives. **Fee: \$300.00**

The registration fee includes all sessions, the lunch and the reception on Thursday, March 24th.

- ☐ Yes, I will attend the Thursday luncheon.
- ☐ I request a vegetarian/gluten free lunch.

Register online by using a credit card or check at www.consumerfed.org OR register by mail or fax:

Consumer Federation of America
1620 I Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006
202-387-6121 Fax: 202-265-7989

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations or substitutions must be received by Wednesday, March 13th. There are no refunds for cancellations after that date or for conference no-shows.

On-site registration will be available on Wednesday, March 23rd from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. and on Thursday, March 24th beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Access services will be provided on request.
Please notify CFA if these services are required.

HOTEL

The Embassy Suites Convention Center Hotel has a small block of rooms available at the rate of \$289 plus tax on a first come first served basis. Reservations should be made individually by March 2, 2016 by calling 1-800-362-2779. Please identify yourself as a registrant of CFA's Consumer Assembly Conference in order to receive this rate.

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1620 I Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20006



50 YEARS
1967–2016
**CONSUMER
ASSEMBLY**

CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES

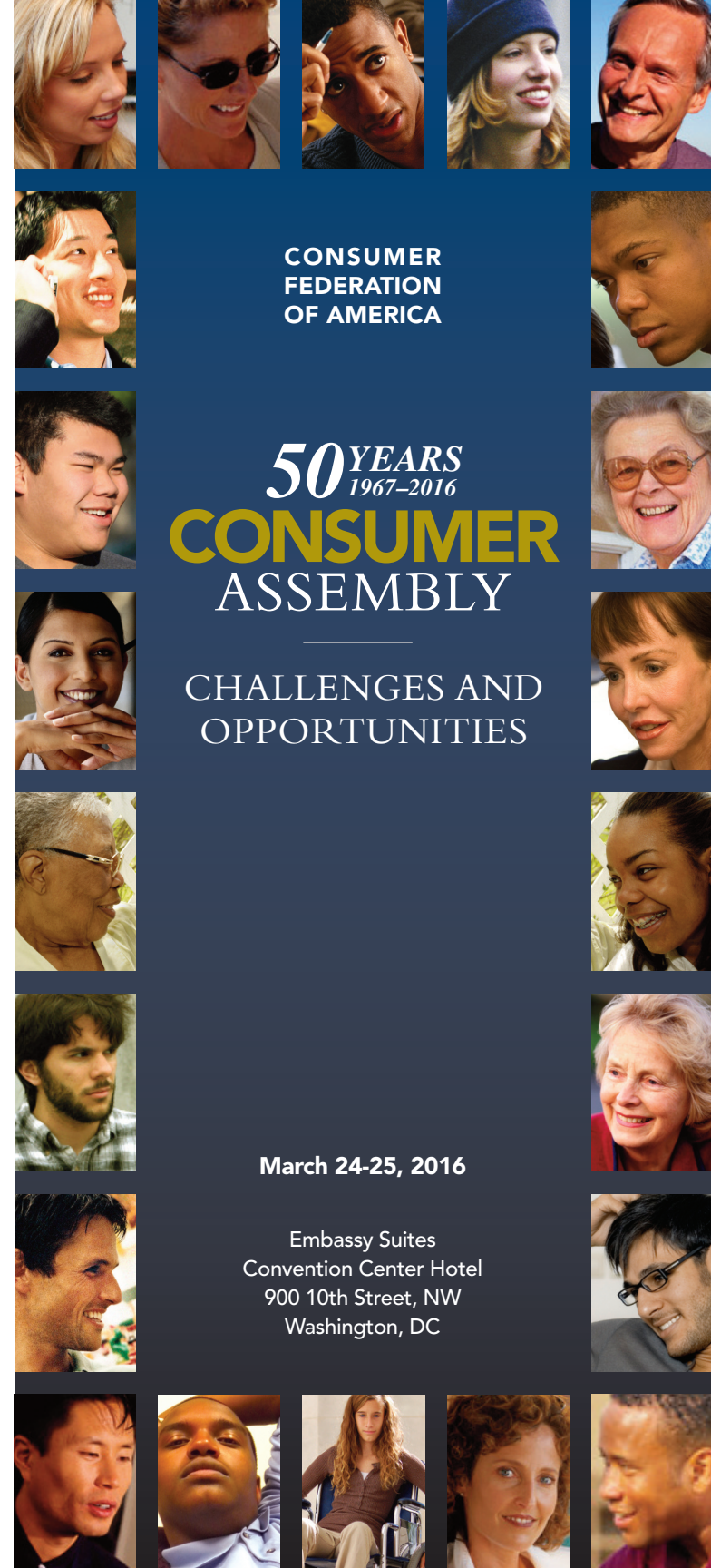
CONSUMER
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OF AMERICA

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March 24-25, 2016

Embassy Suites
Convention Center Hotel
900 10th Street, NW
Washington, DC



50 YEARS 1967-2016 CONSUMER ASSEMBLY

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

For the past half-century, the Consumer Federation of America's Consumer Assembly has served as the consumer movement's principal meeting where consumer issues are reviewed, policy reforms are discussed, and new initiatives are presented. On its 50th anniversary, the conference will focus special attention on consumer issues arising from globalization, technological change, and growing inequality.

In keynote addresses, general session panels, and breakouts, a dozen topics related to economics, privacy, health, and safety will be discussed by policy leaders, consumer advocates, academic experts, and business representatives. All those interested in consumer issues are invited to attend.

The conference will begin at 8:30a.m. on Thursday, March 24 and will conclude at noon on Friday, March 25. To register online, go to www.consumer.fed.org or return the registration form on the back of this brochure.

General Sessions

Consumer Attitudes and Priorities

Consumer views and concerns are an important basis for the work of consumer advocates. How do Americans feel about products and their regulation? To what extent do these concerns vary by factors including age, income, ethnicity, and political party?

The 2016 Elections and Consumers

The election campaigns of presidential candidates have already provoked much controversy and uncertainty. High voter turnout for a presidential election has the potential to transform Congress. How do election-year politics affect consumers? What's at stake for consumers in these elections? What election-day outcomes are likely?

Evolving News Media: Implications for Advocates

The face of the media is changing as traditional print and broadcast media migrate to the Internet. In addition, more Americans are getting their news from non-traditional sources. How do these changes affect consumer advocacy? In particular, are the website stories of major newspapers and broadcasters as carefully researched and edited and as widely read as print and on-air stories?

The Sharing Economy: Benefits and Risks to Consumers

The sharing economy is exploding as consumers increasingly use Uber, Airbnb, and other innovative business models to obtain services. Can consumers rely on the trust mechanisms on which these services are based? Should current consumer protections apply to these new business models? Are new protections needed for consumers as well as for individual service providers?

The Future of the Car: Implications for Consumers

Today's vehicles are on the cusp of a monumental transformation. New safety features anticipating accidents and protecting pedestrians, huge increases in fuel economy, vehicle to vehicle communications, and the driverless car are about to enter the marketplace. How will these changes affect consumer costs, safety, reliability, and the driver experience? What should be the role of advocates and regulators as these changes occur?

Chemicals in Consumer Products

Consumer advocates, physicians, environmental advocates, and regulators have become increasingly aware of, and concerned about, the use of certain chemicals in consumer products, such as flame retardants. In addition, these groups are especially worried that new chemicals substituted for old unsafe chemicals may be just as unsafe and possibly more so. What should advocates and regulators be doing to assess these "substitutions" and ban those which are unsafe?

The Role of Disparate Impact Theory in Consumer Protection Policies

Despite prohibitions on discrimination, too often disparate impacts are visible in consumer markets such as housing and financial services. What is the significance of a recent U.S. Supreme Court

decision on disparate impacts? What new protections are needed to prevent discrimination? What is the role of consumer activists in advocating for these reforms?

Equal Access in the Digital Age

Access to broadband services has become increasingly necessary to function effectively in the modern world. Yet, a large minority of Americans, disproportionately older and lower income, do not have these services because they think they are not affordable. Recently, the Federal Communications Commission has proposed extending lifeline service subsidies from traditional telephone to broadband services. What is the agency's proposal, and how helpful will it be?

Should the FCC Propose New Privacy Rules for Broadband Internet Services?

Now that the Federal Communications Commission has reclassified broadband as a telecommunications service, should the agency propose new rules to ensure broadband customer control of their personal information to protect their privacy and prevent theft and discriminatory practices? If so, what should these rules require? And what are the respective roles of the FCC and the Federal Trade Commission?

The Data Breach Epidemic: Is There a Cure?

Hardly a week goes by without news of another data breach. What is the scope of the problem? What are adverse impacts on consumers whose personal information is stolen in these breaches? How can new safeguards mitigate these impacts? Is there federal legislation that would establish adequate consumer protections? Is there the danger of a new federal law weakening the rights of consumers under state laws? What can consumers do to protect themselves?

Will Proposed Provisions in the US/EU Trade Agreement Harm Consumers?

In negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, it has been suggested that US and EU regulators and legislators be required to consult with each other and with "stakeholders" even before proposing new laws and regulations. It has also been proposed that companies be permitted to go to special tribunals to challenge laws and regulations as trade barriers, seeking damages. How would these two proposals affect existing and future consumer protections?

The Future of Marketing: Challenges for Consumers and Regulators

Advances in data collection and technology make it easier to personalize offers, embed advertising in content, identify real-time location, and solicit consumers through social media and other new channels. How is marketing changing and what new techniques will we see in the future? How can consumers distinguish advertising from news or entertainment? How can children and other vulnerable consumers be protected from unfair or misleading practices in the new marketing frontier?