

Statement of the Federal Trade Commission  
In the Matter of Music Teachers National Association, Inc., File No. 131-0118  
In the Matter of California Association of Legal Support Professionals, File No. 131-0205  
December 16, 2013

The Federal Trade Commission is today issuing for public comment proposed consent orders with two professional associations, the Music Teachers National Association, Inc. (“MTNA”) and California Association of Legal Support Professionals (“CALSP<sup>1</sup>”). We take this step because we have reason to believe that these professional associations and their respective members have violated the antitrust laws by agreeing not to engage in fundamental

restraints of trade that the Sherman Act was designed to combat. See, e.g., Nat'l Soc'y of Prof'l Eng'rs v. United States, 435 U.S. 679 (1978) (condemning a restriction on competitive bidding). For a professional association to prohibit honest competition as "unethical" behavior is particularly problematic because, as the Supreme Court has recognized, association members can be "expected to comply in order to assure that they [do] not discredit themselves by