



# OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## **ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE SETTLEMENT WITH SAMSUNG**

Las Vegas, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto today announced a \$90 million nationwide antitrust settlement with Samsung Semiconductor, Inc. and Samsung Electronics Company Ltd., resolving allegations that Samsung along with its competitors fixed the prices of Dynamic Random Access Memory (DRAM). DRAM is a type of memory chip used in computers and computer equipment. Samsung also agreed to injunctive relief preventing future similar conduct, and to cooperate with Nevada and other states in prosecuting co-conspirators. Samsung admits no wrong-doing in the settlement, which is subject to court approval.

“Price fixing strikes at the heart of free competition, the foundation of Nevada’s economic system,” said Masto. “Through a conspiracy involving an essential computer component, Samsung kept prices artificially high and victimized Nevada consumers.”

Nevada and other States continue to pursue litigation seeking relief for consumers and government entities who paid higher prices for computers and computer equipment from 1998 to 2002 as a result of alleged price fixing by at least seven DRAM manufacturers: Elpida Memory, Inc.; Hynix Semiconductor, Inc.; Infineon Technologies, AG; Micron Technology, Inc.; Mosel Vitelic, Inc.; Nanya Technology Corporation and NEC Electronics America, Inc. The suit arose from a federal criminal investigation that exposed which DRAM manufacturers coordinated the prices they charged to computer equipment manufacturers; those overcharges were then passed on to consumers. Nevada’s share of the nationwide settlement, on behalf of Nevada consumers, state, and local government entities, will be determined at a later date.

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