



# OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

---

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
Telephone - (702) 486-3420  
Fax - (702) 486-3283  
Web - <http://ag.state.nv.us>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: December 19, 2012**

**CONTACT: Jennifer López**  
**[jlopez@ag.nv.gov](mailto:jlopez@ag.nv.gov) / 702-486-3782**

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO ANNOUNCES TOBACCO SETTLEMENT**

**Las Vegas, NV** – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that the State of Nevada, with 16 other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, has reached an agreement with the nation's largest tobacco companies to resolve ten years of disputes regarding terms in the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The agreement will provide Nevada an additional sum of approximately \$21 million in 2013 and make sure that Nevada is no longer risking more than \$440 million in liability were these disputes to continue.

“Since 2003, Nevada has received approximately \$40 million in payments per year which would be at risk if a settlement was not reached,” said Masto. “Today’s agreement will continue to provide funding to support important programs for Nevadans, such as the Millennium Scholarship and projects run through the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services.”

In 1998, the major tobacco companies agreed to pay states money every year to settle lawsuits over the health care costs associated with smoking. For the past ten years, there has been a dispute between the tobacco companies and the states over provisions of the MSA and the payments received by the states.

On December 17, 2012, the settlement was agreed upon by 17 states including, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming. The states were joined by the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

###