



If You Are a Washington Consumer Who Bought a Television, Monitor, Notebook Computer, Color-Screen Cell Phone, or Color-Screen iPod Between January 1, 1998 and December 1, 2006 That Contained a Flat Panel Screen

You May Be Eligible to Participate in a Settlement.

- The Washington State Attorney General authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer. Please read this notice carefully, as it explains whether you are eligible to submit a claim for payment from the Settlement Fund.
- On behalf of Washington governmental entities and as *parens patriae* on behalf of Washington consumers, the Washington State Attorney General brought an antitrust lawsuit involving the price of thin film transistor liquid crystal display flat panels (“LCD Flat Panels”). The complaint alleged that the Defendants participated in an unlawful conspiracy to fix, raise, maintain, or stabilize prices of LCD Flat Panels, resulting in damages to consumers who bought finished products containing an LCD Flat Panel.
- The Washington State Attorney General reached settlements with the nine LCD Flat Panels manufacturers named as Defendants in the lawsuit for a total settlement of over \$63 million. The Defendants did not admit to the allegations in the complaint, but agreed to the settlement terms.
- The settlement benefits Washington consumers (individuals and businesses) and Washington governmental entities that purchased products containing an LCD Flat Panel from a retailer or someone other than the manufacturer of the component screen.
- The settlement benefits Washington consumers (individuals and businesses) and Washington governmental entities that purchased one or more the following products containing an LCD Flat Panel for their own use and not for resale:
 - LCD televisions, flat-screen monitors, notebook computers, and color-screen iPods purchased between January 1, 1998 and December 1, 2006; and
 - Color-screen cell phones purchased between January 1, 2004 and December 1, 2006.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS	
SUBMIT A CLAIM	If you submit a claim by June 17, 2016, you may be eligible to receive a payment.
DO NOTHING	If you do nothing, you will not receive any payment from this Settlement Fund.

Basic Information

1. What is this Notice about?

This Notice is to inform you about the settlement of litigation and the creation of a Settlement Fund to benefit Washington business and individual consumers and Washington governmental entities.

2. What is this lawsuit about?

The Washington State Attorney General alleged that the named LCD Flat Panel manufacturers participated in cartel meetings in which they allegedly exchanged price information and agreed to fix LCD Flat Panel prices and manipulate the supply of panels to artificially increase prices. The complaint alleged that the conduct of the Defendant manufacturers resulted in overcharges to Washington consumers who bought products containing an LCD Flat Panel.

The Defendants agreed to settle the lawsuit without admitting to the allegations in the complaint.

The settlement is on behalf of Washington governmental entities and Washington individual and business consumers who purchased a product containing an LCD Flat Panel from a retailer or someone other than the company that manufactured the component part.

The Court in charge was the King County Superior Court, Washington. The case is called *State of Washington v. AU Optronics Corporation, et al.*, No. 10-2-29164-4 SEA. The State of Washington is the Plaintiff in this action, and the companies it sued are the Defendants (*see* Question 6).

3. What is an LCD Flat Panel?

LCD Flat Panels (thin film transistor liquid crystal display flat panels) are the glass display panels used in the following products relevant to this lawsuit and settlement:

- LCD TVs, flat-screen monitors, notebook computers, and color-screen iPods purchased between January 1, 1998 and December 1, 2006; and
- Color-screen cell phones purchased between January 1, 2004 and December 1, 2006.

4. What is *parens patriae* authority?

The doctrine of *parens patriae* allows the Washington State Attorney General to bring a lawsuit under the antitrust laws on behalf of the citizens of the State of Washington to recover damages. The Washington State Attorney General may also seek injunctive relief and civil penalties.

5. How do I know if I may recover damages in the Washington State Attorney General's *parens patriae* action?

Washington consumers: The Washington State Attorney General reached a settlement on behalf of Washington consumers. You are eligible to participate in the settlement if you or your business:

- purchased an LCD Flat Panel product between January 1, 1998 and December 1, 2006; and
- resided or had headquarters in Washington at the time of purchase; and
- purchased the LCD Flat Panel product from a retailer or someone other than the manufacturer of the component screen; and
- purchased the LCD Flat Panel product for your own use and not for resale.

6. Who are the Defendant companies?

The Defendants are the following manufacturers and/or suppliers of LCD Flat Panels:

- AU Optronics (AU Optronics Corp. and AU Optronics Corp., America);
- Chimei (Chimei Innolux Corp. and Chi Mei Optoelectronics USA, Inc.);
- Chunghwa (Chunghwa Picture Tubes, Ltd.);
- Epson (Epson Imaging Devices Corp. and Epson Electronics America, Inc.);
- Hitachi (Japan Displays East, Inc., f/k/a Hitachi Displays, Ltd.);
- LG (LG Display Co., Ltd. and LG Display America, Inc.);
- Samsung (Samsung Electronics Co., Samsung Semiconductor, Inc., and Samsung Electronics America, Inc.);
- Sharp (Sharp Corp. and Sharp Electronics Corp.);
- Toshiba (Toshiba Corp., Toshiba America Electronic Components, Inc., Toshiba America Information Systems, Inc., and Toshiba Mobile Display Technology Co. Ltd.).

Settlement Information

7. What do the settlements provide?

There are nine settlements, totaling over \$63 million:

- **AU Optronics** will pay \$12,500,000 into the Settlement Fund;
- **Chimei** will pay \$8,750,000 into the Settlement Fund;
- **Chunghwa** will pay \$428,235 into the Settlement Fund;
- **Epson** will pay \$2,700,000 into the Settlement Fund;
- **Hitachi** will pay \$5,200,000 into the Settlement Fund;
- **LG** will pay \$13,000,000 into the Settlement Fund;
- **Samsung** will pay \$12,940,000 into the Settlement Fund;
- **Sharp** will pay \$6,750,000 into the Settlement Fund;
- **Toshiba** will pay \$950,000 into the Settlement Fund.

Any interest earned will be added to the Settlement Fund. The cost to administer the settlements as well as the Washington State Attorney General's attorney fees and costs will come out of the Settlement Fund.

A fixed portion of the Settlement Fund will be distributed to the state governmental entities that participated in the lawsuit. The remainder of the Settlement Fund will be used to pay individual and business consumers in Washington.

8. How much money will I get?

The amount you or your business could expect to receive will vary depending on the product(s) purchased, up to a maximum of \$108 per LCD television, \$70 per flat-screen monitor, \$75 per notebook computer, and \$6 per color-screen cell phone and color-screen iPod.

However, your recovery could be a smaller amount than the maximum because there is a limited amount of money in the Settlement Fund. The amount paid per product and the number of claims allowed per consumer will depend on the number of claims submitted. Depending on the number of claims submitted, it is also possible that all or a portion of the fund will be distributed to charities or other beneficiaries

In order to receive a payment, you will need to file a valid claim by June 17, 2016. The Claim Form provides additional details on how to submit a claim. Further information is available at www.lcdsettlement.atg.wa.gov or by calling 1-866-778-9468.

9. When will I get a payment?

As soon as possible after the payment period closes on June 17, 2016.

How to Get a Payment

10. How can I get a payment?

If you meet the requirements described in Question 5 and you want to participate in the settlements, you must complete and submit a Claim Form. We urge you to submit a Claim Form online at www.lcdsettlement.atg.wa.gov. If you do not file online, you can file a paper Claim Form by mail.

The Claim Form can be found at www.lcdsettlement.atg.wa.gov. You can also obtain a copy by calling, toll-free, 1- 866-778-9468. If you choose to submit your claim online, you must do so on or before June 17, 2016. If you choose to submit a Claim Form by mail, it must be postmarked by June 17, 2016, and mailed to:

Washington LCD Claims
c/o A.B. Data, Ltd.
P.O. Box 170500
Milwaukee, WI 53217

Note: You may see third-party websites offering claims management services in exchange for a fee. Those websites are not authorized by the Washington State Attorney General and are not an official part of the claims administration process. **You do not need to pay a fee to participate in this settlement.**

Participation in the Settlement

11. What am I giving up by filing a claim?

Under the antitrust laws, the Washington State Attorney General has the exclusive authority to sue for damages suffered by Washington consumers who purchase products from an intermediate retailer or someone other than the manufacturer who violated the antitrust laws. Because Washington consumers have no private right of action against the Defendant manufacturers in this case, Washington consumers do not waive any right of action under Washington law by participating in this settlement.

Further, in return for paying the settlement amounts, the Defendants have been released from all claims relating to the facts underlying this lawsuit, as more fully described in the Settlement Agreements. That release applies whether or not a claim is filed.

If you have questions, you may call 1-866-778-9468, or you can talk to your own lawyer at your own expense. The Settlement Agreements are available at www.lcdsettlement.atg.wa.gov.

12. May I opt out of this lawsuit or settlement?

While you may choose not to file a claim, there is no basis or mechanism for opting out of this lawsuit or settlement. The lawsuit was brought and settled on behalf of all Washington consumers.

The Lawyers Representing You

13. Do I have a lawyer representing me?

As noted above, the Washington State Attorney General is representing consumers as *parens patriae*. The Washington State Attorney General is also representing Washington governmental entities. You do not have to pay the Washington State Attorney General separately. If you wish to seek the advice of your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

14. How will the lawyers be paid?

Under the terms of the settlements, a portion of the Settlement Fund will be awarded to the office of the Washington State Attorney General for its fees and costs, including the cost of administering the settlements.

More Information

15. Where can I get more information?

The Notice summarizes the lawsuit and the settlements. You can get more information about the lawsuit and settlements at www.lcdsettlement.atg.wa.gov. You may also contact A.B. Data, the claims administrator hired by the Washington State Attorney General, by calling 1-866-778-9468, or writing to Washington LCD Claims, c/o A.B. Data, Ltd., P.O. Box 170500, Milwaukee, WI 53217.