

San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 23, 2011 Contact: Gina Coburn, Communications Director: (619) 533-6181

Millennium Holdings LLC to Pay \$8.7 Million Settlement in Lead Paint Litigation

San Diego, CA: San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith, together with nine other city attorneys and county counsel announced that they have received a total of \$8.7 million under a court-approved settlement with bankrupt Millennium Holdings LLC. Millennium Holdings paid this amount in order to be dismissed from a pending public nuisance abatement suit.

The judgment is the culmination of joint prosecution action against multiple defendants who marketed and promoted lead pigment for use in paints, despite knowing of the harms lead paint causes.

The settlement funds will be divided among the ten jurisdictions, and used primarily to fund lead paint abatement efforts. The City of San Diego received a check for \$773,636.53.

"These settlement funds will help our communities avoid further harm to children caused by lead paint," City Attorney Goldsmith said.

Millennium Holdings LLC and its affiliates filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the U.S. Code on January 6, 2009. The settlement was reached by and among Millennium Holdings LLC and the following public entities: Santa Clara County, the City and County of San Francisco, Alameda County, the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, Monterey County, The City of Oakland, the City of San Diego, San Mateo County and Solano County.

Ongoing litigation is continuing against the remaining defendants with anticipation of a trial date in 2012.

The City Attorney's <u>Civil Prosecution Unit</u> prosecutes cases for monetary recovery for the benefit of the City. Additionally this section performs revenue and recovery litigation, files unlawful detainers and litigation involving fraud.

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