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MINNESOTA SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$55 MILLION TO PURCHASE NEW COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

MINNEAPOLIS – January 30, 2006—Richard Hagstrom and Daniel Hume, co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs in the Minnesota Microsoft antitrust lawsuit, announced today that Minnesota’s public and charter schools will receive more than \$55 million in vouchers to be used to purchase new computer hardware and software. The money is part of a \$182 million settlement in a class action suit against Microsoft Corporation alleging that Microsoft overcharged Minnesota consumers and businesses for certain of its products.

Under terms of the 2004 court-approved settlement, any consumer or business who purchased certain Microsoft software for use in Minnesota during the Class Period was eligible to receive vouchers for varying dollar amounts to purchase any new computer hardware or software. More than 100,000 Minnesota consumers and businesses claimed more than \$63 million of the available settlement. “This is an example of how consumers benefit from class actions,” explained attorney Hagstrom.

One-half of the value of the unclaimed vouchers, more than \$55 million, has been made available to the Department of Education and the public and charter schools it serves. More than 2,100 public and charter schools will receive vouchers, varying in dollar amounts from several hundred dollars to \$6.3 million. “We are pleased to have been able to negotiate this award to the Minnesota Department of Education as part of the settlement. It is our hope that these vouchers will enhance technology in our classrooms for years to come,” said attorney Hagstrom.

The voucher amount available to each public or charter school was based upon its percentage of the state’s total free and reduced price lunch eligible students. Vouchers can be redeemed for over 1,500 eligible products from numerous companies, not just from Microsoft. “Schools will have until January 27, 2012 to redeem their vouchers,” explained attorney Hume.

In addition, the settlement provided a \$2.5 million cash payment and \$2.5 million in vouchers to the University of Minnesota’s Institute of Technology for the creation of the Consortium for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. Under the settlement, Microsoft provided \$2.5 million in cash to the Minnesota Legal Aid Society on February 11, 2005.

Zelle, Hofmann, Voelbel, Mason & Gette LLP is a national dispute resolution and litigation law firm with offices in Boston, Dallas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. The Firm excels at handling complex litigation and disputes on a national and international basis. The Firm has about 75 attorneys and represents both defendants and plaintiffs in its trial and dispute resolution practice. The Firm’s broad litigation experience includes antitrust, banking, business torts, class action, commercial, employment, environmental, ERISA, financial services, insurance coverage, intellectual property, mass tort, mold claims, personal injury, product liability, professional liability, reinsurance, securities, subrogation third-party recovery,

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Kirby McInerney & Squire is a litigation firm specializing in the securities, antitrust, and consumer fraud practice areas. The Firm, with about 20 attorneys, is based in New York City and also has a presence in California, Texas, and Florida. Kirby represents public and private institutional investors in its securities practice, which includes shareholder, derivative, and corporate governance related litigation. The Firm represents public and private entities, as well as individual consumers, in antitrust and other commercial litigation. The Firm's efforts on behalf of institutions and consumers have resulted in recoveries totaling hundreds of millions of dollars, and its achievements and quality of service have been chronicled in numerous published court decisions.

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