

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Minnesota Legal Aid Fund of Minnesota Community
Foundation to Receive \$2.5 Million as Part of the
Microsoft Antitrust Class Action Settlement**

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA—Legal aid organizations across the state will be able to serve more low-income Minnesotans as a result of a \$2.5 million payment made today. 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. The \$2.5 million will be placed in an existing permanent endowment at Minnesota Community Foundation, which was established in 1996 as part of a long-term strategy to build stable funding for legal assistance nonprofits statewide. This additional money is expected to generate more than \$100,000 annually for legal assistance to low-income Minnesotans facing civil matters that affect basic needs like housing and health.

“Minnesota’s legal aid nonprofits are facing reduced government and private funding,” says Jerry Lane, executive director of Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance and an advisor for the Minnesota Legal Aid Fund. “Currently, we can only meet the needs of about 20 percent of the low-income Minnesotans who seek our services. The annual interest from the \$2.5 million supplement to our endowment at Minnesota Community Foundation will allow our network of legal aid organizations to serve more Minnesotans.”

Richard M. Hagstrom, lead counsel for Minnesota consumers and businesses, commented, “We are pleased to have been able to negotiate this payment as part of the settlement. We strongly believe in the work of Legal Aid. We also encourage consumers and businesses to make their claims by February 22, 2005.” Class members can obtain information on how to make a claim by calling 1-800-928-1638 or by visiting www.microsoftMNsettlement.com

About Minnesota Community Foundation

Minnesota Community Foundation is the statewide community foundation that has been bringing together individuals, organizations and communities for more than 50 years to help shape their visions for the future health and vitality of their communities through philanthropy. The Foundation helps manage more than 30 Community Funds from Argyle to Zumbrota and nearly 400 donor funds, providing guidance on charitable planning and grantmaking, and handling money management and investment services. For more information, go to www.mncommunityfoundation.org.

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