

RETENTION AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has determined that claims should be made against Microsoft Corporation and which have illegally overcharged the lawful citizens of the State of Mississippi by creating an illegal monopoly for their operating systems and their software, i.e., Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Microsoft Corporation has violated the Mississippi Antitrust Act, MS Code Ann. § 75-21-1, et seq, and the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act, MS Code Ann. § 75-24-1, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has determined that the claims include compensatory damages, punitive damages, civil penalties, pre judgment interest, post judgment interest, and attorney fees under the Mississippi Antitrust Act and the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has determined that the investigation, research, and litigation of the Claims will require the expenditure of large sums of money and require the work of numerous lawyers, paralegals, accountants, and secretaries who are familiar with the Mississippi Antitrust Act and the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act, and related issues for an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has further determined that it is in the best interests of the State and its citizens that the State retain attorneys experienced in the areas of the Mississippi Antitrust Act and the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act to pursue the Claims; and,

WHEREAS, the below listed Law Firm is experienced in Mississippi Antitrust Act and the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act and litigation and has consented to represent the State of Mississippi, in association with the Attorney General, respecting the Claims and pursuant to the terms and conditions hereof.

IT IS, ACCORDINGLY, AGREED as follows:

1. The Office of the Attorney General hereby retains the Law Firm of Hazzard Law, LLC, (“Law Firm”) and its principal member, Brent Hazzard, are hereby designated as Special Assistants Attorney General to investigate, research and file the Claims in any appropriate Court or Courts or before any appropriate governmental agency.

2. The Attorney General does not relinquish his constitutional or statutory authority or responsibility through this Retention Agreement. The Attorney General has the sole authority to settle this litigation on behalf of the State of Mississippi and its citizens. The Law Firm shall consult with the Attorney General and obtain his approval on all material matters pertinent to these Claims and any litigation arising therefrom, and the Attorney General shall cooperate with the Law Firm and use his best efforts to secure the cooperation of other State agencies. Prior to initiating inquiries or demands to any persons or entities, the Attorney General and the Firm will agree upon entities to be contacted and/or claims to be pursued; the Firm will thereafter be entitled to its reasonable fees and expenses, as provided below, on any recovery from such agreed-upon entity or claims, discovered as a consequence of the Firm’s inquiry/demand. The Attorney General is not required, however, to assign any members of his staff to pursue the Claims, but may from time to time afford staff and other support services as the Attorney General deems appropriate. The Attorney General shall designate a member(s) of his staff to monitor these Claims, and the Law Firm shall keep the Attorney General and his designated staff member(s) fully informed on all matters pertaining to the Claims.

3. The Attorney General and the Law Firm both recognize that the claims present numerous factual and legal obstacles, and that no assurance of success on the Claims has or can be made.

4. The Attorney General shall maintain responsibility for the public distribution of

information concerning this matter. All press inquiries shall be referred to the Attorney General for comment and response.

5. Notwithstanding the potential difficulties, the Law Firm has agreed to represent the State, and the Attorney General hereby agrees that the Law Firm will be compensated for its efforts on the following basis:

A. Fee Agreements:

Exhibit A - Retention Agreement - Matter Settled Prior to Initiation of
Litigation

Exhibit B - Retention Agreement - Matter Resolved After Initiation of Litigation

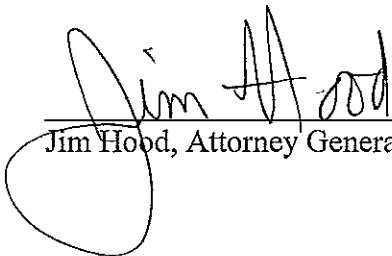
B. All reasonable and necessary costs of litigation including, but not limited to, court costs, travel, witness fees, consultants, accounting, and expert fees and expenses, as shall be approved by the Attorney General, shall initially be borne entirely by the Law Firm, but shall be reimbursed from any gross recoveries from the pursuit of such claims on a case-by-case basis;

C. The Law Firm shall receive no compensation or reimbursement other than set out above. In the event that no recovery is realized, the Law Firm shall receive no compensation or reimbursement.

6. With the approval of the Attorney General, the Law Firm may associate other attorneys at its own expense and at no cost to the State of Mississippi. Notwithstanding such association of other attorneys, this Retention Agreement is non-assignable and non-transferable, nor are the Law Firm's commitments delegable without the express, written approval of the Attorney General.

DATED this 9th day of August, 2004.

**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF
THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**

By: 
Jim Hood, Attorney General

HAZZARD LAW, LLC

By: 
Brent Hazzard

Attachment A
(Retention Agreement)
(Matter Settled Prior to Initiation of Litigation) *

The following shall be the structured contingent fee schedule:

For Sums Up to \$25,000,000.00:

15%

For those sums between \$25,000,000.00 and \$75,000,000.00:

13%

For those sums between \$75,000,000.00 to \$200,000,000.00:

7%

For those sums between \$200,000,000.00 to \$500,000,000.00:

4%

For all those sums greater than \$500,000,000.00:

2%

* Due diligence and good faith must be exercised to settle this matter prior to filing a complaint, or before any significant discovery initiated.

Attachment B
(Retention Agreement)
(Matter Resolved After Initiation of Litigation)

The following shall be the structured contingent fee schedule:

For Sums Up to \$25,000,000.00:

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|---|-----|
| After filing complaint before discovery completed: | 17% |
| After filing complaint after discovery complete awaiting trial: | 20% |
| After commencement of trial: | 25% |

For those sums between \$25,000,000.00 and \$75,000,000.00:

| | |
|---|-----|
| After filing complaint before discovery completed: | 15% |
| After filing complaint after discovery complete awaiting trial: | 18% |
| After commencement of trial: | 21% |

For those sums between \$75,000,000.00 to \$200,000,000.00:

| | |
|---|-----|
| After filing complaint before discovery completed: | 10% |
| After filing complaint after discovery complete awaiting trial: | 14% |
| After commencement of trial: | 18% |

For those sums between \$200,000,000.00 to \$500,000,000.00:

| | |
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| After filing complaint before discovery completed: | 6% |
| After filing complaint after discovery complete awaiting trial: | 8% |
| After commencement of trial: | 10% |

For all those sums greater than \$500,000,000.00:

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|---|----|
| After filing complaint before discovery completed: | 3% |
| After filing complaint after discovery complete awaiting trial: | 4% |
| After commencement of trial: | 5% |