



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit charging Realty Multi-List, Inc. of Columbus, Georgia, with restricting competition among real estate brokers in the Columbus area.

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said the complaint, alleging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, was filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus.

The defendant is engaged in the business of operating a "multiple listing service" for the benefit of its members who are real estate brokers or real estate firms licensed by the Georgia Real Estate Commission and who are also the stockholders of the defendant.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Joe Sims, in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the complaint charges that the defendant and its members entered into an unlawful conspiracy that has had the following effects:

- certain real estate brokers and firms have been denied membership in defendant to the substantial detriment of their ability to compete for real estate business in the Columbus area;

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- competition among real estate brokers and salespersons engaged in the real estate business has been restricted; and
- competition between defendant's service and other multiple listing services has been restricted.

The complaint asks to have the defendant enjoined from establishing and enforcing any rules which unreasonably restrict membership in it or which arbitrarily exclude from membership in defendant any real estate broker licensed by the State of Georgia.

The suit also asks that the defendant be prohibited from adopting or following any practice which restricts competition among real estate brokers.

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