



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit charging First Multiple Listing Service, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia, with restricting competition by limiting membership in the listing service.

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said that the suit, charging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, was filed in U.S. District Court in Atlanta.

Sanford M. Litvack, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said that FMLS and unnamed co-conspirators are alleged to have adopted and enforced rules and regulations which restricted competition between and among licensed real estate brokers and others selling real estate in the Atlanta area. The practices alleged include the establishment of arbitrary and unreasonably restrictive requirements for membership in FMLS.

Each year members of FMLS handle sales of residential real estate in the Atlanta area totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. Such sales result annually in millions of dollars of commissions to members of FMLS.

The complaint asks that FMLS be enjoined from maintaining or enforcing its allegedly restrictive by-laws, rules and regulations.

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