

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
  
**CHRISTIE STANLEY**  
District Attorney



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January 3, 2008  
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*C Stanley*  
APPROVED BY  
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January 3, 2008

**Subject: Prosecutors Settle Scanner Case with Walgreen Co.**

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Christie Stanley announced that her office's Consumer Protection Unit, along with the District Attorneys of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, filed and settled a lawsuit against Walgreens Co., a nationwide retail company operating over 500 stores in California. The lawsuit charged Walgreens with overcharging consumers by failing to ensure that the prices on its store shelves matched the price charged at the cash register.

The civil judgment requires Walgreens to pay \$767,000 in civil penalties and costs. In addition, within 45 days, Walgreens will offer a Scanner Price Guarantee to compensate consumers who are overcharged. If a consumer notifies the cashier that the price rung up is more than the lowest advertised price for an item, the consumer will receive either a \$4.00 deduction or a \$4.00 merchandise card. If the item is under \$4.00, one of that item will be provided for free. The terms of the Scanner Price Guarantee will be posted in every Walgreens store in California.

Walgreens did not admit wrongdoing in this case. The company cooperated with prosecutors during the investigation.

The case was investigated by state and local Department of Weights and Measures offices, which conduct regular inspections of scanners statewide.

District Attorney Stanley stated that district attorneys work with regulatory agencies such as the Department of Weights and Measures to protect consumers in the marketplace from pricing errors, whether or not such errors are careless or intentional. "Consumers have a right to expect that products will be accurately priced. Our office brings actions such as this to assure that merchants have policies and procedures in place to fulfill their obligations to sell merchandise at the advertised prices."

The District Attorney reminds consumers to always check receipts to verify that they are charged the correct price for an item.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit, Senior Deputy District Attorney Allan Kaplan at (805) 568-2437.