

## COUNTY OF YOLO OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Jonathan Rayen, Assistant Chief Deputy DA

Date: September 1, 2009 (530) 666-8092

## **Packaging violation settlement serves to Protect Consumers**

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig, along with Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully, announced today that their offices reached a settlement in a consumer protection case filed against Signature Brands, LLC for alleged product packaging violations in the sale of candy by one of its subsidiaries.

The Sacramento County Agricultural Department, Weights and Measures Division, in conjunction with the District Attorneys' Offices in Yolo and Sacramento Counties began an investigation into a product sold by Houston Harvest, Inc. Signature Brands acquired Houston Harvest after the product had been manufactured and sold. The package was misleading, because it gave the appearance the box held more candy than in fact it did. Signature Brands cooperated with prosecutors during the investigation and agreed to take steps to assure the packaging of its products are in compliance with state and local law.

Without admitting any wrongdoing, Signature Brands agreed to a pay \$117,356.16 in civil penalties and to reimburse the County of Sacramento \$4,000 for the costs of the investigation.

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig acknowledged the speedy action taken by Signature Brands to address the packaging violation once it was brought to their attention. Reisig stated, "A manufacturer may not mislead the public by selling them empty space. Consumers have the right to know what they are getting for their hard-earned dollars."

###