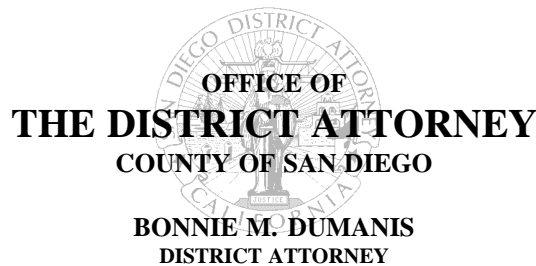


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## **Blockbuster Ordered to Pay \$ 300,000 For Overcharging California Customers**

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) today announced a four-year investigation of Blockbuster Inc. video stores that has resulted in a \$ 300,000 judgment against the retail and video rental corporation in the state of California. [Blockbuster](#) is accused of charging customers more than the advertised or posted price on items when they were scanned at check-out counters.

“The investigation shows that Blockbuster was over-charging for years, but we have now held the company accountable in a court of law for unfair business practices,” said DA Dumanis. “This judgment also shows how diligent state regulators and prosecutors are being about protecting consumers.”

The case was filed jointly by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office in San Diego Superior Court, alleging Blockbuster stores in California charged customers more than the currently advertised or posted price on items (scanner violations), in violation of unfair competition and false advertising laws.

The judgment requires Blockbuster to pay \$ 237,750 in penalties, \$ 62,250 in costs to weights and measures agencies and prosecutors' offices. Further, the judgment prohibits Blockbuster from charging an amount greater than the currently-advertised price for items in the future.

The case against Blockbuster was based on 229 inspection reports from 14 California counties, as well as consumer complaints about overcharging. The investigation began in 2004 and was conducted by county weights and measures inspectors statewide. There was no admission of wrongdoing or liability by Blockbuster, which cooperated with prosecutors to reach a stipulated judgment.

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