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New York attorney general sues chip makers over price fixing

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ALBANY, N.Y. -- New York's attorney general has sued leading makers of memory chips, claiming they made secret price-fixing arrangements that inflated the cost of personal computers and other electronic devices.

More than 30 other states, including Idaho, filed a separate but similar lawsuit in U.S. District Court in San Francisco on Friday, the Idaho attorney general's office said.

"Idaho consumers, business and governmental agencies paid more for computers as a result of a price-fixing conspiracy by companies that make memory chips that are a crucial component of many high-tech products," Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden said in a statement. "This lawsuit seeks to prohibit manufacturers from manipulating prices in the future and to recoup some of the public's losses."

Washington state Attorney General Rob McKenna said Thursday his state, too, would participate in the San Francisco lawsuit.

The lawsuits follow a long-running U.S. Justice Department investigation that has resulted in more than \$730 million in fines and guilty pleas from four companies - Samsung Electronics