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**Internet Domain Name Holders File
Antitrust Suit Against ICANN,
VeriSign**

**ICANN AND VERISIGN SUED BY WADND
FOR PRICE FIXING AND MONOPOLIZING
THE “.COM” DOMAIN NAME MARKET**

SAN JOSE, Calif. – November 28, 2005 – The **World Association of Domain Name Developers (WADND)** today filed suit in the United States District Court in San Jose, California against **VeriSign** and the **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)** alleging that the two have engaged in antitrust activities, including conspiracy, price fixing and monopolizing the “.com” and “.net” domain name markets. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in San Jose, Calif.

The law suit brought by WADND on behalf of its members around the world, alleges that ICANN and VeriSign have engaged in antitrust activities, including conspiracy, monopolization, illegal price fixing and monopolizing “.com” and “.net” domain name markets. The suit alleges that the two are on the verge of entering “an unlawful agreement [that] gives VeriSign a permanent monopoly over the all ‘.com’ and ‘.net’ internet domain name registrations.”

The suit seeks injunctive relief preventing the two companies from finalizing the 2005 .com and .net Registry Agreements. WADND believes these agreements to be unlawful as they award VeriSign a permanent monopoly over all ‘.com’ and ‘.net’ internet domain name registrations. ICANN is the non-profit corporation that oversees virtually all Internet domain names.

“This agreement would permanently fix the price of registering any ‘.com’ or ‘.net’ domain name far above what a free market would otherwise bear,” said **Patrick Cathcart of Cathcart, Collins & Kneafsey LLP** who filed the suit.

“ICANN and VeriSign are trying to take advantage of the lack of government oversight to line their pockets at the expense of consumers,” said Patrick Cathcart of Cathcart, Collins & Kneafsey LLP, on behalf of the Plaintiff. “This agreement guarantees annual price increases at double the rate of inflation while permanently fixing the price of registering any ‘.com’ or ‘.net’ domain name far above what a free market would otherwise bear.”

The suit claims that the VeriSign and ICANN have conspired to:

- Remove all price controls from VeriSign's ability to raise prices for all .net registrations;
- Indefinitely lock in price increases of seven percent annually for .com registrations without a legitimate business purpose as mandated in every other ICANN/registry agreement; and,
- Permanently secure VeriSign's monopoly of the .com and .net domain name registration markets and preclude competitors from ever entering.

"ICANN and VeriSign are trying to take advantage of the lack of government oversight and line their pockets at the expense of domainers and domain investors," said Cathcart.

ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is the California Corporation that maintains the database of all internet domain names (such as www.amazon.com). The contract between ICANN and VeriSign, known as the 2005 Registry Agreement, would extend VeriSign's control of the ".com" and ".net" portions of the internet database.

About WADND

The World Association of Domain Name Developers, Inc. is an association of domain name Registrants who formed WADND to promote domain name ownership rights and business returns of investments therein, and to establish industry standards of practice and ethics for domain and commercial website owners. More information can be found at www.wadnd.com.

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