

**Letitia James**

New York State Attorney General

Attorney General James Secures \$3.1 Billion from Walmart for Communities Nationwide to Combat the Opioid Crisis

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New York to Receive Up to \$116 Million as Part of Multistate Agreement with Walmart for Failing to Regulate Opioid Prescriptions

AG James Has Now Delivered More Than \$2.1 Billion Total to New York to Fund Opioid Abatement, Treatment, and Prevention

NEW YORK – New York Attorney General Letitia James today [announced a \\$3.1 billion multistate settlement with Walmart](#), resolving allegations that the company contributed to the nationwide opioid crisis by failing to regulate opioid prescriptions at its stores. Attorney General James co-led a coalition of attorneys general in negotiating the settlement, which will provide \$3.1 billion to communities nationwide and will require significant improvements in how Walmart's pharmacies handle opioids. The state attorneys general on the executive committee, attorneys representing local governments, and Walmart have agreed to this settlement, which is now being sent to other states for review and approval. New York state will receive up to \$116 million as part of the settlement, bringing the total amount secured by Attorney General James to combat the opioid crisis in New York to more than \$2.1 billion.

“For decades, the opioid epidemic has ravaged communities here in New York and across the country,” said **Attorney General James**. “Pharmacies such as Walmart played an undeniable role in perpetuating opioids’ destruction, and my fellow attorneys general and I are holding them accountable. You cannot put a price on lives lost and communities destroyed, but with the \$2.1 billion we have delivered to New York, we will continue to recover, rebuild, and strengthen our defenses against future devastation.”

In addition to providing \$3.1 billion to be divided by sign-on states, local governments, and tribes to be used for opioid treatment, recovery, and abatement, the settlement announced today will include broad, court-ordered requirements Walmart must comply with, such as robust oversight to prevent fraudulent prescriptions and flag suspicious prescriptions.

Attorney General James and her colleagues are optimistic that the settlement will gain support of the required 43 states by the end of 2022, allowing local governments to join the deal during the first quarter of 2023. Further details about how the money will be distributed among localities is forthcoming. Last month, states confirmed that promising negotiations were also underway with Walgreens and CVS. Efforts to reach those agreements are ongoing.

In 2021, Attorney General James championed legislation to create an opioid settlement fund to ensure these monetary settlements are invested in helping New Yorkers impacted by the opioid crisis. The bill, now codified as New York Mental Hygiene Law 25.18, passed unanimously through the state legislature, and requires all funds secured in opioid settlements by Attorney General James — totaling more than \$2.1 billion — be used for opioid abatement, treatment, and prevention efforts in communities devastated by this epidemic.

Joining Attorney General James in leading the executive committee that negotiated this agreement are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Texas.

Earlier this month, Attorney General James [secured up to \\$523 million from Teva Pharmaceuticals, Ltd., its American subsidiary Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, and its affiliates \(Teva\) for their role in fueling the opioid crisis](#), resolving the remedies phase of New York's opioid trial after she achieved a [historic liability verdict following a seven-month jury trial against Teva in 2021](#). In June 2022, Attorney General James [secured up to \\$58.5 million from Mallinckrodt for fueling the opioid crisis in New York](#). In December 2021, Attorney General James [reached a \\$200 million agreement with Allergan](#). In September 2021, Attorney General James [secured \\$50 million from Endo to combat the opioid crisis](#). In July 2021, Attorney General James [secured a settlement with McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisource Bergen that will deliver \\$1 billion to New York](#). In June 2021,

Attorney General James [announced a settlement that will deliver \\$230 million to New York and end Johnson & Johnson's sale of opioids nationwide.](#)

For New York, settlement discussions were led by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy and Assistant Attorney General Noah Popp and supported by Director of Research and Analytics Jonathan Werberg; Data Scientist Gautam Sisodia; and Special Counsel Andy Amer. The trial that led to this agreement was led by Senior Enforcement Counsel John Oleske and Special Counsel Monica Hanna, and advanced by Senior Advisor and Special Counsel M. Umair Khan; and Assistant Attorneys General Carol Hunt, Diane Johnston, Leo O'Toole, Jeremy Pfetsch, Michael Reisman, and Lois Saldana; Project Attorneys Wil Handley, Stephanie Torre, and Eve Woodin; Paralegal Ketty Dautruche; Legal Assistant David Payne; Senior Data Analyst Akram Hasanov; Data Analyst Anushua Choudhury; Information Technology Specialists Hewson Chen and Paige Podolny; E-Discovery Document Review Specialist Kristin Petrella; Civil Recoveries Section Chief Martin Mooney; former Counsel for Opioids and Impact Litigation David Nachman; and former Assistant Attorney General Conor Duffy.