

CPM Helps Secure \$197.6 Million in Additional Settlements in the Freight Forwarding Antitrust Case

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CPM has helped secure an additional \$197 million in settlements they reached with Defendants in the freight forwarding price-fixing class action. Settlements have now been reached with nineteen (19) additional Defendants. Plaintiffs previously reached settlements with ten (10) Defendants totaling over \$100 Million. The cases have all been consolidated in New York.

The settlements involve a lawsuit claiming that certain freight forwarding companies conspired on prices for their freight forwarding services worldwide, including on routes in the U.S. and between the U.S. and China, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, India, Germany, the U.K. and other parts of Europe. “Freight Forwarders” provide transportation, or logistics services for shipments relating to the organization or transportation of items via air and ocean, which may include ancillary rail and truck services, both national and internationally, as well as related activities, such as customers clearance, warehousing, and ground services. The Court will hold a hearing on November 2, 2015 on whether to approve the second round of settlements. The case is *Precision Associates v. Panalpina World Transport*, No. 08-cv-00042. Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy are lead class counsel in the case, along with the law firms Gustafson Gluek, Lockridge Grindal Nauen, and Lovell Stewart Halebian Jacobson.

In discussing the case developments, Adam J. Zapala stated “these settlements represent an extraordinary recovery for the Class. We will continue to vigorously litigate this case to ensure that consumers and businesses harmed by Defendants’ anticompetitive conduct receive the justice they are due. Price-fixing conspiracies are antithetical to our economic system and must be rooted out by hardworking lawyers acting in the public interest, government regulators and industry

Attorneys

Adam J. Zapala

Practice Areas

Antitrust & Global Competition

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whistleblowers.” The lawsuit continues against the non-settling Defendants.

Freight Forwarders provide transportation, or logistics services for shipments relating to the organization or transportation of items via air and ocean, which may include ancillary rail and truck services, both nationally and internationally, as well as related activities, such as customs clearance, warehousing, and ground services.

If individuals or companies used the services of certain freight forwarders, they may be entitled to a potentially significant cash payment from class action Settlements. This is the second notice in this case. Settlements have now been reached with 19 additional Defendants. Settlements were previously reached with 10 Defendants.

A Class Member is included in one or more of the Settlements if they: 1) Directly purchased Freight Forwarding Services; 2) from any of the Settling or Non-Settling Defendants, their subsidiaries, or affiliates; 3) from January 1, 2001 through January 4, 2011; 4) in the U.S., or outside the U.S. for shipments within, to, or from the U.S.

The Settling Defendants will establish a Settlement Fund with a minimum of \$197.6 million. The amount of benefits for each purchaser will be determined by the Plan of Allocation.

Important Information

- Purchasers will need to submit a Claim Form, online or by mail, by **March 31, 2016** to get a payment from the Settlements. If purchasers already submitted a Claim Form for the first round of Settlements, they do not need to file a new claim. They will automatically be paid from this second round of Settlements.
- Purchasers who do nothing will not get a payment and give up the right to sue.
- Purchasers who want to keep the right to sue the Settling Defendants must exclude themselves by **September 18, 2015**.
- Purchasers who stay in the Settlements can object to them by **September 18, 2015**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **November 2, 2015** to consider whether to approve (1) the Settlements and (2) a request for attorneys' fees up to 33% of the Settlement Fund, plus interest, and reimbursement for litigation expenses. At the end of this litigation Class Counsel may ask the Court to award each Class Representative an amount not to exceed \$75,000 in recognition of each Class Representative's service in recovering funds for the Class.

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For more information regarding the Settlements and Class Member rights, please call 1-877-276-7340 (U.S. & Canada) or 1-503-520-4400 (International), or write to: Freight Forwarders Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 3747, Portland, OR, 97208-3747.