

## LEGAL NOTICE

Because you are: (a) an attorney who, during the period of April 17, 2019 to September 30, 2020, may have paid a subsequent appearance or other filing fee to the Circuit Court of Cook County for or on behalf of your client(s) who had previously been granted a fee waiver upon a finding of indigence under 735 ILCS 5/5-105 and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 298, while that waiver was in effect in the case in which the filing fee was paid (the “Fee Amount”); or (b) a litigant who, during the period of April 17, 2019 to September 30, 2020, paid a subsequent appearance or other filing fee to the Circuit Court of Cook County on your own behalf and had previously been granted a fee waiver upon a finding of indigence under 735 ILCS 5/5-105 and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 298, while that waiver was in effect in the case in which the filing fee was paid (the “Fee Amount”), you are entitled to a cash payment from a class action settlement.

A United States District Court judge authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

This Notice affects you because Defendant’s records show that you paid appearance or other filing fees in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois.

A proposed settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit alleging that Dorothy A. Brown, as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois (the “Defendant”), during the period of April 17, 2019 to September 30, 2020, improperly charged attorneys and/or litigants a subsequent appearance filing fee for or on behalf of litigants who had previously been granted a fee waiver upon a finding of indigence under 735 ILCS 5/5-105 and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 298, while that waiver was in effect in the case in which the filing fee was paid. The Defendant denies the allegations, denies liability, and asserts numerous defenses. The Court has not decided who is right. Defendant has agreed, for purposes of settling the lawsuit, that the period during which appearance or other filing fees were improperly charged was April 17, 2019 through and including September 30, 2020.

**Who is included?** Defendant’s records show that you are likely included in the settlement as a “Class Member.” Class Members include everyone who paid a subsequent appearance or other filing fee in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois during the period of April 17, 2019 to September 30, 2020 (the “Class Period”), when they or their client had previously been granted a fee waiver upon a finding of indigence under 735 ILCS 5/5-105 and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 298, while that waiver was in effect in the case in which the filing fee was paid.

**What does the settlement provide?** Pursuant to the settlement, Defendant has agreed to pay \$72,403.05 into a “Settlement Fund” from which Settlement Class Members will be paid. The Settlement Fund shall not be reduced by amounts awarded for Class Counsel’s attorneys’ fees and an incentive/service award to the Named Plaintiff, both as awarded by the Court. If the Court approves the settlement, **every Class Member who submits a valid Claim Form will receive the filing fees identified on their respective Claim Form and approved by the Parties.**

**How do you get a payment? If you are a Class Member and you want to receive a payment pursuant to the settlement, you must submit a Claim Form.** Defendant’s records indicate that you likely paid the appearance or other filing fees enumerated above during the Class Period on behalf of yourself or your client when the Court had previously granted a fee waiver upon a finding of indigence under 735 ILCS 5/5-105 and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 298, while that waiver was in effect in the case in which the filing fee was paid.

If you agree that the fees you paid during the Class Period on behalf of yourself or your client when the Court had previously granted a fee waiver upon a finding of indigence under 735 ILCS 5/5-105 and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 298, while that waiver was in effect in the case in which the filing fee was paid, then sign the Attestation on the Claim Form and mail it postmarked on or before **August 19, 2021**.

Please note that in order to be included in this settlement, you will need to complete the Claim Form with supporting documentation showing the fees you paid for such appearance fees during the Class Period. If you wish to submit a Claim Form, you must do so postmarked on or before **August 19, 2021**. You can request a Claim Form from the Settlement Administrator and submit it by mail to the address on the Claim Form.

**What other options do you have?** If you would prefer not to be part of the settlement and not get a payment, you have the right to ask the Court to exclude you. To do so, you must submit a written request for exclusion by **August 19, 2021**. Unless you exclude yourself from the settlement, you will not be able to sue the Defendant for any claim made in the class action lawsuit or released by the Settlement Agreement. If you want to be part of the settlement but object to its terms, you or your attorney can submit written objections and/or appear at the Final Fairness Hearing discussed below. To do so, you must complete and submit your objection in accordance with the Settlement Agreement by **August 19, 2021**. Further information on these options is available from the Settlement Administrator.

**The Final Fairness Hearing.** The United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 219 S. Dearborn St., Courtroom 2325, Chicago, IL 60604, will hold a hearing on **September 2, 2021**, at 9:40 a.m. at which time it will consider any objections, decide what fees and Service Awards to award, and decide whether to approve the settlement. You may appear at the hearing, but you do not have to. You may hire your own attorney, at your own expense, to appear or speak for you at the hearing.

**QUESTIONS? CALL: 866-246-1573**