

Citi, JPM Get Nod For \$182.5M Euribor Settlement Payout

By **Pete Brush**

Law360, New York (May 17, 2019, 7:01 PM EDT) -- A Manhattan federal judge on Friday approved a \$182.5 million settlement between JPMorgan Chase & Co., Citigroup and investors who accuse the two megabanks of rigging a key euro rate, signing off also on a roughly \$36 million haul for plaintiffs' firms that brought the antitrust class action.



A judge approved a \$182.5 million settlement by Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase & Co. with investors over alleged attempts to fix the Euro Interbank Offered Rate. (AP)

U.S. District Judge P. Kevin Castel's green light came **after he tasked** Lowey Dannenberg PC and Lovell Stewart Halebian Jacobson LLP, which represent plaintiffs including the 950,000-member California State Teachers' Retirement System and individual investor Stephen Sullivan, with detailing arrangements with their clients.

"There could have been a recovery in the billions, but then again there could have been no recovery at all," Judge Castel said, calling the settlement "comfortably" within reasonable parameters.

The investors' 2013 lawsuit says banks schemed to fix the Euro Interbank Offered Rate, or Euribor, from 2005 until 2011. Citi and JPMorgan are the last major defendants to settle in what the plaintiffs call a "massive, complex, and

expensive" litigation.

The plaintiffs' law firms will receive \$34.7 million of fees and \$1.1 million of expenses from the Citi and JPMorgan settlement.

Judge Castel briefly quizzed CalSTRS general counsel Brian Bartow about the fee award. Bartow defended it, saying via telephone link that it was the product of an "arm's length" negotiation and that the payout was a fair reward that gave plaintiffs' firms "skin in the game," rewarding them for pursuing the seven-year litigation.

Last year Judge Castel approved more than \$300 million of settlements between the plaintiffs and Deutsche Bank AG, Barclays PLC and HSBC Holdings PLC.

In total, combined with the previous settlements, plaintiffs' firms get more than \$103 million, the judge said.

"I hope they get bonuses," Judge Castel said. "The attorneys were professional."

Some 38,000 claims have been made from investors, plaintiffs' counsel Geoffrey Horn told the judge. Most claims have come from large investors, he said. Eight investors have opted out, he said.

Attorneys declined comment after the hearing. Citi declined comment. JPMorgan had no immediate comment.

The plaintiffs are represented by attorneys including Vincent Briganti, Geoffrey Horn and Peter St. Phillip of Lowey Dannenberg PC, Christopher Lovell and Gary Jacobson of Lovell Stewart Halebian Jacobson LLP, Joseph Tabacco Jr., Todd Seaver and Patrick Egan of Berman Tabacco, Brian Murray and Lee Albert of Glancy Prongay & Murray LLP and David Kovel of Kirby McInerney LLP.

Citi is represented by Andrew Ruffino of Covington & Burling LLP. JPMorgan is represented by Paul Gluckow of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP.

The case is Sullivan v. Barclays PLC et al., case number 1:13-cv-02811, in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

--Editing by Bruce Goldman.