

**THE CREW MEMBER & MARITIME ADVOCACY CENTER AND PRINCESS AGREE TO
SETTLE THE UNPAID OVER TIME WAGES CLASS ACTION CASE FOR :
\$4,250,000.00**

On November 28, 2005, three courageous Princess employees, Jack Cooper Pinto, Nicholas Dos Prazeres and Octavio Reveles, filed suit against Princess individually, and on behalf of all other similarly situated Princess crew members. The complaint alleged that Princess failed to pay them and other crew members adequate overtime wages in violation of their respective employment agreements and the Seaman's Wage Act, 46 U.S.C. § 10313(f) & (g). The *Pinto* action sought, among other things, compensatory damages in the amount of the allegedly unpaid wages, attorney's fees and costs, penalty wages, and injunctive relief. On September 25, 2006, the day before the court was scheduled to decide whether the case would receive class certification, the parties entered a settlement agreement. The settlement reached calls for Princess to pay a lump sum settlement of four million two hundred fifty thousand dollars(\$4,250,000.00) as well to implement a formal work time record keeping system so that crew members can keep accurate records of the hours they work . At the time a settlement was reached , several significant motions were pending but not yet ruled on including class certification.

Princess disputed the claims asserted in the *Pinto* action, and denied any wrongdoing in connection with the alleged failure to pay wages of any kind to the Representative Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class. The Crewmember & Maritime Advocacy Center conducted an extensive investigation and evaluation of the facts and law relating to these claims to determine how to best to serve the interest of the plaintiffs and the class. The investigation included a study of publicly available information as well as review of experts' analysis, interviews of current and former crew members who were and are employed by Princess, taking the deposition of Steve Morton Smith, Vice President Fleet Personnel in California and review of over 15,000 pages of pertinent documents provided by Princess in the litigation as well as documentation provided by plaintiffs. By entering into this settlement Plaintiffs and the class will avoid the attendant risks and uncertainties of litigation, including (a) the uncertainty inherent in establishing any liability of Princess, (b) the uncertainty inherent in obtaining certification of the Class, (c) the uncertainty inherent in the various theories of damages, even if Representative Plaintiffs prevailed in establishing the liability of Princess, (d) the uncertainty of overcoming the prior settlement releases binding on most class members by virtue of the previous class action settlement in *Gall v. Princess*.

To view the settlement agreement and obtain a claim form click on the corresponding links in our website. The deadline to submit a claim form is December 15, 2006.

Crewmember and Maritime Advocacy.

www.crewadvocacy.com

