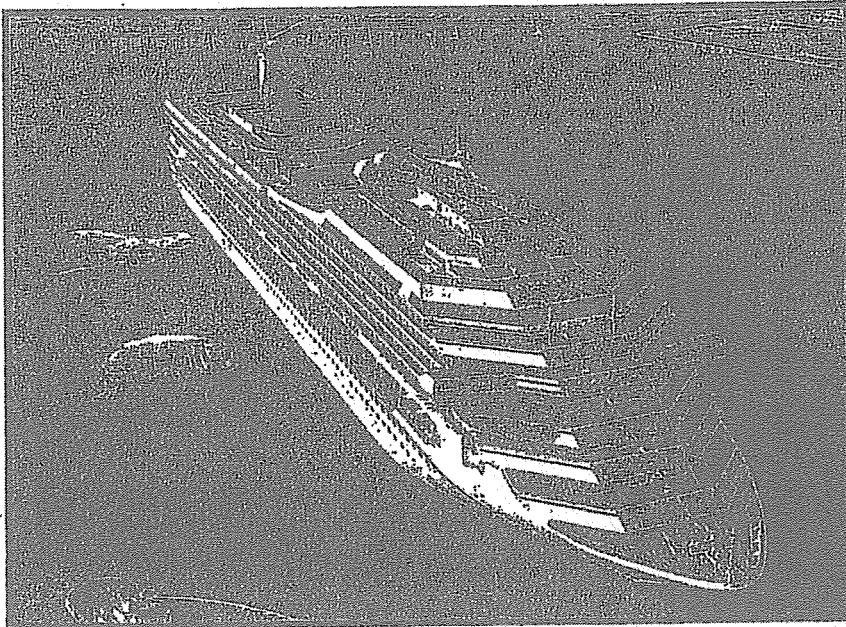


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BUSINESS

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CRUISE LINES



KEVIN BARTMAN/AP

RESOLUTION: Carnival's settlement seeks to resolve two lawsuits filed in Miami federal court in the past year, both involving overtime pay disputes.

Carnival agrees to settle lawsuit for \$6.25 million

A settlement is reached with Carnival Cruise Lines in a legal dispute about overtime pay for crew members.

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Julio J Ayala of the Crewmember Advocacy Center, Tucker Ronzetti of Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton, attorneys representing Carnival Cruise Lines workers who claimed to have been shortchanged of overtime pay said Tuesday that they have reached a settlement with the Miami-based company for \$6.25 million.

The settlement seeks to resolve two lawsuits filed against Carnival in Miami federal court in the past year, both involving overtime pay disputes.

The lawsuits' nine named plaintiffs stand to receive payouts of \$100 to \$150, depending on their length of employment, said Tucker Ronzetti, a lawyer at Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton co-counsel to the Crewmember Advocacy Center.

Most of the remaining \$6.25 million will go to others who worked on Carnival ships beginning in November 2001 - potentially as many as 39,500.

"They're very hard-working people who come from all over the world," he said. "From their perspective, it's a significant amount of money."

Carnival also agreed to establish a grievance and arbitrations process for crew members with pay disputes, he said.

A Carnival spokeswoman declined to comment, saying the litigation is pending. The settlement waits approval by U.S. District judge Marcia Cooke. Carnival denied and wrongdoing in a joint motion for preliminary approval of the settlement released Tuesday by Ronzetti co-counsel to the Crewmember Advocacy Center.

The first suit was brought in March 2005 on behalf of tips-earning and non-tips earning workers aboard Carnival ships

They alleged that Carnival failed to pay them for work they performed beyond their regular 70-hour workweeks. Their suit was dismissed in Miami federal court in August and was awaiting a decision by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta.

The second suit was filed in October by non-tips-earning workers who claimed to not have received compensation for all the overtime that they worked. Their suit was put on hold pending a decision by the Atlanta court.

Carnival and other major cruise lines generally do not follow U.S. wage and labor laws for crew members since most of their ships carry foreign flags.

California-based Princess Cruises, which is owned by Carnival, faces a similar suit in Miami federal court, Ronzetti said. In 2002 Royal Caribbean Cruises settled an overtime pay dispute in New York.