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### **Class Actions**

## **COBRA Class Action Settles for \$375K; Brunel Could Pay \$625K in Attorneys' Fees**



Oct. 3 — Brunel Energy Inc. has agreed to a \$375,000 settlement, along with up to \$625,000 in attorneys' fees, in a class action alleging that the company failed to provide former workers with health insurance notices required by the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (*Slipchenko v. Brunel Energy, Inc.*, S.D. Tex., No. 4:11-cv-01465, 9/30/14).

The settlement, which received preliminary approval Sept. 30 from Judge Lee H. Rosenthal of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, resolves claims by a class of about 66 former Brunel employees who sued the company for its alleged failure to provide initial COBRA notices and its alleged failure to provide notices and benefits following qualifying events (75 PBD, 4/19/11; 38 BPR 834, 4/26/11).

Last year, the court certified the suit as a class action and found that Brunel was liable for failing to provide initial COBRA notices (171 PBD, 9/4/13; 40 BPR 2155, 9/10/13; 57 EBC 1671).

In addition to providing for a \$375,000 settlement fund, the settlement requires Brunel to pay \$624,999 into escrow for the participants' attorneys' fees.

The participants were represented by Cohen Milstein Sellers Toll PLLC and Campbell Harrison Dagley LLP. Brunel was represented by Bracewell Giuliani LLP.

### **For More Information**

Text of the opinion is at

[http://www.bloomberglaw.com/public/document/Slipchenko\\_v\\_Brunel\\_Energy\\_Inc\\_et\\_al\\_Docket\\_No\\_](http://www.bloomberglaw.com/public/document/Slipchenko_v_Brunel_Energy_Inc_et_al_Docket_No_)

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