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Cohen Milstein Named Sole Lead Counsel for National Dairy Producer Class Action

Misreporting Of Milk Prices May Have Cost Thousands of Dairy Farmers Tens of Millions of Dollars

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A California Federal Court has appointed Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC sole interim class counsel in ***Gerald Carlin et. al. v. Dairy America Inc et. al.*** (E.D. Cal.). Cohen Milstein represents a proposed class of dairy farmers who allege that defendants negligently and incorrectly reported nonfat dry milk prices to the National Agricultural Statistics service, resulting in artificially depressed raw milk prices that unfairly deprived American dairy farmers of tens of millions of dollars.

In appointing the firm interim class counsel, Magistrate Judge Dennis Beck of the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of California noted Cohen Milstein's experience in complex litigation, and pointed to the firm's pre-trial "investigation into the alleged misconduct and identification of the legal theory of the case."

"Middlemen inflated their own profit at the expense of America's dairy farmers by misreporting critical data used by the government to set raw milk prices," said Benjamin Brown, the partner leading the case for Cohen Milstein.

The complaint claims negligent misrepresentation, negligent interference with prospective economic advantage, unlawful business practices and unjust enrichment. The proposed nationwide class consists of approximately 50,000 dairy farmers who sold raw milk from January 2002 to April 2007, and who are alleged to have been unlawfully deprived of tens of millions of dollars.

"The same ingenuity, talent and dedication that allowed Cohen Milstein to develop the key facts and legal theories will continue to be applied as we lead this case to a successful conclusion," said Daniel Small, head of the firm's antitrust practice.

In addition, the court appointed Berman DeValerio and Keller Rohrback to an interim executive committee, with Berman DeValerio also serving as interim liaison counsel.

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For over 37 years, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC has been a pioneer in plaintiff class action lawsuits on behalf of victims of such abuses. By creating a group or class, individuals join to fight companies in court and enhance their ability to fight corporations who often have larger resources. As one of the premier firms in the country handling major complex class actions, Cohen Milstein, with more than 50 attorneys and offices in Washington, D.C., New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago, is a firm that specializes in cases concerning: Antitrust, Civil Rights & Employment, Consumer Protection, Employee Benefits, International Antitrust, Securities, and Human Rights. <http://www.cmht.com/index.php>