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Settlement awaits judge's approval in Mill Valley Travelodge overtime case

Staff Report

Members of a class-action lawsuit against Travelodge in Mill Valley are hoping a Marin judge will approve a settlement reached by lawyers in a wage-and-hours dispute. The plaintiffs, represented by Legal Aid of Marin and private attorneys, claimed that housekeepers, clerks and maintenance workers did not receive overtime pay, missed meal and rest breaks and were not provided payroll records when requested.

The employees worked at the Travelodge at 707 Redwood Highway between Nov. 15, 2001, and July 15, 2006.

Attorneys for Travelodge denied all liability in the lawsuit and said the owners had fully complied with wage-and-hour laws. They said they have agreed to the settlement to avoid further litigation costs.

The owners of the motel could not be reached for comment. Neither side could discuss the terms of the settlement.

The settlement was given preliminary approval by Marin Superior Court Judge Michael Dufficy in December.

Karen Carrera, one of the private attorneys representing the employees, said lawyers are still hoping to find former employees who worked at Travelodge during the period stated in the lawsuit.

"Our clients encourage eligible current and former Travelodge-Mill Valley employees to step forward and participate in this very important settlement," said Carrera, of the law firm Talamantes, Villegas & Carrera.

"It is very important for our clients that those individuals who worked at this motel receive a benefit from this case," she said.

The deadline for filing a claim with Legal Aid of Marin is March 20.

- Nancy Isles Nation

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