

Blackstone v. Dearborn Life Insurance Company
Case No. 1:21-cv-1201
(United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois)

NOTICE OF COLLECTIVE ACTION LAWSUIT

1. What is this Notice about?

This Notice is about a lawsuit that you are eligible to join if you choose.

2. What is the lawsuit about?

The lawsuit is about whether employees who worked for Dearborn Life Insurance Company (“Dearborn” or the “Company”) as Claims Analysts¹ should have been paid overtime in any weeks in which they worked more than 40 hours. The Company denies the allegations in the lawsuit and contends that Claims Analysts were at all times properly classified as exempt employees and were at all times properly paid. The Court has not yet determined whether any Claims Analysts were properly or improperly paid.

3. Why did I get this Notice?

You got this Notice because the Company identified you as a salaried Claims Analyst that worked for the Company during the last three years—the time period covered by this lawsuit. This Notice explains the nature of the lawsuit and how you can participate if you choose. Whether or not to join this lawsuit is up to you.

4. How do I join the lawsuit?

If you wish to join this lawsuit, you can complete the Consent to Join form and submit it electronically through DocuSign at the following web address: www.collectiveaction.io/dearborn. Alternatively, you can complete the enclosed/attached Consent to Join form and mail it in the enclosed pre-paid and pre-addressed envelope or email it to: DearbornLawsuit@noticeadministrator.com.

If you do not wish to join this lawsuit, you do not need to do anything. The decision to join is entirely yours.

5. When do I need to submit the Consent to Join form to join the lawsuit?

To join the lawsuit, you must postmark or return the Consent to Join form by **September 3, 2021**.

6. What happens if I join the lawsuit?

If you join this lawsuit, you will be bound by its outcome, whether it is favorable or unfavorable. This means that if the Claims Analysts win the lawsuit or obtain a settlement, you may receive a payment. If the Claims Analyst employees lose the lawsuit, you will not receive any money. The right to recovery for any plaintiff is not guaranteed or certain and depends on adjudication of the claim. If you join this lawsuit, there is a possibility that you will have to answer written questions, sit for a deposition, or testify at trial.

7. What happens if I decide not to join the lawsuit?

If you do not wish to join this lawsuit, do not return the enclosed form. If you do not join the lawsuit you will not be bound by its outcome. This means that you are free to file your own lawsuit, either on your own behalf or through an attorney if your claims are brought within the applicable statute of limitations period.

¹ The term “Claims Analyst” includes the following positions: “STD Claims Associate;” “STD Claims Analyst;” “Senior STD Claims Analyst;” “LTD Claims Associate;” “LTD Claims Analyst;” and “Senior LTD Claims Analyst.”

8. Can the Company retaliate against me for joining this lawsuit?

No. Federal law prohibits the Company or any other company from firing you or taking any adverse action against you because you decided to join the lawsuit.

9. Who will be my lawyers if I join the lawsuit, and how will the lawyers be paid?

If you choose to join the lawsuit by submitting your Consent to Join form, you will be represented by Travis Hedgpeth and members of his firm, The Hedgpeth Law Firm, PC; Stacy Thomsen and members of her firm, Siegel Law Group PLLC; and Doug Werman and members of his firm, Werman Salas PC, as well as any of their associated attorneys (contact information in Paragraph 11).

The lawyers representing the Claims Analysts are being paid on a contingency fee basis, which means they will only be paid if they win the lawsuit or obtain a settlement. If either happens, the lawyers may receive their fees and costs from the Company and/or may receive a percentage of any money awarded by the Court or obtained through a settlement. If the Claims Analysts lose the lawsuit, you will not have to pay your lawyers.

10. How will I know if I joined the lawsuit?

If you choose to join the lawsuit by submitting your Consent to Join form, your lawyers will contact you to confirm you joined the case. If you are not contacted in a reasonable period of time after you submit your Consent to Join Form, please contact your lawyers (contact information in Paragraph 11).

11. How do I get more information about the lawsuit?

If you have questions about this Notice or the lawsuit, please write, call, or e-mail the lawyers representing the Claims Analysts. Their respective contact information is listed below.

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THIS NOTICE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS. THE COURT HAS TAKEN NO POSITION ON THE MERITS OF THIS LAWSUIT.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR WRITE THE JUDGE IN THIS LAWSUIT. THE JUDGE MUST REMAIN NEUTRAL AND CANNOT ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS LAWSUIT OR THIS NOTICE.