

Public Sector Entities May Be Eligible for Class-Action Settlement Funds: Payment Card Interchange Fee Settlement Notice

(Prepared for 2025 MMA Connect 351 Conference)

Public sector entities that accepted Visa- or MasterCard-branded credit cards any time between January 25, 2019 and January 1, 2004 may be eligible to file a claim and collect funds in connection with a recent class-action lawsuit settlement. The lawsuit centers on the allegation that the defendants, including Visa, MasterCard, and various banks, conspired to over-charge merchants that accepted Visa and MasterCard by adopting anticompetitive rules and practices in violation of the federal Sherman Act and state antitrust laws.

After years of litigation beginning in 2005, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York in 2019 approved a settlement agreement, see [here](#), providing for between \$5.54 and \$6.24 billion in funds to be paid to a potential class of over 12 million plaintiffs. The United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit affirmed that judgment in March of 2023, see [here](#) and members of the class are now eligible to file claims. Claims may be filed [here](#).

The plaintiff class includes all “persons, businesses, and other entities that have accepted Visa-Branded Cards and/or Mastercard-branded cards in the United States at any time from January 1, 2004 to January 25, 2019”, exempting only plaintiffs that previously settled their claims, the United States government, and the named defendants, and financial institutions that issued Visa or MasterCard cards during the period in question.

There are no relevant restrictions on the class and, as a result, public sector entities that accepted Visa or MasterCard for payment of fees, fines, taxes, or other charges may file claims. A prior notice sent to likely class members containing a helpful overview of the lawsuit and other frequently asked questions can be accessed [here](#).

The deadline to file claims with the Settlement Administrator is **February 4, 2025**, making it imperative that eligible public sector entities act quickly in order to access settlement funds.

For further information, please contact Attorneys [Lauren Goldberg](#), [Mark Reich](#) or your KP Law Attorney at 617.556.0007.

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