



WESTERN CENTER

ON LAW & POVERTY

Cy Pres Awards Help Us Bring System-Wide Change Through:

- Pivotal impact litigation
- Hard-hitting legislative and administrative advocacy
- Support for local legal aid programs in California

Founded in 1967, Western Center on Law & Poverty leads the fight in the courts, counties and capital on behalf of low-income Californians.

Western Center Means Impact!

We protect the rights of the poorest Californians, by:

- Expanding medical coverage for those left out
- Securing access to food
- Creating new revenue streams for affordable housing
- Defending basic needs programs for poor children
- Developing employment opportunities for working families

Western Center receives no federal funding and is supported primarily through private donations, foundation grants and court-awarded attorneys' fees.

By California statute, Cy Pres awards can go to Western Center in any state class action case.

“When the point of a case is to help people, if the persons harmed cannot be located, then it is important to get unclaimed settlement funds into the hands of organizations that are dedicated to helping those in need.”

- Jeff Westerman



Cy Pres Awards Can Help Western Center Sustain Its Unique And Essential Legal Services

California Code of Civil Procedure Section 384(b) permits courts to order that residual settlement funds be paid to "... nonprofit organizations or foundations to support projects that will benefit the class or similarly situated persons... or to nonprofit organizations providing civil legal services to the indigent."

The Cy Pres doctrine also enables the distribution of monetary awards to nonprofit organizations, when damages are so small that distribution to individual class members would be impractical or diminish the effect of the remedy.

In non-class action suits, or prior to class certification, settling defendants may be willing to direct all or part of the settlement payments to a nonprofit organization.

Federal courts also may consider Cy Pres awards of unclaimed settlement funds.

Recent Cy Pres Awards

Adams v. Universal Studios
Almaro v. Quest Diagnostics
Bamboo Partners LLC v. Robert Mondavi Corp
Computer Memories Securities Class Action
Gravina v. United College Bureau
Hernandez v. Teletch Government Solutions
Holland v. Securitas Security Services USA, Inc
Jenny Craig Securities Class
Mambuki v. Securitas
Nickel v. Bank of America
Perez v. Weiser Security Services, Inc.
Smokeless Tobacco Cases
Unger v. Mercedes-Benz Fund
Washington v. Siemes Medical Solutions
Western States Wholesale Natural Gas
Antitrust Litigation

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