

Louisiana Bar Owners COVID-19 Litigation

City Bar, Inc. v. Edwards, No. C-703353
19th JDC, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana (Div. 22)

SUMMARY NOTICE OF CLASS CERTIFICATION, PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, AND COURT APPROVAL HEARING

TO: All persons or juridical entities who owned or held an active class A-General permit issued by the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control pursuant to La. R.S. 26:71.1(1) between July 13, 2020 (the effective date of Proclamation 89 JBE 2020) and May 26, 2021 (the expiration date of Proclamation 79 JBE 2021) and suffered lost revenue as a result of Executive Orders relating to the sale of alcohol.

A Louisiana District Court authorized this notice. Your legal rights are affected, whether or not you act. You should read this notice carefully. This is *NOT* a notice of a lawsuit against you or a solicitation from a lawyer.

SUMMARY

A settlement has been reached on behalf of a certain class of bar owners who lost revenue as a result of executive orders issued by former Governor John Bel Edwards during the COVID-19 pandemic (the “COVID Executive Proclamations”). This lawsuit alleges that the COVID Executive Proclamations deprived bar owners of the lawful use of their alcohol permits, in particular, the right to sell alcohol for on-premises consumption. Plaintiffs allege that this deprivation resulted in a regulatory taking via inverse condemnation under the Louisiana Constitution and a statutory taking under the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, requiring just compensation and individual awards for damages. The Settlement does not establish who is right or wrong, but rather is a compromise to end the lawsuit and avoid the uncertainties and expenses that come with continuing in court. The lawsuit is called *City Bar, Inc. v. Edwards*, No. 703353, Div. 22 (19th JDC, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana).

For complete information, visit www.LABarSettlement.com or call 1-844-959-4674.

Who is included? The class includes: All persons or juridical entities who owned or held an active class A-General permit issued by the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control pursuant to La. R.S. 26:71.1(1) between July 13, 2020 (the effective date of Proclamation 89 JBE 2020) and May 26, 2021 (the expiration date of Proclamation 79 JBE 2021) and suffered lost revenue as a result of Executive Orders relating to the sale of alcohol.

What does the settlement provide? The State of Louisiana has agreed to create a settlement fund of \$13,000,000. If you submit a valid claim and the Court approves the settlement, the amount you receive is based on the Payment Allocation Formula, available at www.LABarSettlement.com.

The Payment Allocation Formula is based on monthly revenue data from July 2019 to May 2021. The Payment Allocation Formula will use monthly revenue data reported by the Louisiana Department of Revenue for sales tax purposes. If you believe the monthly sales tax revenue data reported by the Louisiana Department of Revenue may be incorrect or fails to capture all sources of revenue for your bar, you may submit additional documentation along with your claim reflecting your monthly revenues from July 2019 to May 2021. If no additional documentation is submitted with your Claim Form, your allocation of the settlement will be based exclusively on the monthly sales tax revenue data reported by the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

The payment amounts are after the payment of attorney’s fees, costs, administrative expenses, and the Class Representative awards. The State’s funding of this Settlement is contingent on an appropriation of funds from the Louisiana Legislature, including compliance with R.S. 24:653(H), the timing and outcome of which are indeterminable.

How can I get a payment? To qualify for payment, you must submit a valid and timely Claim Form. You may complete the Claim Form included in your notice package or download a copy from the settlement website at www.LABarSettlement.com and mail it to the following address postmarked no later than **May 4, 2026**.

LA Bar Owners COVID-19 Litigation Claims
P.O. Box 1669
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Completed Claim Forms can also be emailed to info@LABarSettlement.com. If you own multiple bars, each individual legal entity holding a class A-General permit must submit a separate claim form.

What are my other rights and options?

- **Do Nothing:** If you do nothing, you are choosing to stay in the class. This means you will be legally bound by all orders and judgments of the Court and you won't be able to sue or continue to sue the State of Louisiana for the legal claims made in this case in a different lawsuit. However, **you still must submit a claim to receive a payment.**
- **Opt-Out:** If you do not want to stay in the class, you must submit a request for exclusion. If you exclude yourself, you cannot get any money or benefits from this lawsuit, but you will keep your right to separately sue the State of Louisiana over the legal issues in this case.
- **Object:** If you do not like any part of the Settlement, you can object. You cannot submit both an exclusion request and objection. If the Court grants Final Approval over your objection, you will give up your rights to sue the State of Louisiana about the issues in this case. If you also wish to receive payment, you must submit a Claim Form.

Complete details about your rights, including detailed requirements to submit a claim, exclude yourself, and to object to the settlement are available at www.LABarSettlement.com. Opt-outs must be **postmarked or emailed and received no later than April 10, 2026** and objections must be **postmarked or emailed and received no later than April 24, 2026**.

Do I have a lawyer? Yes. The Court has appointed Jimmy R. Faircloth, Jr. of Faircloth Melton Bash & Green, LLC to represent you and the other Class Members. You can hire your own lawyer at your own expense.

When will the Court approve the settlement? The Court will hold a Fairness Hearing at 9:00am on May 12, 2026, at the 19th Judicial District Courthouse, 300 North Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70801, Division 22, Courtroom 10D. At this hearing the Court will consider whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate. If there are objections, the Court will consider them. The judge will listen to people who have asked to speak at the hearing. The Court may also decide how much to pay to Class Counsel. After the hearing, the Court will decide whether to approve the proposed settlement. We do not know how long these decisions will take.

Where can I get more information? This is only a summary of the proposed settlement. For more information, visit www.LABarSettlement.com or call 1-844-959-4674.