

Judge approves settlement with H&R Block for \$19M

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By Scott Lauck

A federal judge this week formally approved a class action lawsuit worth up to \$19.4 million against Kansas City-based H&R Block.

The multidistrict litigation alleged that the company's Express IRA retirement accounts contained hidden fees and were deceptively marketed. The settlement was reached late last year and announced in January by New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, who was also involved in the litigation.

H&R Block agreed to refund fees it charged to about 600,000 customers who purchased the IRAs. Judge Richard E. Dorr, of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri, gave final approval to the deal on Monday.

Norman Siegel, of Stueve Siegel Hanson in Kansas City, and Daniel C. Girard, of Girard Gibbs in San Francisco, Calif., served as the lead attorneys. The deal includes \$6 million in attorney fees. Bryan Cave defended H&R Block.

The case is *In Re: H&R Block, Inc., Express IRA Marketing Litigation*, 4:06-md-1786.