

## Nurses, hospitals settle Chicago case over alleged wage conspiracy

BY LYNNE MAREK

Illinois nurses who last year lost a bid for class certification against a group of hospitals they alleged conspired to depress their wages have agreed to a settlement with the hospitals for an undisclosed amount.



MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY'S  
DAVID L. HANSELMAN, JR.

U.S. District Judge John Grady of the Northern District of Illinois dismissed the antitrust case with prejudice on Feb. 18 after attorneys told him they had reached a settlement last month. Similar lawsuits brought by nurses are still pending in four other federal courts in Detroit, San Antonio, Memphis, Tenn., and Albany, N.Y.

The pivotal moment in the Chicago case came this past October when Grady denied class certification, said David Hanselman Jr., a Chicago partner at McDermott, Will & Emery who represents

Resurrection Health Care in the Chicago case and hospital defendants in three of the other cases.

"The defendants settled for a very small fraction of what it would have cost to defend the case going forward," Hanselman said. "The defendants felt we had a good chance of winning on summary judgment, but the amount that we ultimately settled for was far less than the amount it would cost to draft a summary judgment [motion]."

Hanselman declined to say how much the hospitals will pay the Illinois nurses. Lawyers from Miller Shakman & Beem; Seyfarth Shaw; Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal; and Katten Muchin Rosenman also represented hospitals in the case.

Lawyers at Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll and James & Hoffman in Washington and at Vanek Vickers & Masini and Miller Law in Chicago, who represent the nurse plaintiffs, couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

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