

KREKELER LAW REPORT



JANUARY 2017

VOL. 3 NO. 1

BOUGHT MILK?

THEN WE MAY HAVE A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FOR YOU

Bought Milk? Then you may be eligible to receive a portion of the \$52 million class-action lawsuit settlement with the National Milk Producers Federation and several industry cooperatives. If you bought milk, yogurt, cream cheese, sour cream, etc., in Wisconsin since 2003, then you may be qualified to claim between \$45 and \$70!*

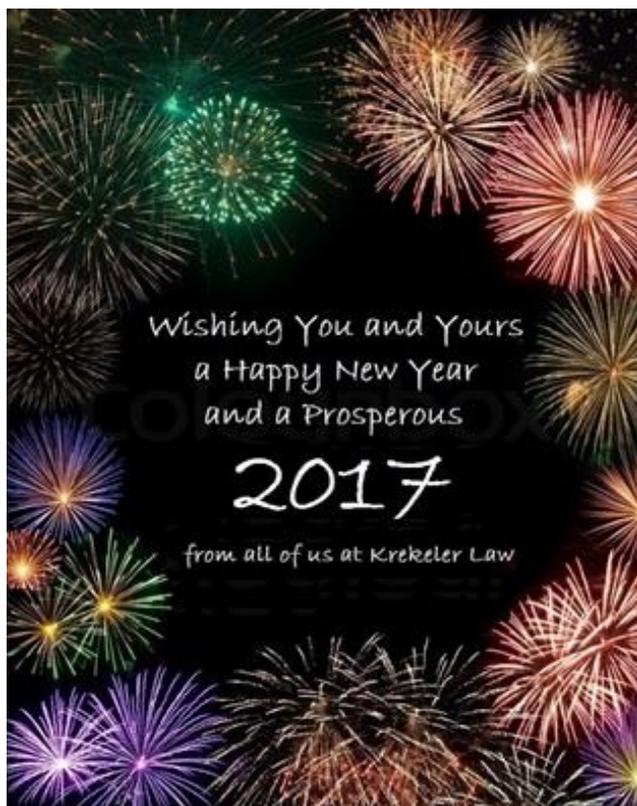
The lawsuit alleged the buying-out of dairy farms and the premature slaughter of dairy cows through the "Herd Retirement Program." This allegedly reduced competition from dairy farmers, enabled price-fixing, and raised the prices of milk. Although the milk producers claimed they did nothing illegal when offering this voluntary program, they decided to settle the case last August.

So how do you apply for your share of the settlement? First, go to

www.BoughtMilk.com.

Next, simply fill out the required information. And finally, click "Submit Your Claim!" at the bottom of the screen. Make sure to submit your claim by January 31st!

*The estimates depend on how many people apply at BoughtMilk.com and how much milk was purchased by your household, which means it could also be a few cents or dollars, too.



Claim your cash below:

First Name

Last Name

Email

Confirm Email

Confirm Residency (check the box if true)

I was a resident of at least one of these states during at least part of 2003 to the present: Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Kansas, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, or Wisconsin.

Products (check the box if true)

I purchased milk or fresh milk products, including cream, half & half, yogurt, cottage cheese, cream cheese, or sour cream.

Volume (check one box that describes your purchase)

I am an individual who purchased for consumption by myself and/or my household.

I am a school/after-school program/etc. that purchased for consumption by for my students/participants, who were not charged for the milk products. Entities charging their participants for milk, for meals including milk or for general programming with meals and/or drinks including milk are not eligible to recover. Governmental entities are not eligible to recover.

Step 1: Did you buy dairy products from 2003 to the present in one of these states:

Step 2: If you did, fill out the form to claim your cash. Individuals may receive between \$45 to \$70, entities may receive between \$1260-\$1960.

Step 3: Wait and enjoy!

This is the official website for the Fresh Milk Products Price-Fixing Class Action Lawsuit. On this website you can find details about the litigation settlements, and your options. A federal court has approved the notices and forms on this site, and the administrator who runs the site operates under the supervision of class counsel.

Submit your Claim!

By submitting a claim, I declare under penalty of perjury that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

In This Issue:

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84-MONTH CAR LOANS

84-month car loans are becoming more common and were recently discussed in a *U.S. News & World Report* article. In fact, the article quoted David Krekeler. The article can be found at:

[Buying a Car? Say No to the 84-Month Loan](#)

As the cost of vehicles increases, one way to make them more affordable for consumers is to stretch out the payments over a longer period of time. Transportation is a necessity for nearly everyone, so being able to afford that transportation can be critical for some people. But it will cost them more in the long run.

For example, a \$30,000 loan which will be paid with a 6% interest rate over 5 years will have monthly payments of \$579.98. The consumer will have paid nearly \$34,800 in total by the time the loan is paid in full.

But if that rate is 13.86%, which is a more likely rate for someone with a credit score between 590 and 618, the total paid for the car will be over \$47,000.

By extending the loan term to 84 months, the monthly payments will go down but the consumer will have paid much more in total over the life of the loan. All of this additional amount paid is interest.

This means that the higher the interest rates, the more detrimental the longer term will be for the consumer.

As financial problem solvers, we try to steer our clients to the shortest loan term they can afford. Still, the longer term offers benefits to people who need that lower payment in order to have their transportation. It is important to know and understand what you are signing up for, and whether it fits your financial goals. We are always happy to help our clients analyze and decide which loans work best in their particular circumstances.



NEW RULES HELP PROTECT PRIVACY IN COURT RECORDS

With extensive work in bankruptcy court, we're familiar with rules about certain information that cannot be revealed in bankruptcy pleadings: the names of minor children, full Social Security numbers, full account numbers for mortgage and bank accounts, and so forth.

2016 saw the Wisconsin Supreme Court adopt some protections for sensitive information in circuit court records.

Items that cannot be disclosed include:

- *Social Security Numbers*
- *Employer or Taxpayer Identification Numbers*
- *Financial account numbers (such as bank or credit card numbers)*
- *Driver's license numbers, and*
- *Passport numbers.*

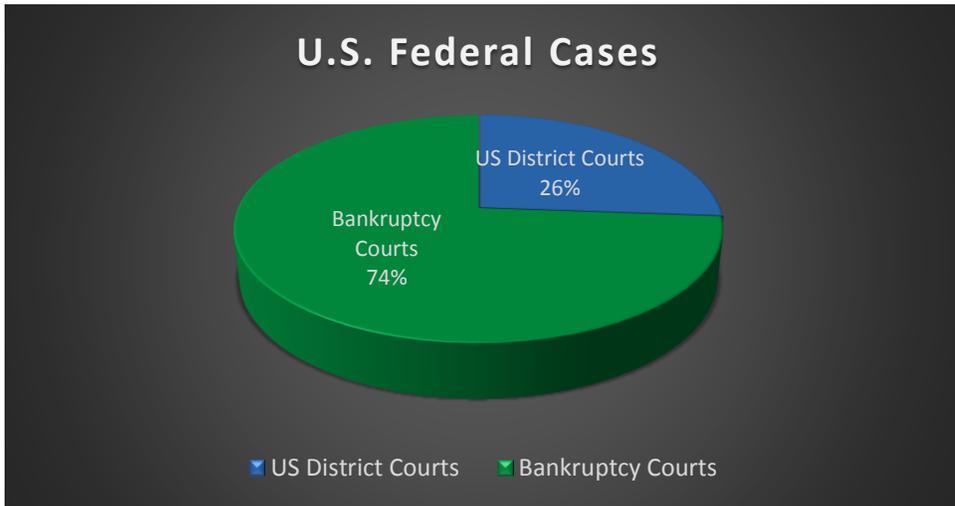
What happens if a party accidentally or intentionally files some of this information in a state court document?

The court can seal the document (prevent people from accessing it) and can force the party that revealed the information to pay expenses (including attorney's fees) or otherwise sanction the party for contempt. If the party that files the information by mistake reveals their own information, the court could still seal the document or it could say that they voluntarily agreed to waive the protection of the state laws.

Our firm has taken steps to protect our clients' information in state and federal courts and to comply with these rules. We are looking for opportunities to recover for any of our clients who have had some of this information improperly disclosed. Please let us know if you have questions.

DID YOU KNOW?...

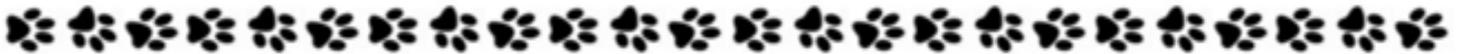
Did you know that most federal court cases are bankruptcy cases? The chart below shows the percentage of cases filed in both the District Courts and the Bankruptcy Courts for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2016. Bankruptcy constitutes nearly 3 out of every 4 cases filed.



Nearly 75% of federal court cases are bankruptcy cases.

Bankruptcy cases would comprise an even higher percentage if all parties were included. The chart reflects only the debtors who have filed a case. Yet in most bankruptcy cases, there are many other participants: the creditors. A single case may have dozens or even hundreds of creditors.

This means that the vast majority of people in contact with the federal court system are doing so through bankruptcy.



PAWS for a CAUSE

Pets are wonderful. Having pets in your life can increase your physical and emotional well-being. To celebrate our support for our four-legged friends this past holiday season, Krekeler Law employees participated in our own *Paws for a Cause* donation to the Dane County Humane Society.

As part of this program, we wanted to give back to the animals that so unselfishly give their unconditional love and attention to us. The staff was able to fill boxes from DCHS's wish and needs list and deliver it to the main society's location just before the Christmas holiday.

What isn't so inspirational or fun is finding yourself in money trouble, causing stress and even forcing a choice between paying your bills and making sure your pet has enough food, a safe place to sleep, and that its shots are up-to-date. That's where we can help.

If you find yourself in a financial crisis, Krekeler Law can help you and help you keep your pets. Only a few states have specific exemptions for pets, but Wisconsin allows its residents to keep animals held primarily for personal family or household use. The aggregate value may not exceed \$12,000, but no client of ours has ever lost his or her pet and we won't let that happen to you, either.



WHERE'S KREKELER?

Super Lawyers announced its top Wisconsin lawyers for 2016. For the third consecutive year, Ryan Blay has made the *Rising Stars* list under Consumer Bankruptcy. For Business Bankruptcy, Krekeler Strother's managing partner, David Krekeler, continues to be named as a *Super Lawyer*, as he has been for the past 11 years.

To be selected from the list of nominations, each candidate is reviewed in 12 different areas of career achievements and peer ratings. Points are earned based on these categories:



- Verdicts/Settlements
- Transactions
- Representative Clients
- Experience
- Honors/Awards
- Special licenses/certifications
- Position within the law firm
- Bar and/or professional activity
- Pro bono and community service
- Scholarly lectures/writings
- Education/employment background
- Other outstanding achievements



Attorneys with the highest number of points from within each area of practice are compared to attorneys of the same size firm and same area of practice (bankruptcy to bankruptcy, business to business, etc.). The *Super Lawyers* list is issued by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology can be found at www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process_detail.html. *Super Lawyers* constitute only 5% of all attorneys in the state.

Attorney Eliza Reyes, a member of the planning committee for the Annual BICR Educational/Social Retreat, continues to put the final touches on the Retreat, which will be held March 2-3, 2017. The Retreat, now in its 12th year, is the Bankruptcy Section's preeminent event each year, bringing together lawyers, judges and nationally prominent speakers.



Have a question? Idea for a future article?

If you ask for it – we will write it!

Contact Deanna at

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