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\$660,000 InkStop settlement approved by federal court judge

By Janet Cho, The Plain Dealer March 31, 2010, 5:12PM

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Gus Chan/Plain Dealer file

Liquidation signs point to the InkStop store in Independence on Dec. 9. The store, at 6800 Rockside Road, was InkStop's first retail location and remained its top seller until the company closed Oct. 1.

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- U.S. District Court Judge Solomon Oliver Jr. on Wednesday approved the \$660,000 settlement agreement between

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InkStop Inc.'s board of directors and 629 former employees.

The agreement, approved just shy of six months after the office supply chain shut its doors and locked out its workers without pay on Oct. 1, is compensating workers from a fund created and paid for by the 15-member board of directors, including founders Dirk and Dawn Kettlewell.

Workers have until April 28 to return their settlement form to get paid for owed wages and overtime. Checks are expected to be mailed in mid-May.

The settlement form stipulates that in return for accepting the payment, the employee agrees to drop all claims against InkStop's directors and executives in two pending lawsuits.

According to U.S. Department of Labor calculations, workers can receive up to \$4,920.50. Store managers can get an additional \$169.34 to settle claims that they were asked to work unpaid overtime.

Workers can not be paid for unused vacation and sick days, because InkStop filed for bankruptcy.

Those who have not opted in to the previous lawsuit must contact Attorneys **Anthony Lazzaro** at The Lazzaro Law Firm LLC or **Jason Bristol** at Cohen Rosenthal & Kramer LLP at for the proper form.

some Northeast Ohio lawyers say

March 29, 2010: **InkStop employees to get most of their back wages; former directors chip in \$660,000 to repay employees**

Dec. 21, 2010: **InkStop started with a bang and ended with a bust**

For more information

Joint motion for approveal -- with all exhibits (PDF)

Settlement agreement -- with all exhibits(PDF)