

The decision upheld Charles Williams Jr.'s conviction for illegal gun possession. Williams had argued successfully, in Prince George's County Circuit Court and on appeal, that Maryland's law against carrying or transporting a handgun violated his Second Amendment rights.

Williams' attorney, James Hopewell, said Monday that he "definitely will" seek review by Maryland's highest court, the **Court of Appeals**, argue that the Second Amendment applies to the states.

"I don't think the American people would tolerate a constitutional right that only applies to the District of Columbia," said Hopewell, a Riverdale law practitioner.

Brian S. Kleinbord, chief of the Maryland attorney general's criminal appeals division, declined to comment on the decision.

Williams bought his handgun legally from a licensed dealer in August 2007, the opinion stated. On Oct. 1, 2007, a Prince George's County police officer saw Williams near woods and asked what he had hidden in the bushes.

Williams responded, "My gun."

The officer arrested Williams for unlawful gun possession for violating a provision on carriage and transport. He was convicted and sentenced on Oct. 6, 2008, to three years in prison with all but one year suspended.

Laundry, workers reach settlement of \$300K

BY BRENDAN KEARNEY

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More than three dozen Harford County industrial laundry workers have settled their overtime action against **Mayflower Textile Services Co.** and its labor provider, **Argo Enterprises Inc.**, for \$300,000.

The defendants have agreed to pay \$98,000 to 37 of the 39 mostly non-English-speaking Latino plaintiffs and \$190,000 for their attorneys' fees, according to filings in **U.S. District Court** Friday. The settlement also provides for \$12,000 in "litigation expenses" and incentive payments of \$1,000 or almost \$800 to the five named plaintiffs.

The settlement checks to individuals will range from \$12 to more than \$12,000, and represent about 75 percent of the maximum the opt-in plaintiffs might have won at trial.

The deal is still subject to the approval of Judge Catherine C. Blake, following a fairness hearing that has not yet been scheduled.

Attorneys Daniel A. Katz and C. Christopher Brown will receive their fees in monthly installments over the next three years, according to court papers. The award amounts to less than half the hourly bills for the lawyers, both of whom regularly handle Federal Labor Standards Act cases.

Brown called the resolution "a compromise" but referred specific questions about the case to Katz, who declined to comment. An attorney for Mayflower, Eric J. Pelletier, did not return a call for comment Monday. Neil S. Hyman, who represented Argo, also could not be reached.

Hospitals and hotels

The plaintiffs were hourly workers at Mayflower's Belcamp facility. They did laundry for area hospitals and hotels and sorted and folded the items.

Their claims — that they were shorted overtime pay and that their complaints were met with various forms of retaliation — dated to February 2006. Many no longer work for Mayflower, Argo or their related entities, according to court papers.

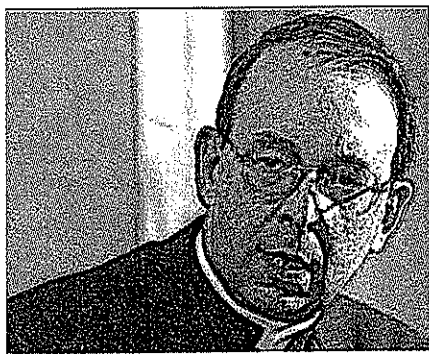
The plaintiffs filed suit asserting state and federal claims in January 2008 in Baltimore, where the named plaintiffs lived at the time and where the defendant companies have offices.

Rulings a year ago by Blake and Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul W. Grimm, who presided over discovery disputes, set the tone for the case. On Oct. 14, 2008, Blake permitted the class action and preliminarily enjoined Argo from retaliating against its employees.

The next day, in a notable 30-page opinion, Grimm admonished the parties for not cooperating with each other's document requests and rejected the notion that such cooperation was unrealistic in an adversarial relationship. He ordered both sides to share with each other their best- and worst-case scenarios of what the case was worth and, based on those estimates, determine what discovery would be reasonable.

Attorneys in the case reached the resolution after an all-day conference with another federal magistrate, Susan K. Gauvey, on Sept. 24.

Don't stop release of church documents



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Bishop William E. Lori announced the settlement in October 2003.

The documents include depositions, affidavits and motions.

The case is *Bridgeport Diocese v. New York Times*, 09-246. A hearing is planned Nov. 9 in Waterbury Superior Court to determine when to release the documents.

The records have been under seal since the diocese settled the cases in 2001 and could shed light on how

recently retired New York Cardinal Edward Egan handled the allegations when he was Bridgeport bishop.

The diocese says the First Amendment prohibits civil authorities from intruding into internal church decisions about priest assignments.

The diocese released a statement Monday saying church officials were disappointed with the decision, but will work with the Connecticut courts on releasing the documents.

"We continue to believe that the constitutional issues presented, including the First Amendment rights of religious organizations and the privacy rights of all citizens, are significant and important for the Court to consider," the statement said.

The diocese also said there has been a "true culture change" in the church, and church leaders have worked hard to address clergy sexual abuse and support victims.