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**Settlement between Allstate & Minority Customers  
approved by Federal Court Judge**

*Minority Customers to benefit*

Tampa, February 15, 2007 – Attorneys representing Allstate’s minority customers announced today, a Texas Federal Court issued final approval for a nationwide class action settlement regarding its credit scoring practices.

“This is a great day for Allstate’s minority customers,” said lead plaintiff’s attorney Christa Collins, of the law firm James, Hoyer, Newcomer & Smiljanich, PA. “This is a groundbreaking settlement, because Allstate has agreed to change the way it uses credit information to price insurance. We believe this change significantly benefits Allstate’s minority customers.”

According to the court, Allstate has millions of African American and Hispanic customers who are affected by the settlement nationwide. “The bottom line,” said Collins, “is many of Allstate’s minority customers stand to save significant dollars in their premium payments as a result of the credit scoring changes.”

The case was filed in 2001 in U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. It was brought by six Allstate customers who represented a

nationwide class of African Americans and Hispanics. These individuals alleged they were discriminated against when issued automobile and/or home insurance, by being charged higher premiums based on Allstate's use of credit scoring.

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"We're very proud," said lead plaintiff Jose DeHoyos. "We're very happy to be part of something that will really make a difference, not only for ourselves, but for so many others in the same situation."

In a lengthy opinion, Federal Judge Fred Biery concluded that settlement was "powerful" and cited that it allowed "individuals as private litigants to challenge and ultimately change corporate practices they regard as discriminatory and as a result to bring about important social change."

As a result of the settlement, minorities will benefit from the following:

- Allstate will implement a new credit scoring formula.
- Allstate will notify eligible policy holders that they can participate in an appeals process that may result in a premium reduction, when their credit score was negatively affected by life hardships like divorce, loss of a job, death of a spouse, etc.
- Class members may be eligible for a 50 to 150 dollar payback on prior premium payments based on how their credit score was affected by the old formula.
- The National Urban League and National Council of LaRaza will distribute educational credit information developed through the settlement.

"It's been a long fight, but well worth the results," concluded lead plaintiff's attorney Collins.

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*James, Hoyer, Newcomer & Smiljanich, PA is an investigative, law firm that represents individuals, organizations and governments. Visit the firm's website at [www.jameshoyer.com](http://www.jameshoyer.com)*

