

“Fans Win: NFL Loses ‘Sunday Ticket’ Trial, Ordered To Pay Over \$4.7 Billion.”

“It’s a great verdict for the consumers of America,” lead plaintiffs’ attorney Bill Carmody of Susman Godfrey told reporters. Carmody said the jury upheld antitrust laws “despite the star power of the defendants.”

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The lawsuit covered 2.4 million residential subscribers and 48,000 businesses who paid for the package of out-of-market games from the 2011 through 2022 seasons on DirecTV.

The lawsuit was originally filed in 2015 by the Mucky Duck sports bar in San Francisco but was dismissed in 2017. Two years later, the 9th Circuit, which has jurisdiction over California and eight other states, reinstated the case. Gutierrez ruled last year the case could proceed as a class action.

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A California federal jury on Thursday ordered the National Football League to pay nearly \$5 billion in damages for a years-long conspiracy to fix the price of DirecTV's Sunday Ticket package, ending a four-week antitrust trial that included internal NFL documents as key evidence.

The eight jurors awarded \$96 million in damages to the commercial class, which includes 48,000 businesses that subscribed to Sunday Ticket between 2011 and 2023. Jurors awarded \$4.7 billion to the residential class, which covers 2.4 million subscribers from 2011 to 2023. Class members are automatically included; they had until October 2023 to opt out.

Carmody called the class action, which was filed in 2015, “the biggest case in America” during his closing. Carmody, who’s based in New York City, congratulated his team in the courthouse hallway outside the verdict. Susman Godfrey partner Amanda Bonn of Los Angeles wept.

The final damages total could triple to nearly \$15 billion under the treble damages rule often applied in antitrust cases.

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