

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**FILED**

DEC 22 2000

NANCY MAYER WHITTINGTON, CLERK  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

TIMOTHY PIGFORD, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DAN GLICKMAN, Secretary,  
United States Department of Agriculture,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 97-1978 (PLF) ✓

CECIL BREWINGTON, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DAN GLICKMAN, Secretary,  
United States Department of Agriculture,

Defendant.

Civil Action No. 98-1693 (PLF)

**ORDER AMENDING, BY REFERENCE, THE CONSENT DECREE TO INCLUDE J.L.  
CHESTNUT AS CLASS COUNSEL**

WHEREAS, from November 17, 1997 until the approval of the Consent Decree (April 14, 1999), Mr. Chestnut traveled the country with Co-Lead Counsel Alexander J. Pires, Jr. and Phillip L. Fraas, helping to communicate with and organize Plaintiffs' Class. Mr. Chestnut played a crucial role in ensuring that Class Counsel was aware of the views of Black farmers in the Deep South about the terms of any proposed settlement agreement. Mr. Chestnut also used his stature as a civil rights leader to unify Black farmers and African American organizations across the country;

WHEREAS, once the Consent Decree was approved on April 14, 1999, Mr. Chestnut, Ms. Rose Sanders and their law firm traveled extensively throughout the country educating

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Black farmers about the Consent Decree, assisting Claimants in filling out their Track A claim forms, and representing Track B claimants through the arbitration process;

WHEREAS, since the approval of the Consent Decree, Mr. Chestnut and Ms. Sanders, have continued to assist Class Counsel in expressing the concerns of Black farmers to the Court, Adjudicator, Arbitrator, Facilitator and Monitor;

WHEREAS, at present, Chestnut, Sanders / Conlon, Frantz/Phillip L. Fraas together represented the majority of all Track A Claimants, represent approximately 90% of Claimants seeking to file Petitions for Monitor Review pursuant to ¶ 12(b)(iii) of the Consent Decree and the majority of all Track B Claimants;

WHEREAS, Mr. Chestnut has been an influential leader and the moral voice of this lawsuit, and instrumental in ensuring that Class Counsel and Of Counsel "fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4);

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend, By Reference, the Consent Decree to Include J.L. Chestnut as Class Counsel be and hereby is GRANTED.

Entered this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2000.

  
JUDGE

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