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## **BofA settles class action overtime suit**

**Calif. loan workers said pay withheld; bank denies wrongdoing**

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Bloomberg News

Bank of America Corp., the second-largest U.S. bank, agreed to pay as much as \$9 million to settle a lawsuit brought by loan department workers in California who claimed they had wrongly been denied overtime pay.

The class action suit, filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, claimed the bank underpaid account executives, trainees and other workers selling home mortgages and personal loans. California's wage-and-hour laws required the bank to pay overtime to the loan sellers, who were paid solely through commissions, said their attorney Mark Thierman, of Reno, Nev.

"The bank didn't meet state or federal minimum wage laws," said Thierman.

The class action, or group lawsuit, is one of hundreds against banks, insurers and other companies in California seeking overtime and other pay to salaried and commissioned workers. Charlotte-based Bank of America denied any wrongdoing or liability, said spokeswoman Shirley Norton.

"Bank of America values its work force and believes it has treated its associates appropriately and in full accordance with applicable laws and continues to do so," Norton said.

Under the settlement, filed with the court Sept. 16, the bank will pay as much as \$6.68 million to the workers and as much as \$2.25 million to the workers' attorneys, depending on the number of claims made.