

MGM To Pay Up To \$800M To End Las Vegas Shooting Suits

By **Y. Peter Kang**

Law360 (October 3, 2019, 12:47 PM EDT) -- MGM Resorts International said Thursday it will pay up to \$800 million to settle lawsuits stemming from the 2017 mass shooting in Las Vegas that killed 58 people.

MGM, which owns the hotel where shooter Stephen Paddock launched his attack, said in a release that, depending on the number of claimants who participate in the deal, the total settlement amount is expected to be between \$735 million and \$800 million.

The settlement process is expected to be completed by the end of next year, the company said.

"Our goal has always been to resolve these matters so our community and the victims and their families can move forward in the healing process," MGM Resorts CEO Jim Murren said in a statement. "We have always believed that prolonged litigation around these matters is in no one's best interest. It is our sincere hope that this agreement means that scenario will be avoided."

One of the lead attorneys for the claimants, Robert Eglet of Eglet Prince, said the deal was fair.

"While nothing will be able to bring back the lives lost or undo the horrors so many suffered on that day, this settlement will provide fair compensation for thousands of victims and their families," he said in the statement. "We believe that the terms of this settlement represent the best outcome for our clients and will provide the greatest good for those impacted by these events."

The deal was reached after a long mediation process that started in February and spanned 27 days, according to one of the claimants' attorneys, Kevin R. Boyle of Panish Shea & Boyle LLP. The attorney told Law360 on Thursday that claimants have until February of next year to decide whether to opt out of the settlement, adding that he doesn't expect many to do so.

It will be up to a court-appointed special administrator to decide on the amount of payouts to victims and their families, according to Boyle.

Boyle said he and other attorneys represent 4,500 claimants who are suing over injuries and deaths suffered in the October 2017 massacre at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival.

The victims and their families had accused MGM's Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino of having lax security that allowed Paddock to open fire on concertgoers from his room on the 32nd floor of the hotel, among other claims. Paddock killed himself after the shooting.

Thursday's deal tracks closely with disclosures MGM made in a **May filing** with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, saying it anticipated a possible settlement of \$735 million to \$800 million.

MGM noted in the filing that its insurance carriers had already agreed to pay for the vast majority of the potential deal, up to \$751 million.

The claimants are represented by Mark P. Robinson and Daniel S. Robinson of Robinson Calcagnie

Inc., Robert T. Eglet and Robert M. Adams of Eglet Prince, Adam H. Braun and Joshua M. Moonesinghe of Braun & Braun LLP, Kevin R. Boyle of Panish Shea & Boyle LLP and Andrew A. August and Kevin F. Rooney of Browne George Ross LLP.

MGM is represented by Brad D. Brian, Michael R. Doyen, Bethany W. Kristovich and John M. Gildersleeve of Munger Tolles & Olson LLP.

The case is MGM Resorts International et al. v. David Aase et al., case number 2:18-cv-06113, in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

--Additional reporting by Diana Novak Jones. Editing by Marygrace Murphy.

Update: This story has been updated with additional information.