

Don'tSettleWithHonda.org

Because the class action settlement isn't good enough



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 28, 2011

CONTACT: Heather Peters
Info@DontSettleWithHonda.org

Viral Small Claims Case Could Sink 5 Class Action Settlements and Cost Honda \$2 Billion

Los Angeles, CA - Honda is on the brink of settling five class action lawsuits alleging false advertising of 50 MPG for its Civic Hybrids for pennies on the dollar, but one small claims case gone viral could change all of that and leave Honda facing liability of \$2 billion instead and defending itself in thousands of small claims courts across the nation.

A front page article in the Los Angeles Times used the term “a small-claims flash mob” to describe the filing of a single small claims case against Honda in Torrance, California together with the launch of www.dontsettlewithhonda.org and its associated [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) sites that teach 200,000 other disgruntled Civic Hybrid owners nationwide how to “just say no” to a \$100-\$200 proposed class action settlement (where lawyers get \$8.474 million) and take Honda to small claims court instead, where at least in California, lawyers are not allowed.

Heather Peters will have her day in small claims court on January 3rd and could win up to \$10,000 (the new 2012 California small claims limit) in damages including the “hybrid premium” she paid over the sticker price, her increased costs of gas due to getting just 30 MPG and the reduced resale value of her car. It may be the biggest little small claims case that Honda will ever face evidenced by the fact that the Associated Press is sending the same reporter who covered the trials of Conrad Murray, O.J. Simpson and Rodney King. Ms. Peters, a former corporate defense attorney, says:

“Class actions are great for little cases, but not for cases like this where Honda’s false advertising is costing already cash-strapped families more every day at the gas pump. It’s time for Honda to go one on one with its customers where they can’t hide behind high priced lawyers. I want people to know that small claims court is not so scary, it’s a lot like Judge Judy.”

It remains to be seen if the San Diego judge presiding over the five class action lawsuits against Honda for false advertising will approve the proposed settlement on March 16, 2012. A prior proposed settlement was rejected by the court when the Attorney Generals from twenty six states, including California, objected to it as unfair to consumers, and they may object again. Civic Hybrid owners have until February 11th to opt-out, or they can remain in the class and still object to the settlement.

Honda has attempted four different legal maneuvers to postpone the trial of Ms. Peters’ small claims case until after the deadline had passed for Hybrid owners to opt-out of the class action, but the small claims judge said “no” all four times and the trial will proceed as originally scheduled on January 3rd at 1:30 p.m. in Torrance Small Claims Court, Dept. 8, at 825 Maple Ave., Torrance, California. For more info about media access to the courtroom visit <http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/courtnews/ui/main.aspx>

###

www.DontSettleWithHonda.org

[@DontSettleWithH](https://twitter.com/DontSettleWithH)

[youtube.com//user/DontSettleWithHonda](https://youtube.com/user/DontSettleWithHonda)