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Wall Street's Projected Tab on Muni Price-Fixing Suits Expected to Plunge.

- **BI analyst Stein sees banks settling for about \$900 million**
- **Illinois settled near-decade of litigation on VRDO pricing**

Wall Street banks' potential bill to settle bond price-fixing lawsuits has been slashed, falling to around \$900 million from about \$2.5 billion penciled in just a month ago.

That's the thinking of Elliott Stein, senior litigation analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, after Illinois settled for \$68 million, roughly 20% of damages last month, likely setting a template for other settlements of the three remaining False Claims Act lawsuits.

Stein estimates that lawsuits in California, New Jersey and New York will cost the dozen banks involved — including Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. — around \$220 million in total. A class action case filed in New York with similar allegations could be resolved for as much as \$600 million. Before the Illinois settlement, Stein had estimated the tab on all five suits at \$2.5 billion.

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Bloomberg Markets

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August 10, 2023