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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR COUNTY OF CLARK

In re: Clark County, Data Security Litigation

Lead Case No. 25-2-02214-06

**PLAINTIFFS’ UNOPPOSED MOTION
FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Plaintiffs,¹ individually, and on behalf of the Settlement Class, and Class Counsel
3 respectfully move this Court for an order granting Final Approval of the class action Settlement
4 with Defendant Clark County. In support of this Motion, Plaintiffs rely on the Declaration of M.
5 Anderson Berry in Support of Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class
6 Settlement, which was previously filed with the Court ("Berry Decl."); the Declaration of
7 Stephanie Saunders, Esq. of Angeion Group, LLC re: Implementation of Notice & Settlement
8 Administration and its attachments ("Admin Decl."); Plaintiffs' Unopposed Motion for
9 Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and supporting documents; all other pleadings
10 and papers on file in this Action; and any oral argument that may be heard by this Court prior to
11 the Final Approval Hearing presently scheduled for September 30, 2026. In advance of the Final
12 Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs will respond to any untimely objections, provide the Court with
13 updated claims rate information, and submit a Proposed Final Order and Judgment.

14 The Court granted Preliminary Approval of the Settlement on May 27, 2026, which
15 provides for Defendant's payment of a non-reversionary Settlement Fund of \$800,000.00, and
16 substantial benefits to the Settlement Class, including cash payments of up to \$5,000.00 in
17 documented out-of-pocket losses incurred as a result of the Data Security Incident. If
18 Compensation for Out-of-Pocket Losses, Claims Administration Costs, Service Awards to Class
19 Representatives, and the award of attorney's fees and reimbursement of litigation expenses do not
20 exceed the \$800,000.00 Settlement Fund, all remaining funds will be distributed on a per class
21 member basis to all Class Members who submitted a Valid Claim for such Pro Rata Cash Fund
22 Payments. *Id.*

23 Notice was administrated by the Claims Administrator, Angeion Group LLC ("Angeion"),
24 as approved by the Court and reached approximately 87.5% of the Class: administration included
25

26 ¹ All capitalized terms herein shall have the same meanings as those defined in Section I of the Settlement Agreement
27 ("S.A."), submitted with Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval.

individual direct mailing, remailing of postcards returned undeliverable, maintenance of a Settlement Website, and availability of a toll-free telephone line. As of the date of this motion, only three individuals out of over 76,000 Settlement Class Members have requested to opt-out of the Settlement, and no Settlement Class Member has objected.

Accordingly, Plaintiffs request the Court finally approve the Parties' Settlement and enter an Order:

- (1) granting Final Approval of the Settlement;
- (2) granting final certification of the Settlement Class;
- (3) affirming appointment of James Reese, Jessica Hardwick, Melissa Parker, and Tanya Severson as Class Representatives;
- (4) affirming appointment of M. Anderson Berry of Emery Reddy PC as Class Counsel;
- (5) finding the Notice in this Action met the requirements of due process and CR 23(e);
- (6) finding the terms of the Settlement are fair, reasonable, and adequate;
- (7) overruling any objections;
- (8) approving and directing the Settling Parties, their respective attorneys, and the Claims Administrator to consummate the Settlement in accordance with the Proposed Final Approval Order and Judgment and the terms of the Settlement Agreement; and
- (9) dismissing and resolving all claims against all Parties in this Action and entering the Proposed Final Approval Order and Judgment.²

II. BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

This action arises from a data security incident that affected Defendant's computing and information system networks. Defendant is Clark County, a County in the State of Washington, which collects and retains various personally identifiable information ("PII") and protected health

² So that the Court has the most up-to-date information available on any late objections or opt-outs, Plaintiffs will submit a [Proposed] Final Approval Order and Judgment in advance of the Final Approval Hearing.

1 information (“PHI”) (collectively, the “Private Information”), of Plaintiffs and other current and
2 former residents.

3 On or about October 21, 2023, Defendant detected suspicious activity on its computing
4 network and determined some systems were encrypted by malware. A subsequent investigation
5 concluded that an unknown actor accessed Private Information from Defendant’s networks
6 between October 16, 2023 and October 21, 2023 (the “Data Incident” or “Data Security
7 Incident”).

8 As a result, the hackers potentially accessed the Private Information of approximately
9 76,315 individuals, including their: (a) names; (b) dates of birth; (c) Social Security numbers; (d)
10 medical information; (e) government-issued identification numbers; (f) financial account
11 information; (g) payment card information; and (h) health insurance information.

12 On September 8, 2025, Plaintiffs filed their Consolidated Class Action Complaint in Clark
13 County Superior Court entitled *In re: Clark County, Data Security Litigation*, Lead Case No. 25-
14 2-02214-06 (the “Litigation”), which is the operative Class Action Complaint (“Complaint”) for
15 this matter.

16 Defendant denies all claims of wrongdoing or liability that Plaintiffs assert in the
17 Complaint, and it contends that it has maintained, and continues to maintain, reasonable security
18 information practices. Nevertheless, the Parties agree that continuing to litigate would be time
19 consuming, burdensome, and expensive, and that it is therefore desirable to fully and finally settle
20 this Litigation in the manner and upon the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement. Following
21 the filing of the Complaint, the Parties began the exchange of informal discovery as they began
22 to negotiate the material terms of a settlement. On December 17, 2025, the Parties participated in
23 mediation with Hon. Ronald Leighton (Ret.) during which the general terms of a settlement were
24 negotiated and finalized to resolve the Litigation.

25 The Parties executed the Settlement Agreement on March 24, 2026. Plaintiffs filed their
26 Motion for Preliminary Approval on May 8, 2026, which the Court granted on May 27, 2026. In

1 The Preliminary Approval Order, the Court preliminarily certified the Settlement Class, finding
2 it meets all applicable requirements of CR 23 for settlement purposes only; approved the
3 appointment of Plaintiffs as Class Representatives; approved the appointment of M. Anderson
4 Berry of Emery Reddy, PC as Class Counsel; and preliminarily found the Settlement is fair,
5 reasonable, and adequate, was negotiated at arm's length between experienced attorneys with the
6 assistance of an experienced mediator, and warranted Notice of its material terms to the
7 Settlement Class Members for their consideration and reaction.

8 The material terms of the preliminarily approved Settlement Agreement are set forth
9 below.

10 **III. THE PRELIMINARY APPROVED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

11 **A. Definition of the Settlement Class**

12 The Settlement contemplates resolution of claims on behalf of a Settlement Class
13 collectively comprised of approximately 76,275 individuals. Admin Decl. 9. The proposed
14 Settlement Class is defined as "all individuals residing in the United States whose private
15 information was potentially or actually impacted by the Data Security Incident, including all those
16 who were sent notice of the Data Security Incident. Class Members specifically excludes all person
17 who are directors or officers of Clark, the Judge assigned to the Action, and that Judge's immediate
18 family and Court staff." S.A. ¶ 1.8.

19 **B. Settlement Fund**

20 The total Settlement Fund from which Settlement Class Members can claim cash payments
21 is \$800,000.00. S.A. ¶ 2.1.1. It will be used to pay: (i) Compensation for Out-of-Pocket Losses;
22 (ii) Costs of Claims Administration; (iii) service awards; (v) attorney's fees and litigation
23 expenses; and, if the foregoing does not exhaust the Settlement Fund, (vi) Pro Rata Cash Fund
24 Payments to Settlement Class Members who submit a Valid Claim for such benefits. *Id.*

1 **C. Settlement Class Member Benefits**

2 Class Members may submit Claims to the Claims Administrator for documented out-of-
3 pocket losses including, for example, unreimbursed losses relating to fraud or identity theft,
4 unreimbursed costs of credit monitoring incurred between the time of the Data Security Incident
5 and the time the claim is submitted, and unreimbursed bank fees, postage, or gasoline for travel up
6 to \$5,000 per individual, all of which must be fairly traceable to the Data Security Incident and
7 must not have been previously reimbursed by a third party. *Id.* ¶ 2.2.1.

8 Class Members seeking reimbursement for Out-of-Pocket Losses must complete and
9 submit a Claim Form, postmarked or submitted online or received on or before the Claims
10 Deadline. *Id.* ¶ 2.2.2. The Claim Form must be verified by the Class Member with a statement that
11 his or her claim is true and correct, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief. *Id.* Notarization
12 is not required. *Id.* Claims for Out-of-Pocket Losses must be attested to and supported by
13 documentation substantiating the full extent of the amount claimed. *Id.* Failure to provide such
14 supporting documentation shall result in denial of a claim. *Id.* In addition to the foregoing cash
15 payments, Defendant has provided Class Counsel reasonable confidential confirmatory discovery
16 (in the form of a Declaration) identifying the enhancements made, or being made, to protect Class
17 Members' information stored on Defendant's network, as well as the estimated cost of those
18 enhancements. *See id.* ¶ 2.4.

19 **D. Residual Funds**

20 Plaintiffs believe the \$800,000 Settlement Fund will be more than enough to accommodate
21 the amounts drawn from it but, in the unlikely event it is not, the total cost to Defendant will not
22 exceed \$800,000, and all claims drawn from it will be reduced *pro rata* and no additional monetary
23 benefits to be paid to any claimants. S.A. ¶ 2.3. If Compensation for Out-of-Pocket Losses, Claims
24 Administration Costs, Service Awards to Class Representatives, and the award of attorney's fees
25 and reimbursement of litigation expenses do not exceed the Settlement Fund, all remaining funds
26 will be distributed on a per class member basis, to all Class Members who submitted a Valid Claim

1 for such benefit. *Id.* As to any portion of the settlement fund that remains after all of the above
2 have been paid, the Parties shall meet and confer regarding the appropriate use of such residual
3 funds, including the possibility for using residual funds for additional cash benefits to the Class
4 Members or whether any such funds shall be paid to the Legal Foundation of Washington in
5 accordance with CR 23(f). *Id.*

6 **E. Releases**

7 Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Members who do not timely and validly opt-out of the
8 Settlement will be bound by the Settlement, including the Releases that discharge the Released
9 Claims against the Released Parties. S.A. ¶ 8.1. The Released Claims are narrowly tailored and are
10 only claims arising out of or relating to the Data Incident. *See id.* ¶ 1.25.

11 **F. Settlement Administration and Claim Process**

12 The Claims Administrator completed direct notice to the Settlement Class by Postcard
13 Notice, as prescribed. *See* Admin. Decl. ¶¶ 10–12. Defendant provided Angeion with the
14 Settlement Class List, which included information sufficient to reasonably identify 76,275
15 Settlement Class Members. *See id.* ¶¶ 11–12. Angeion mailed the Postcard Notice to these
16 Settlement Class Members, for whom an associated physical mailing address was available. *Id.* ¶
17 11. Postcard Notices returned as undeliverable were re-mailed to any new address available
18 through USPS information, or to better addresses that may have been found using a third-party
19 lookup service. *Id.* ¶ 12. Upon successfully locating better addresses, Postcard Notices are
20 remailed. *Id.* Angeion currently estimates that Postcard Notice was successfully delivered to 87.5%
21 of the 76,275 Settlement Class Members. Admin. ¶ 13. Angeion will provide a supplemental
22 declaration prior to Final Approval with additional details regarding the reach of the Notice
23 Program.

24 Angeion also established a Settlement Website that contains a summary of the Settlement,
25 important dates and deadlines, answers to frequently asked questions, information on how to
26 contact the Settlement Administrator, and downloadable versions of important documents,

1 including the Long Form Notice (in English and Spanish), Claim Form, the Settlement Agreement,
2 and Preliminary Approval Order. *Id.* ¶ 15. As of September 1, 2026, there have been 2,202 unique
3 visitor sessions to the Settlement Website, and 12,033 page views. *Id.* ¶ 17. Angeion also
4 established a toll-free telephone number for the Settlement that is accessible 24 hours a day, seven
5 days a week. *Id.* ¶ 19. As of September 1, 2026, there have been 741 calls to the toll-free telephone
6 number representing 3,366 minutes of use. *Id.* The Notice and Claim Form are accurate,
7 informative, neutral, and readable by the average person using plain, simple language. *See* S.A.,
8 Ex. A, B, D.

9 **G. Opt-Outs, Objections, and Claims**

10 Settlement Class Members had until August 25, 2026, to object to or submit a request to
11 opt-out of the Settlement. Admin Decl. ¶¶ 23, 24. As of September 1, 2026, 2026, the Claims
12 Administrator has received only three opt-outs and is not aware of any objections to the Settlement.
13 *Id.* The Claims Administrator has received 2,098 Claims as of September 1, 2026, and the Claim
14 Form Deadline is September 24, 2026—amounting to a 2.8% claims rate with weeks remaining in
15 the claims period. *Id.* ¶ 21. Since the Claim Form Deadline has not yet passed, these numbers are
16 preliminary and are subject to change. *Id.* These Claim Form submissions remain subject to final
17 audits, including the full assessment of each claim’s validity and a review for duplicate
18 submissions. *Id.* The Claims Administrator will continue to report to the Parties the number of
19 Claim Forms received and processed through the Claims Deadline. *Id.* ¶ 22. Class Counsel will
20 update the Court at the Final Approval Hearing with the total number of Claims filed.

21 **H. Service Awards and Attorneys’ Fees and Costs**

22 Class Counsel seek a Service Award in the amount of \$5,000.00 to each Class
23 Representative for their time and effort in coming forward to represent the interests of the
24 Settlement Class, and for an attorneys’ fees award to Class Counsel in the amount of \$266,666.67,
25 which is one-third of the Settlement Fund, plus reimbursement of costs. S.A. ¶¶ 9.1, 9.2. Any
26 approved awards will be deducted from the Settlement Fund. *Id.* The terms regarding the Service

Awards and attorneys' fees and costs were not negotiated until after the Parties agreed to the other material settlement terms. Berry Decl. ¶ 16. Settlement approval is not contingent on these awards. S.A. ¶ 9.4.

IV. THE SETTLEMENT CLASS SHOULD BE CERTIFIED

The Court's Preliminary Approval Order analyzed the requirements of CR 23(a) and (b), found the requirements were satisfied, and preliminarily certified the Settlement Class. Nothing has changed that would affect the Court's ruling on class certification. For the reasons stated in the Motion for Preliminary Approval and the Preliminary Approval Order, the Court's certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes should only be affirmed. *See Pickett v. Holland Am. Line-Westours, Inc.*, 145 Wn. 2d 178, 188-89 (2001).

V. THE SETTLEMENT MERITS FINAL APPROVAL

As a matter of "express public policy," Washington courts strongly favor and encourage settlements. *City of Seattle v. Blume*, 134 Wn.2d 243, 258 (1997). Civil Rule 23(e) provides that "[a] class action shall not be dismissed or compromised without approval of the court, and notice of the proposed dismissal or compromise shall be given to all members of the class in such manner as the court directs." Washington's class action rule is nearly identical to its federal counterpart prior to the 2018 amendments, and thus, federal cases interpreting Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 are highly persuasive here. *See Pickett*, 145 Wn. 2d at 188 (citing *Brown v. Brown*, 6 Wn. App. 249, 252 (1971)).

In determining whether to approve a class action Settlement under Civil Rule 23, a court's ultimate inquiry is whether the settlement is "fair, adequate, and reasonable." *Pickett*, 145 Wn. 2d at 188 (internal quotations and citation omitted). Although courts examine the settlement under several well-established criteria, the list is not exhaustive, and not all factors are relevant in each case. *Id.* Criteria that courts regularly consider include: the strength of plaintiffs' case; the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration of further litigation; the risk of maintaining class action status throughout the trial; the amount of discovery or evidence; the settlement terms and

1 conditions; the recommendation and experience of counsel; the recommendation of neutral parties,
2 if any; the number of objectors and nature of objections; and the presence of good faith and the
3 absence of collusion. *Pickett*, 145 Wn.2d at 188; *see also Offs. For Just. v. Civ. Serv. Comm'n of*
4 *S.F.*, 688 F.2d 615, 628 (9th Cir. 1982). The degree of importance attached to any particular factor
5 depends on the court's view of the nature of the claims advanced, the types of relief sought, and
6 the unique facts and circumstances presented by each individual case. *Id.* at 628.

7 A court is expected to limit its "intrusion upon what is otherwise a private consensual
8 agreement negotiated between parties to a lawsuit" and tailor its evaluation to effectuate the
9 objective of determining that "the agreement is not the product of fraud or overreaching by, or
10 collusion between, the negotiating parties and that the settlement, taken as a whole, is fair,
11 reasonable and adequate to all concerned." *Pickett*, 145 Wn.2d at 188 (quoting *Offs. For Just.*, 688
12 F.2d at 628). Moreover, as the court in *Pickett* observed, "it must not be overlooked that voluntary
13 conciliation and settlement are the preferred means of dispute resolution." *Id.* at 189 (quoting *Offs.*
14 *For Just.*, 688 F.2d at 625).

15 Examination of the Settlement pursuant to various criteria used by the *Pickett* Court and
16 others demonstrates that the Settlement Agreement here is fair, adequate, and reasonable, and the
17 Court should finally approve it.

18 **A. The Settlement Provides Substantial Relief to the Settlement Class**

19 The Settlement provides substantial monetary relief and non-monetary relief to Settlement
20 Class Members affected by the Data Incident. Settlement Class Members may make claims for up
21 to \$5,000 in Out-of-Pocket Losses and are entitled to receive an additional Pro Rata Cash Fund
22 Payment. S.A. ¶¶ 2.2.1, 2.2.3. Moreover, the Settlement guarantees the Settlement Class Members
23 non-monetary relief in the form of remedial measures Defendant has taken to enhance the security
24 deployed to secure access to its data network. *Id.* ¶ 2.4.

25 This is real relief for Settlement Class Members, in a case where prevailing on the merits
26 is uncertain. *See Berry Decl.* ¶ 9. While Plaintiffs strongly believe in the merits of this case, they

1 also understand that continuing the litigation would involve engaging in extensive and time-
2 consuming discovery; negotiating and obtaining an ESI protocol and protective order; preparing a
3 summary judgment motion; moving for class certification; trial; and almost certainly appeals. *Id.*
4 Due at least in part to their cutting-edge nature and the rapidly evolving law, data breach cases
5 generally face substantial hurdles—even to make it past the pleading stage. *See Hammond v. Bank*
6 *of N.Y. Mellon Corp.*, No. 08 Civ. 6060(RMB)(RLE), 2010 WL 2643307, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. June
7 25, 2010) (collecting data breach cases dismissed at Rule 12(b)(6) or Rule 57 stage). Class
8 certification is another hurdle that would have to be met—and one that has been denied in other
9 data breach cases. *See, e.g., In re Hannaford Bros. Co. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, 293
10 F.R.D. 21 (D. Me. 2013).

11 Additionally, Defendant will assert a number of potentially case-dispositive defenses, only
12 increasing Plaintiffs’ risk of further protracted, expensive litigation. Data breach cases of
13 widespread notoriety and implicating sensitive data have been found wanting at the state or federal
14 court level. *See, e.g., In re U.S. Office of Pers. Mgmt. Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, 266 F. Supp. 3d 1,
15 19 (D.D.C. 2017) (“The Court is not persuaded that the factual allegations in the complaints are
16 sufficient to establish . . . standing.”), *rev’d in part* by 928 F.3d 42 (D.C. Cir. 2019). Moreover,
17 these cases can take years to litigate to final resolution.

18 Proving damages is another hurdle Plaintiffs would have to overcome in this case. The
19 damages methodologies in data breach litigation remain unproven in a disputed class certification
20 setting and untested in front of a jury. *Cf. Nunley v. Chelan-Douglas Health Dist.*, 32 Wn. App. 2d
21 700, 725 (2024) (“The loss in value of their PII and PHI is a current harm and a cognizable injury
22 sufficient to support a cause of action for negligence. Whether and how the Plaintiffs can prove
23 such damages is not a question before us.”). Given the uncertainty of establishing damages in a
24 data breach class action, settlement is the more practical course of action, if a reasonable one can
25 be reached. *See, e.g., McGlenn v. Driveline Retail Merch., Inc.*, No. 18-CV-2097, 2021 WL
26

1 165121, at *10 (C.D. Ill. Jan. 19, 2021) (holding that causation was not met for class certification
2 purposes in a data security breach case).

3 Plaintiffs are confident of the merits of their claims, but their success in continued litigation
4 is far from certain. Through the Settlement, Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class members gain
5 significant benefits without having to face the risk of not receiving any relief at all.

6 **B. The Duration, Expense, Risk, and Complexity of Further Litigation Weighs in**
7 **Favor of Final Approval**

8 Another factor for the Court to consider is the expense and likely duration of the litigation
9 had the settlement not been reached. *Pickett*, 145 Wn.2d at 188; *Offs. For Just.*, 688 F.2d at 625.
10 Here, the costs, risks, and delay of continued litigation weigh in favor of Settlement approval. The
11 challenges of prevailing on the merits are uncertain—especially where serious questions of law
12 and fact exist, which is common in data security litigation. “Data breach litigation is evolving;
13 there is no guarantee of the ultimate result.” *Fox v. Iowa Health Sys.*, No. 3:18-CV-00327-JDP,
14 2021 WL 826741, at *5 (W.D. Wis. Mar. 4, 2021) (“Data breach cases . . . are particularly risky,
15 expensive, and complex.” (quoting *Gordon v. Chipotle Mexican Grill, Inc.*, No. 17-cv-01415-
16 CMA-SKC, 2019 WL 6972701, at *1 (D. Colo. Dec. 16, 2019))). Although nearly all class actions
17 involve a high level of risk, expense, and complexity, this is a particularly complex class action.
18 The rapid evolution of case law in this area of law makes outcomes uncertain, the expense of such
19 litigation high, and settlement the more sensible course of action.

20 The risks discussed above should not be disregarded. Aside from the potential that either
21 side will lose at trial, Plaintiffs anticipate incurring substantial additional costs in pursuing this
22 litigation further. Should litigation continue, Plaintiffs would need to engage in extensive and time-
23 consuming discovery, prepare a summary judgment motion, move for class certification, win a
24 trial, and deal with appeals. *See Berry Decl.* ¶ 9. The level of additional costs would significantly
25 increase as Plaintiffs began preparation for the certification argument and if successful, a near
26 inevitable interlocutory appeal attempt. Trial is also inherently risky and expensive. As is apparent

1 due to the nature of the litigation, and as at least one court has expressly opined, because the “legal
2 issues involved in [data breach litigation] are cutting-edge and unsettled . . . many resources would
3 necessarily be spent litigating substantive law as well as other issues.” *In re Target Corp. Customer*
4 *Data Sec. Breach Litig.*, MDL No. 14-2522 (PAM/JJK), 2015 WL 7253765, at *2 (D. Minn. Nov.
5 17, 2015), *rev’d on other grounds*, 847 F.3d 608 (8th Cir. 2017).

6 **C. The Settlement is the Result of Good Faith, Arm’s-Length Negotiations**
7 **Between Experienced Counsel with the Assistance of a Neutral Mediator.**

8 In determining the fairness of a settlement, courts consider the presence of good faith and
9 the absence of collusion on the part of the parties to it. *Pickett*, 145 Wn.2d at 201.

10 Courts recognize that arm’s-length negotiations conducted by competent counsel is *prima*
11 *facie* evidence of fair settlements. A court’s role is to ensure “the agreement is not the product of
12 fraud or overreaching by, or collusion between, the negotiating parties, and that the settlement,
13 taken as a whole, is fair, reasonable and adequate to all concerned.” *Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150
14 F.3d 1011, 1027 (9th Cir. 1998) (internal quotations and citation omitted). “A presumption of
15 correctness is said to attach to a class settlement reached in arms-length negotiations between
16 experienced capable counsel after meaningful discovery.” *Hughes v. Microsoft Corp.*, No. C98-
17 1646C, 2001 WL 34089697, at *7 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 26, 2001) (internal quotations omitted) (citing
18 Manual for Complex Litigation (Third) § 30.42 (1995)). “When experienced and skilled class
19 counsel support a settlement, their views are given great weight.” *Pickett*, 145 Wn.2d at 200 (citing
20 *Reed v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 703 F.2d 170, 175 (5th Cir. 1983)).

21 Here, the Settlement was the result of intensive, arm’s-length, and non-collusive
22 negotiations between highly qualified attorneys who are experienced in class action litigation and
23 data breach litigation in particular. *See* Berry Decl. ¶¶ 6–7, 9, 12–13. Class Counsel is acutely
24 aware of the legal and factual issues and defenses in this case. Indeed, Class Counsel is
25 exceptionally experienced in the litigation, certification, settlement, and claims processing of data
26 breach class actions, and in trial generally. *See id.* ¶¶ 6–7. The Settling Parties reached an

1 agreement only after agreeing to exchange informal discovery related to the timing, nature, causes,
2 and scope of the Data Incident. *See id.* ¶¶ 12–13 The Settling Parties engaged an experienced
3 mediator, Hon. Ronald B. Leighton (Ret.) of Washington Arbitration & Mediation Service, to
4 mediate the case. *See id.* ¶ 12. While the negotiations were collegial and professional, they were
5 adversarial in nature, with the Parties forcefully advocating their positions. After extensive, hard-
6 fought negotiations, the Parties reached an agreement to resolve the claims asserted against
7 Defendant on a class-wide basis that—if finally approved—will provide outstanding relief for the
8 Settlement Class. *See id.* ¶ 13.

9 The arm’s-length nature of the settlement negotiations and the involvement of an
10 experienced mediator evidence that the Settlement was reached free of collusion. *See Sandoval v.*
11 *Tharaldson Employee Mgmt, Inc.*, No. EDCV 08-482-VAP (OPx), 2010 WL 2486346, at *6 (C.D.
12 Cal. June 15, 2010) (granting final approval; “[t]he assistance of an experienced mediator in the
13 settlement process confirms that the settlement is non-collusive.” (internal quotations and citation
14 omitted)).

15 **D. The Lack of Objections and Exclusions Demonstrate Class Support for the**
16 **Settlement**

17 In assessing a class action settlement, courts consider the reaction of Settlement Class
18 Members, specifically the number and substance of objections made. *See Pickett*, 145 Wn.2d at
19 188. Here, direct notice reached 87.5% of Settlement Class Members. Admin. Decl. ¶ 13. The
20 Settlement website has been available to the public since June 26, 2026, and mailed Notice was
21 first sent on April 30, 2026. *See id.* ¶¶ 10, 15. The deadline to submit a request for exclusion or
22 objection was August 25, 2026. *See id.* ¶¶ 23, 24. As of September 1, 2026, only three opt-outs
23 and zero objections to the Settlement have been received by the Claims Administrator. *See id.*

24 Courts will regularly grant final approval of settlements even where there are objectors.
25 *Pickett*, 145 Wn.2d at 201 (citing court cases approving settlement for class of 5,683 where 370
26 objected, affirming approval of settlement where one class member out of 11 objected). Here, the
27 fact that there are (so far) zero properly-submitted objections and only three requested opt-outs is

1 a testament to the strength of the Settlement and approval of the Class. Plaintiffs will submit a
2 response to any untimely objections before the Final Approval Hearing.

3 **CONCLUSION**

4 For all the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant final
5 approval of the Settlement.

6 DATED this 4th day of September 2026.

7 **EMERY REDDY, PC**

8 By: /s/ M. Anderson Berry
9 M. Anderson Berry, WSBA No. 63160
10 Brook E. Garberding, WSBA No. 37140
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21 *Class Counsel*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 4th day of September 2026, I caused to be served in the manner indicated below, a true and accurate copy of the foregoing by the method indicated below and addressed to the following:

Nicholas Larson, WSBA No. 46034 MURPHY PEARSON BRADLEY & FEENY, P.C. 520 Pike Street, Suite 1205 Seattle, WA 98101 nlarson@MPBF.com <i>Counsel for Defendant</i>	Sent via EMAIL ONLY
Amanda N. Harvey Jacob H. Lisogorsky MULLEN COUGHLIN, LLC 1452 Hughes Road, Suite 200 Grapevine, TX 76051 aharvey@mullen.law jlisogorsky@mullen.law Tel: (267) 930-1697 <i>Counsel for Defendant</i>	Sent via EMAIL ONLY

DATED this 4th day of September, 2026.



Bianca E. Marentes, Paralegal