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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Certified Class*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

CAT BROOKS and RASHEED SHABAZZ,  
individually and on behalf of all others  
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THOMSON REUTERS CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:21-cv-01418-EMC-KAW

**JOINT STATUS REPORT  
REGARDING SETTLEMENT  
ADMINISTRATION**

Judge: Hon. Edward M. Chen

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 16-10(c), the parties respectfully submit a status report on settlement administration supported by a declaration of the settlement administrator, Angeion Group (Steve Weisbrot).

There is no upcoming status conference on the Court's calendar for this case, but the parties are available to appear at the Court's convenience if the Court has questions before the claims period expires on December 27, 2024, or before the final approval hearing on February 13, 2025.<sup>1</sup>

### Status Report

**Background.** The Court granted preliminary approval of a class action settlement in this case on October 11, 2024. ECF No. 259. The Court set a deadline of December 6, 2024 for putative class members to submit a claim, opt out, or object. The Court later extended the deadline for class members to submit a claim to December 27, 2024, per the parties' request to allow more time to stimulate claims. ECF No. 268.

**Status of claims, opt outs, and objections.** As of December 16, the settlement administrator can report the following estimates:

<b>Claims received</b>	709,785 (709,320 electronic, 465 paper)
<b>Claims likely to be validated for approval</b>	125,000 – 150,000
<b>Claims blocked as submitted by software applications (bots)</b>	21.6 million
<b>Opt outs received by deadline</b>	60 (59 electronic, 1 paper)
<b>Opt outs received after deadline</b>	0
<b>Objections by deadline</b>	0
<b>Objections after the deadline</b>	0

Based on these figures, the settlement administrator reports a claims rate of **0.313%** - **0.375%** and a dollar recovery per participating class member of **\$129.13 - \$154.96**. This claims

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the parties can be available any day this week but would appreciate receiving permission to appear by Zoom. The parties can confirm their availability by e-mail, if helpful.

rate is lower than the claims rate of 1%-2.5% that was forecast at preliminary approval, which reflected a dollar recovery per participating class member of \$19.43-48.78. ECF No. 250 at 2.

Class counsel and the settlement administrator have been closely monitoring the claims data. Two weeks before the original claim submission deadline of December 6, approximately 400,000 claims had been received, at a steady rate of about 100,000 claims per week. On November 22, the settlement administrator reported to class counsel on their weekly status call that its attempt to validate these submissions had unexpectedly uncovered an unusually large number of suspicious submissions – approximately 330,000 – that would likely not be accepted for payment. These submissions were initially believed to be valid as they had made it past multi-factor fraud-detection screening. Based on additional manual review, the settlement administrator significantly revised its reporting, and the parties sought an extension of the claims period, adding four more weeks to the seven weeks previously allotted for putative class members to submit claims.

**Steps taken to stimulate claims.** The settlement administrator and class counsel have taken multiple steps to stimulate claims. Before November 22 and thereafter, consistent with the plan approved at the preliminary approval stage, the settlement administrator ran digital advertisements across social media platforms and the Google Display Network, delivering more than 73 million impressions and reaching an estimated 78.95% of potential class members. The settlement administrator also issued print notice in *USA Today's* California regional circulation, and used sponsored search listings on Google to drive class members to the settlement website. Class counsel promoted the settlement on the law firm's social networks, issued a press release, and sought interviews with news outlets to promote participation in the settlement. Several news outlets reported on the settlement.<sup>2</sup>

After November 22, the settlement administrator updated the advertisements to include the \$19-48 class members could expect to receive, ran additional social media advertisements targeted towards the most successful prior placements, incorporated a sponsored listing and

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<sup>2</sup> E.g., SF Gate: [tinyurl.com/57bn755b](https://www.tinyurl.com/57bn755b); Kron4: [tinyurl.com/ms4pw6k9](https://www.tinyurl.com/ms4pw6k9); Fox5 San Diego: [tinyurl.com/2hv7zejj](https://www.tinyurl.com/2hv7zejj); KTVU2 San Francisco: [tinyurl.com/yc24bhz6](https://www.tinyurl.com/yc24bhz6).

newsletter placement in *TopClassActions*, hired a popular social media influencer to publicize the settlement on TikTok and Instagram,<sup>3</sup> and made repeated personal outreach to widely circulated legacy media publications to cover the settlement. Class counsel also released additional press releases and continued their outreach through media and their networks.

Following these additional efforts, the settlement administrator reported receiving an additional 274,000 claims. On December 13, however, the settlement administrator reported to class counsel that more than 220,000 of those 274,000 claims were flagged as suspicious, while the remainder appeared valid. So, as of December 13, the total number of claims likely to be accepted as valid ranges from 125,000 to 150,000. This reflects an anticipated claims rate of **0.313% - 0.375%**, and a dollar recovery per participating class member of **\$129.13 - \$154.96**.

Through the December 27 deadline to submit a claim, the settlement administrator will continue to run advertisements online reminding putative class members of the upcoming deadline. It will also adjust the advertisements to feature only an estimated payment of \$48, which is the top end of the \$19-\$48 range previously approved for class notice. The settlement administrator expects that final costs for class notice, claims processing and distribution will be approximately \$545,000. This is slightly higher than the \$484,119 amount estimated at preliminary approval, but accounts for the extended claims period and claims stimulation efforts. *See* ECF No. 250 at 7.

**The settlement continues to merit final approval.** Along with this status report, the settlement administrator is submitting a declaration attesting that a substantial portion of the settlement class were likely exposed to the multi-faceted notice program. Decl. of Steven Weisbrot of Angeion Group re: Status of Claims Filing (“Weisbrot Decl.”) at ¶¶ 4-7 (explaining that the notice program reached more than 78% of the class before December 6). It also attests that additional ad campaigns, beyond those already contemplated, are unlikely to

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<sup>3</sup> Instagram and TikTok are redirecting shortened URLs. The TikTok post is available at <https://www.tiktok.com/@thelawyerangela/video/7446593635375648042>, and the Instagram post is available at <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDYZVkJAuZqt/?igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>.

1 meaningfully change the claims rate. *Id.* at ¶ 11. This information (and more) will also be  
2 submitted in conjunction with final approval, but it is being offered now to assist the Court's  
3 review of the status of settlement administration.

4 Courts in this District have granted final approval to settlements with low claims rates  
5 where, as here, class notice is adequate, and there are other indications, such as a small number  
6 of objections or opts, that the class largely supports the settlement. *In re Carrier IQ, Inc.,*  
7 *Consumer Priv. Litig.*, No. 12-MD-02330-EMC, 2016 WL 4474366, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 25, 2016)  
8 (0.14% claims rate); *see also LaGorden v. Support.com, Inc.*, No. C 12-0609 JSC, 2013 WL 1283325,  
9 at \*6 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 26, 2013) (0.17% claims rate); *In re Apple iPhone 4 Prods. Liab. Litig.*, No. 5:10-  
10 md-2188 RMW, 2012 WL 3283432, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 10, 2012) (0.16% to 0.28% claims rate).  
11 For these and other reasons, the settlement in this case continues to merit final approval.

12 The parties are available for a status conference at the Court's convenience if the Court  
13 has questions before the claims period expires on December 27, 2024, or before the final  
14 approval hearing on February 13, 2025.

1 DATED: December 17, 2024

**GIBBS LAW GROUP LLP**

2  
3 Respectfully submitted,

4  
5 /s/ Andre M. Mura

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18 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Certified Class*

DATED: December 17, 2024

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*Attorneys for Defendant*  
*Thomson Reuters Corporation*

**ATTESTATION**

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I attest that concurrence in the filing of this document has been obtained from the other signatory.

/s/ Andre M. Mura



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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

CAT BROOKS and RASHEED  
SHABAZZ, individually and on behalf of  
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THOMSON REUTERS CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:21-cv-01418-EMC-KAW

**DECLARATION OF STEVEN WEISBROT  
OF ANGEION GROUP  
RE: STATUS OF CLAIMS FILING**

1 I, Steven Weisbrot, declare and state as follows:

2 1. I am the President and Chief Executive Officer at the class action notice and claims  
3 administration firm Angeion Group, LLC (“Angeion”). Angeion specializes in designing,  
4 developing, analyzing, and implementing large-scale, un-biased, legal notification plans.

5 2. My credentials were provided in my previous declaration describing the Notice Plan  
6 (“Notice Plan Declaration”) (Dkt. No. 241-2).

7 3. The purpose of this declaration is to provide the Court with an update on the status of  
8 claims filing in relation to this Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action  
9 Settlement (Dkt. No. 259) (“Order”) and the Class Action Settlement Agreement (Dkt. No. 241-1)  
10 (“Agreement”).

11 **CLASS NOTICE**

12 4. Following the Court’s Order granting Preliminary Approval (Dkt. No. 259), Angeion  
13 implemented the Court-approved Notice Plan consistent with my Notice Plan Declaration (Dkt. No.  
14 241-2). That Notice Plan, which is extensively laid out in my Notice Plan Declaration, provided a  
15 comprehensive state-of-the-art multi-faceted media campaign that delivered an approximate 78.95%  
16 reach and over 73 million impressions, and included the implementation of a dedicated Settlement  
17 Website and toll-free telephone line where Settlement Class Members were able to learn more about  
18 their rights and options pursuant to the terms of the Settlement. The Notice Plan also incorporated  
19 print publication in *USA Today*’s California regional publication. The reach percentage is calculated  
20 using objective syndicated advertising data relied upon by most advertising agencies and brand  
21 advertisers. It is further verified by sophisticated media software and calculation engines that cross  
22 reference which media is being purchased with the media habits of our specific Target Audience. In  
23 practice, this means that approximately 78.95% of our Target Audience saw an advertisement  
24 concerning the settlement an average of 3.20 times each.

25 5. The Federal Judicial Center states that a publication notice plan that reaches 70% of  
26 class members is one that reaches a “high percentage” and is within the “norm.” Barbara J. Rothstein  
27  
28

1 & Thomas E. Willging, Federal Judicial Center, “Managing Class Action Litigation: A Pocket Guide  
2 or Judges”, at 27 (3d Ed. 2010).

3 6. Here, Angeion utilized Programmatic Display Advertising, which is the leading  
4 method of buying digital advertisements in the United States. Angeion also utilized a social media  
5 campaign simultaneous to the programmatic internet advertising, further qualifying and delivering  
6 impressions to the Settlement Class Members on both Facebook and Instagram. Finally, Angeion  
7 included paid search on Google to help drive Settlement Class Members actively looking for  
8 information about the Settlement to the dedicated Settlement Website. Additional information about  
9 each of these channels is available in my Notice Plan Declaration. Dkt. No. 241-2.

10 7. In my professional opinion, this Notice Plan, as implemented prior to the original  
11 December 6, 2024 claims filing deadline, provided full and proper notice to Settlement Class  
12 Members and is the best practicable notice under the circumstances, fulfilling all due process  
13 requirements, fully comporting with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, and the Northern District’s Procedural  
14 Guidance for Class Action Settlements.

### 15 **CLAIMS FILING**

16 8. As part of the claims process, Angeion has reviewed claims submissions for  
17 validation and to detect fraud. On or about November 15, 2024, Angeion identified a significant  
18 volume of claims filing attempts on the Settlement Website that appeared to overwhelmingly  
19 emanate from bad actors posing as legitimate claimants. Angeion investigated those filings, a process  
20 which took about one week. Angeion believes these claims primarily were filed via bots or originated  
21 from other fraudulent claims filing operanti recognizable to Angeion. Importantly, a significant  
22 number of these claims were thwarted during the attempt process as a result of AngeionAffirm  
23 (described in my Notice Plan Dkt. No. 241-2), however certain of these bad actors were able to  
24 modify their fraudulent submission practices in an effort to bypass Angeion’s fraud suppression  
25 tools. As a result, at that point in time, Angeion identified approximately 346,000 claims that were  
26 suspicious and needed further manual review, and notified class counsel of the same on November  
27 22, 2024.

9. While fraud review is ongoing, and the claims period is still open until December 27, 2024 (Dkt. No. 268), the following table reflects the status of claims administration as of December 16, 2024.

<b>Claims received</b>	709,785 (709,320 electronic, 465 paper)
<b>Claims likely to be validated for approval</b>	125,000 – 150,000
<b>Claims blocked as submitted by software applications (bots)</b>	21.6 million
<b>Opt outs received by deadline</b>	60 (59 electronic, 1 paper)
<b>Opt outs received after deadline</b>	0
<b>Objections by deadline</b>	0
<b>Objections after the deadline</b>	0

10. These figures yield a claims rate of approximately 0.313% - 0.375% and an estimated per-claimant recovery of \$129.13 - \$154.96 for each participating claimant.

#### **ADDITIONAL CLAIMS STIMULATION EFFORTS**

11. Angeion has worked closely with class counsel and has undertaken numerous efforts to stimulate claims. Angeion highlights those efforts below, and can provide true and correct copies of any advertisements, press release, or other materials if the Court requests. In Angeion's opinion, additional ad campaigns, beyond those already contemplated, are unlikely to meaningfully change the response rate to the advertisements.

#### **Sponsored Class Action Website Listing**

12. On or about November 25, 2024, Angeion caused a listing to be posted on a leading class action settlement website, [www.topclassactions.com](http://www.topclassactions.com). Angeion also caused the Settlement to be listed in two email newsletters distributed by Top Class Actions (November 29, 2024 and December 3, 2024).

#### **Social Media Advertising**

13. On December 3, 2024, Angeion implemented additional social media notice via social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, and X. The notice has been changed since inception to alert Settlement class members to the upcoming deadline. It has been my experience that stressing an

1 impending deadline in class action advertising copy augments claim filing. Moreover, we examined  
2 the strategies which had proven most efficacious in the original social media campaign and used  
3 those avenues as guideposts for the supplemental campaign.

#### 4 **Paid Search Campaign**

5 14. On or about December 3, 2024, Angeion commenced an additional paid search  
6 campaign via Google. The paid search campaign complemented the social media claims stimulation  
7 package by driving Settlement class members who were actively searching for information about the  
8 Settlement to the dedicated Settlement website.

#### 9 **Press Release**

10 15. On December 9, 2024, Angeion caused a press release announcing the Settlement and  
11 the updated claims filing deadline to be distributed over PR Newswire to further spread news of the  
12 settlement. The release was posted by approximately 333 media outlets with a total combined  
13 potential audience of 152 million visitors.

#### 14 **Legal Influencer**

15 16. On December 9, 2024, Angeion caused a social media video advertisement to be  
16 distributed by The Lawyer Angela, a social media legal influencer, via TikTok and Instagram, to  
17 further stimulate claims. As of December 16, 2024, this video has had approximately 629,000 views  
18 across these platforms.

#### 19 **Final efforts**

20 17. The efforts just discussed exceed customary notice efforts deployed in similar  
21 matters. These efforts took advantage of the latest contemporary media realities, applied additional  
22 efforts in those areas that had previously proven successful, and focused on all aspects of the  
23 traditional marketing funnel, from awareness through conversion. In short, the integrated media  
24 campaign exceeded the notice program approved by this Court.

25 18. Angeion will continue social media advertising through December 27, reminding  
26 putative class members of the upcoming deadline. Angeion had previously used banner ads that  
27 informed class members that they could expect between \$19-\$48. For the continuing social media  
28

1 advertising, Angeion will use similar banner ad language that mentions only the top end of the range,  
2 \$48, an exemplar copy of which is attached as **Exhibit A**.

### 3 **FRAUD DETECTION**

4 19. On December 13, 2024, after discussing with counsel, Angeion implemented a  
5 requirement for all payment methods to verify their selection via SMS (short message service) (i.e.  
6 text message via one-time password), rather than offering the option of email verification *or* SMS.  
7 This change was put into place to help verify that the claims being filed are being submitted by a  
8 human, rather than a bot (i.e. fraudulent). As described above, this particular Settlement has been  
9 targeted by a large volume of bad actors posing as legitimate filers, thus this change was  
10 recommended to help prevent these fraudulent claimants from submitting claims illegitimately.

11 20. Angeion is also continuing our manual and programmatic claims review processes to  
12 thwart any illegitimate claims that were previously filed, and to ensure that current and future claims  
13 are legitimate. Angeion will provide class counsel with final claims rate information in time for its  
14 inclusion in the motion for final approval due on January 9, 2025.

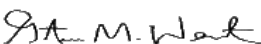
15 21. Following the claims stimulation efforts described above, Angeion received an  
16 additional 274,000 claims as of December 13, 2024. However, based on initial fraud review, more  
17 than 220,000 of these claims are flagged as suspicious (with the remainder preliminarily appearing  
18 valid).

### 19 **COSTS**

20 22. As of November 30, 2024, Angeion has incurred \$379,444.65 to notify the class and  
21 administer the settlement. All of Angeion's costs to date will be submitted to the Court in connection  
22 with Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval on January 9, 2025. Angeion estimates that the final costs  
23 for class notice, along with claims processing and distribution, will be approximately \$545,000. This  
24 is slightly higher than the \$484,119 amount estimated at preliminary approval, but accounts for the  
25 extended claims period and claims stimulation efforts.

26  
27 I hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.  
28

1 Dated: December 16, 2024

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3 STEVEN WEISBROT  
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# **Exhibit**

# **A**



ONE WEEK LEFT to get an estimated \$48 from the Thomson Reuters Privacy Settlement if you lived in California anytime from Dec. 3, 2016 to Oct. 31, 2024



**Live in California?**  
**Get \$48 \***

**1 WEEK LEFT**  
**Class Action Settlement**



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**Thomson Reuters CLEAR**  
**Privacy Settlement**

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