

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CIVIL MINUTES - GENERAL

Case No.	SACV 15-1592 AG (DFMx)	Date	February 10, 2016
Title	IN RE EXPERIAN DATA BREACH LITIGATION		

Present: The Honorable	ANDREW J. GUILFORD
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Lisa Bredahl

Not Present

Deputy Clerk

Court Reporter / Recorder

Tape No.

Attorneys Present for Plaintiffs:

Attorneys Present for Defendants:

Proceedings: [IN CHAMBERS] ORDER APPOINTING INTERIM CO-LEAD COUNSEL AND PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE

In mid-December 2015, the Court granted a Motion to Consolidate 32 class action cases arising from an alleged data breach of T-Mobile customers whose personal information was passed on to Defendant Experian Information Solutions. (Dkt. No. 60.) Since issuing that Order, the number of cases has grown even larger. Also in mid-December, the Court issued an Order setting a briefing schedule for Applications for Lead Counsel. (Dkt. No. 62.)

Before appointing Interim Lead Counsel, the Court must consider (1) the work counsel has done in identifying or investigating potential claims in the action, (2) counsel's experience in handling class actions, other complex litigation, and the types of claims asserted in the action, (3) counsel's knowledge of applicable law, and (4) the resources that counsel will commit to representing the class. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g). The Court may also consider "any other matter pertinent to counsel's ability to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class." *Id.* In the Court's December 18, 2015 Order, the Court noted that it would also consider the counsel's (1) willingness and ability to commit to a time-consuming process, (2) ability to work cooperatively with others, (3) professional experience in this type of litigation, and (4) access to sufficient resources to advance the litigation in a timely manner. (Dkt. No. 62 at 1.)

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In response to the Court's Order, the Court received many outstanding applications for Lead Counsel. After thoroughly reviewing the Applications and supporting materials, and after an extensive hearing, the Court finds that Tina Wolfson of Ahdoot & Wolfson, PC and Daniel S. Robinson of Robinson Calcagnie Robinson Shapiro Davis, Inc. are best qualified to serve the proposed Class as Interim Co-Lead Counsel. The Court is especially encouraged by the high level of support for the Application of Wolfson and Robinson among other lawyers and Plaintiffs in these consolidated actions.

The Court also finds that the interests of the proposed Class are best served by appointing a Plaintiffs' Steering Committee. The Court finds that the attorneys in the law firms of Berger & Montague PC; Girard Gibbs LLP; Keller Rohrback LLP; Zimmerman Reed; Locks Law Firm; and Feinstein, Doyle, Payne & Kravec, LLC, are best qualified to serve on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee. The Court's selection is based on the lawyer's demonstrated ability to collaborate with one another and on an independent review of their Applications.

The Court expects that the Interim Co-Lead Counsel and members of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee will work with the many other excellent attorneys in this case. The Court was especially impressed by the counsel who appeared and spoke at the hearing for this Order, including Ariana J. Tadler, Stephen Bassar, Nicholsa Koluncich, and Wylie Aitken and other attorneys from Aitken Aitken and Cohn.

The Court looks forward to seeing the Interim Co-Lead Counsel and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee at the Status Conference **on February 29, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.** The Agenda for that Conference is outlined in our December 18, 2015 Order. (Dkt. No. 62.)

DISPOSITION

The Court therefore GRANTS the Application of Wolfson and Robinson, which includes their recommended appointments to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee. (Dkt. No. 92.) The Court DENIES the remaining Applications.

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Initials of Preparer lmb
