

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

BRADLEY MEEHAN and CESAR E.  
CORVERA SANTAMARIA, on behalf of  
themselves and those similarly situated,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

ROADMASTER DRIVERS SCHOOL,  
INC.,

*Defendant*

C.A. NO. 5:22-CV-04299

Honorable John M. Gallagher

**PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR A SERVICE AWARD TO PLAINTIFF AND FOR AN  
AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES, AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES TO  
CLASS COUNSEL**

NOW COME Plaintiffs Bradley Meehan and Cesar E. Corvera Santamaria, by the undersigned counsel, and move this Honorable Court to enter the proposed Order for a service award and for an award of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the parties' settlement agreement. In support whereof, Plaintiff relies upon the contemporaneously filed memorandum of law and its exhibits.

Dated: July 19, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

BRADLEY P. MEEHAN and CESARE.

CORVERA SANTAMARIA, *by their attorneys,*

/s/ James A. Francis

James A. Francis, Esq.

John Soumilas, Esq.

Lauren KW Brennan, Esq.

FRANCIS MAILMAN SOUMILAS, P.C.

1600 Market Street, Suite 2510

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(T) 215-735-8600

(F) 215-940-8000

[jfrancis@consumerlawfirm.com](mailto:jfrancis@consumerlawfirm.com)

[jsoumilas@consumerlawfirm.com](mailto:jsoumilas@consumerlawfirm.com)

[lbrennan@consumerlawfirm.com](mailto:lbrennan@consumerlawfirm.com)

/s/ Michael A. Tompkins

Michael A. Tompkins, Esq.\*

Leeds Brown Law, P.C

1 Old Country Road, Suite 347

Carle Place, NY 11514

(516) 873-9550

[mtompkins@leedsbrownlaw.com](mailto:mtompkins@leedsbrownlaw.com)

\*Admitted Pro Hac Vice

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on July 19, 2024, he electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

*/s/James A. Francis* \_\_\_\_\_

James A. Francis

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

BRADLEY MEEHAN and CESAR E.  
CORVERA SANTAMARIA, on behalf of  
themselves and those similarly situated,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

ROADMASTER DRIVERS SCHOOL,  
INC.,

*Defendant*

C.A. NO. 5:22-CV-04299

Honorable John M. Gallagher

**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR A SERVICE  
AWARD TO PLAINTIFF AND FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES, AND  
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES TO CLASS COUNSEL**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| TABLE OF AUTHORITIES .....  | ii          |
| I. INTRODUCTION .....   | 1           |
| II. NATURE OF THE CASE AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY.....                        | 2           |
| III. ARGUMENT .....   | 3           |
| A. Class Counsel’s Fee Request Is Reasonable.....                         | 3           |
| 1. Percentage of Recovery .....   | 4           |
| 2. Lodestar Cross Check .....   | 6           |
| a. Hourly rates.....  | 7           |
| b. Hours expended. ....   | 8           |
| B. Class Counsel’s Expenses Are Reasonable and Should Be Reimbursed ..... | 10          |
| IV. CONCLUSION.....   | 10          |

**TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

|   | <b>Page(s)</b> |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Cases</b>  |                |
| <i>In re AT&amp;T Corp.</i> ,<br>455 F.3d 160 (3d Cir. 2006).....   | 7              |
| <i>Barel v. Bank of Am.</i> ,<br>255 F.R.D. 393 (E.D. Pa. 2009).....  | 8              |
| <i>In re Cendant Corp. PRIDES Litig.</i> ,<br>243 F.3d 722 (3d Cir. 2001).....  | 7              |
| <i>Chakejian v. Equifax Info. Servs.</i> ,<br>LLC, 275 F.R.D. 201 (E.D. Pa. 2011) .....   | 8              |
| <i>Chesemore v. All. Holdings, Inc.</i> ,<br>No. 09-CV-413, 2014 WL 4415919 (W.D. Wis. Sept. 5, 2014), <i>aff'd sub nom.</i><br><i>Chesemore v. Fenkell</i> , 829 F.3d 803 (7th Cir. 2016)..... | 5              |
| <i>In re Comcast Corp. Set-Top Cable Television Box Antitrust Litig.</i> ,<br>333 F.R.D. 364 (E.D. Pa. 2019).....   | 3              |
| <i>Flores v. Express Services Inc.</i> ,<br>2017 WL 1177098 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 29, 2017) (Bartle, J.).....  | 5, 8           |
| <i>Giddiens v. LexisNexis Risk Solutions, Inc.</i> ,<br>No. 2:12-cv-2624 (ECF 56) (E.D. Pa. Jan. 20, 2015).....   | 8              |
| <i>Grove v. Wells Fargo Fin. California, Inc.</i> ,<br>606 F.3d 577 (9th Cir. 2010) .....   | 10             |
| <i>Halley v. Honeywell Int’l, Inc.</i> ,<br>861 F.3d 481 (3d Cir. 2017).....  | 4, 5, 6        |
| <i>Hensley v. Eckerhart</i> ,<br>461 U.S. 424 (1983).....   | 9              |
| <i>King v. General Info. Servs., Inc.</i> ,<br>No. 2:10-cv-06850-PBT, ECF 126 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014) .....   | 8              |
| <i>Moore v. GMAC Mortg.</i> ,<br>No. 07-4296, 2014 WL 12538188 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 19, 2014) (Diamond, J.).....   | 4, 7           |
| <i>Mylan Pharm., Inc. v. Warner Chilcott Pub. Ltd. Co.</i> ,<br>No. 12-3824, 2014 WL 12778314 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 15, 2014).....  | 4              |

*O’Keefe v. Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC*,  
214 F.R.D. 266 (E.D. Pa. 2003).....7

*Pfeifer v. Wawa, Inc.*,  
CV 16-497, 2018 WL 4203880 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 31, 2018).....4

*In re Prudential Ins. Co. Am. Sales Practice Litig. Agent Actions*,  
148 F.3d 283 (3d Cir. 1998).....3, 7

*In re Ravisent Techs., Inc. Sec. Litig.*,  
No. 00-CV-1014, 2005 WL 906361 (E.D. Pa. Apr. 18, 2005).....5

*In re Rite Aid Corp. Sec. Litig.*,  
396 F.3d 294 (3d Cir. 2005).....4, 7

*Robinson v. General Info. Servs., Inc.*,  
No. 2:11-cv-07782-PBT (ECF 57) (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014).....8

*Rode v. Dellarciprete*,  
892 F.2d 1177 (3d Cir. 1990).....9

*Rossini v. PNC Fin. Servs. Grp., Inc.*,  
No. 2:18-CV-1370, 2020 WL 3481458 (W.D. Pa. June 26, 2020) .....5

*Sapp v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*,  
No. Civ. 10-4312, 2013 WL 2130956 (E.D. Pa. May 15, 2013).....8

*Smith v. Dominion Bridge Corp.*,  
No. 96-cv-7580, 2007 WL 1101272 (E.D. Pa. Apr. 11, 2007).....5

*Smith v. Univ. of Pa.*,  
No. 3:20-cv-2086 (E.D.Pa.) .....6

*Stevens v. SEI Investments Co.*,  
No. CV 18-4205, 2020 WL 996418 (E.D. Pa. Feb. 28, 2020).....7, 9

*Sullivan v. DB Inv. Inc.*,  
667 F.3d 273 (3d Cir. 2011).....6

**Rules**

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 23(h).....3

**Statutes**

FCRA .....5, 10

73 P.S. 201-1.....2

## I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs Bradley Meehan and Cesar E. Corvera Santamaria (“Plaintiffs” or “Class Representatives”) respectfully request that the Court enter an order awarding Class Counsel their reasonable attorneys’ fees and expenses in accordance with the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval (ECF 46).

Following a review of the proposed Settlement agreement and all related files, records, and proceedings, the court preliminarily approved this settlement and ordered that notice of the nationwide class be directed to the settlement class members no later than June 4, 2024 (“21 days after the date of [the Order Granting Preliminary Approval]”) (ECF 46, “Class Notice”), and set a final approval hearing (sometimes alternatively called a “fairness hearing”) for September 18, 2024. *See* ECF 46. The class administrator has provided notice in accordance with this Court’s Order.

Pursuant to the Court’s Order, Class Counsel now move for an award of attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of litigation costs and expenses as provided by the settlement agreement, ECF 45-2, § 6.1(b). This case has been vigorously litigated, including two motions to dismiss and subsequent filings of amended complaints, following by complete discovery including written discovery and several depositions. Ultimately, the case was resolved as a result of private mediation. The amount Class Counsel seeks is reasonable under this Circuit’s precedents, to date is without objection, and should be approved.<sup>1</sup>

In support of this motion, Class Counsel rely upon the declarations of Class Counsel James

---

<sup>1</sup> The sole objection received to date (ECF 51) does not address the requested fee, which was disclosed in the Settlement Notice. Class Counsel will address the substance of that objection in detail in connection with the Motion for Final Approval due to be submitted September 4, 2024, Should any class member make a timely objection discussing the requested fee after this filing, such an objection will addressed, as may be appropriate, in that same filing and/or at the final approval hearing.



sA. Francis (“Francis Declaration”) and Michael A. Tompkins (“Tompkins Declaration”), which summarize Class Counsel’s experience and their time and expense records in this matter, as well as the expert report of Abraham Reich of the Fox Rothchild law firm (attached to the Francis Declaration as Ex. B thereto), whose report provides support for Class Counsel’s hourly rates; as well as other exhibits and expense records attached to the Francis Declaration.

This motion should be granted in its entirety at the September 18, 2024 final approval hearing.

## **II. NATURE OF THE CASE AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

This class action involves the claims of a group of consumers who took courses on commercial truck driving offered to the public by Defendant Roadmaster Drivers School of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Roadmaster”). Named Plaintiffs Meehan and Corvera assert that they and hundreds of other students of Roadmaster did not receive what was promised – a valid testing process that, if successfully completed, would result in a valid Commercial Drivers License (“CDL”).

Plaintiff Meehan filed a Complaint on October 26, 2022 alleging violation of Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law under 73 P.S. 201-1, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment. On November 16, 2022, Roadmaster moved to dismiss the Complaint. ECF 8. In response, Plaintiff Meehan filed an amended complaint, which added Plaintiff Santamaria as an additional named plaintiff and proposed class representative. ECF 10.

Roadmaster also moved to dismiss this amended complaint, and sought to strike Plaintiffs’ claim for several forms of relief. ECF 11. Plaintiffs opposed the motion on January 11, 2023. ECF 13. On June 20, 2023, the Court denied the motion dismiss, finding that each of Plaintiffs’ claims for relief was properly pled. ECF 25.

Pursuant to the Court’s Order (ECF 23), the parties commenced discovery while the final motion to dismiss was pending. The Parties exchanged written discovery requests and responses and produced substantial and detailed documents concerning the claims at issue. The Parties conducted five depositions, including deposition of both Plaintiffs, of two Roadmaster employees, as well as Roadmaster’s corporate representative. Plaintiffs also sought, with this Court’s diligent assistance, discovery from third parties PennDOT and the New York Department of Transportation.

Armed with this detailed record, the Parties participated in a full day mediation on January 24, 2024 with the assistance of experienced mediator John J. Hughes (Ret.) of JAMS. ECF 40. The mediation was successful and resulted in the settlement presented to the Court in connection with the Motion for Preliminary Approval, which has been approved by this Court. *See* ECF 46. In the intervening time, Class Notice has been sent in accordance with the Court’s Order.

### III. ARGUMENT

#### A. Class Counsel’s Fee Request Is Reasonable

---

Rule 23(h) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides, in relevant part, that “[i]n a certified class action, the court may award reasonable attorney’s fees and nontaxable costs that are authorized by law or by the parties’ agreement.” FED. R. CIV. P. 23(h). Also, the parties’ agreement provides for an award of attorneys’ fees incurred by Class Counsel in conjunction with its representation of the class. ECF 45-2 at § 6.1(b).

“A thorough judicial review of fee applications is required for all class action settlements.” *In re Prudential Ins. Co. Am. Sales Practice Litig. Agent Actions*, 148 F.3d 283, 333 (3d Cir. 1998) (quoting *In re General Motors Corp. Pick-Up Truck Fuel Tank Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 55 F.3d 768, 782 (3d Cir. 1995)); *see also In re Comcast Corp. Set-Top Cable Television Box Antitrust Litig.*, 333 F.R.D. 364, 385 (E.D. Pa. 2019) (same).

1. *Percentage of Recovery*

“Common fund cases [like the one at bar] are generally evaluated using a ‘percentage-of-recovery’ approach, followed by a lodestar cross-check. The percentage-of-recovery approach compares the amount of attorneys’ fees sought to the total size of the fund.” *Halley v. Honeywell Int’l, Inc.*, 861 F.3d 481, 496 (3d Cir. 2017) (citation omitted); *Rite Aid Corp. Secs. Litig.*, 396 F.3d 294, 300 (3d Cir. 2005); *see also Moore v. GMAC Mortg.*, No. 07-4296, 2014 WL 12538188, at \*1 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 19, 2014) (Diamond, J.) (“In common fund cases, the Third Circuit favors the percentage-of-recovery method over the lodestar approach.”); *Mylan Pharm., Inc. v. Warner Chilcott Pub. Ltd. Co.*, No. 12-3824, 2014 WL 12778314, at \*7 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 15, 2014) (“The ‘percentage-of-the-fund’ method is an appropriate method for calculating attorneys’ fees in complex, common-fund class actions”).

The Third Circuit has “identified several factors to consider in determining whether attorneys’ fees are reasonable under the percentage-of-recovery approach,” including:

(1) the size of the fund created and the number of persons benefitted; (2) the presence or absence of substantial objections by members of the class to the settlement terms and/or fees requested by counsel; (3) the skill and efficiency of the attorneys involved; (4) the complexity and duration of the litigation; (5) the risk of nonpayment; (6) the amount of time devoted to the case by plaintiffs’ counsel; and (7) the awards in similar cases, and (8) the value of benefits attributable to the efforts of class counsel relative to the efforts of other groups, such as government agencies conducting investigations, (9) the percentage fee that would have been negotiated had the case been subject to a private contingent fee arrangement at the time counsel was retained, and (10) any innovative terms of settlement.

*Halley*, 861 F.3d at 496 (quotations and citations omitted); *Pfeifer v. Wawa, Inc.*, CV 16-497, 2018 WL 4203880, at \*13 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 31, 2018) (quoting *In re Diet Drugs*, 582 F.3d 524, 541 (3d Cir. 2009) (same factors)).

Here, the case settled for a common fund of \$400,000. Class Counsel requests an award of \$133,333.33 or one-third (1/3) of the common fund created by the parties’ settlement, for their

representation of the Class. *See* ECF 45-2 at § 6.1. This sum is reimbursement for both fees and unreimbursed litigation costs and expenses. *Id.* Defendant does not oppose this request and neither does any class member to date. A one-third fee, like the one requested here, is reasonable in this case.

“[A]” percentage award of 33.3% falls squarely within the range of awards found to be reasonable by the courts.” *Rossini v. PNC Fin. Servs. Grp., Inc.*, No. 2:18-CV-1370, 2020 WL 3481458, at \*19 (W.D. Pa. June 26, 2020); *In re Ravisent Techs., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, No. 00-CV-1014, 2005 WL 906361, at \*11 (E.D. Pa. Apr. 18, 2005) (“[C]ourts within this Circuit have typically awarded attorneys’ fees of 30% to 35% of the recovery, plus expenses.”); *Smith v. Dominion Bridge Corp.*, No. 96-cv-7580, 2007 WL 1101272, at \*9 (E.D. Pa. Apr. 11, 2007) (awarding one-third of common fund); *see also Flores v. Express Services Inc.*, 2017 WL 1177098 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 29, 2017) (Bartle, J.) (granting fee equal to 32.96% of the total common fund in FCRA class settlement).<sup>2</sup>

Evaluating the factors outlined by the Third Circuit, *see, e.g., Halley*, 861 F.3d at 496, Class Counsel’s requested fee award is reasonable in light of the result obtained for the class and the risks of nonpayment assumed by Class Counsel when they initiated this litigation more than four years ago. First, this case benefits 276 class members and provides for direct payments to each of them, without the need to make a claim. Class Counsel expects payments to be in excess of \$800 each. Second, there has only been one objection to the Settlement Agreement, which made no mention of the fees requested by counsel, simply arguing for different terms of the agreement. *See* ECF 51. Third, Class Counsel are experienced and have successfully prosecuted this case and

---

<sup>2</sup> The 1/3 standard is also accepted in other circuits. *See Chesemore v. All. Holdings, Inc.*, No. 09-CV-413, 2014 WL 4415919, at \*7 (W.D. Wis. Sept. 5, 2014) (awarding 35% of common fund), *aff’d sub nom. Chesemore v. Fenkell*, 829 F.3d 803 (7th Cir. 2016).

similar consumer protection cases, *see* Francis Decl. at ¶ 4 and Ex. A. Fourth, this matter has lasted over a year and has been sufficiently complex, with the resolution of two Motions to Dismiss, the filing of two Amended Complaints, and substantial discovery. Fifth, Class Counsel worked on a contingency fee basis and the ran a high risk of nonpayment.. Sixth, this risk was substantial given that Class Counsel devoted over 400 attorney and paralegal hours to this case. *See* Francis Declaration at ¶13; Tompkins Declaration at ¶ 14. Seventh, the anticipated \$800 per class member recovery is comparable to other class cases seeking to recover tuition and/or fees paid under a breach of contract theory. For example, students seeking a refund of payments from the University of Pennsylvania in connection with the transition to online learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic each received an estimated \$110 payment in settlement, out of over \$3,307 in claimed fees paid, a recovery of approximately 3.3% of the amount paid. *See Smith v. Univ. of Pa.*, No. 3:20-cv-2086 (E.D.Pa.) at ECF 105-1, p. 19; *id.* at ECF 18 ¶¶ 26-27. The anticipated \$800 payments in this case will provide class members a recovery of over 10% of what they paid Roadmaster, an excellent result in light of the circumstances of the case and risks for further litigation. Eight, the benefits provided in this settlement are solely the result of the work of Class Counsel, given that no other entities were involved in this litigation. Ninth, a one-third contingency fee is standard in this jurisdiction as discussed above. The final consideration, innovative settlement terms, does not apply here and is thus neutral. In sum, an analysis of the *Halley* factors established that the fee sought by Class Counsel here is reasonable.

## 2. *Lodestar Cross Check*

Furthermore, courts may award attorneys' fees through the lodestar method – multiplying “the number of hours class counsel worked on a case by a reasonable hourly billing rate for such services.” *Sullivan v. DB Inv. Inc.*, 667 F.3d 273, 330 (3d Cir. 2011) (citation omitted). Where the

litigation creates a common fund, such as this case, however, the lodestar is a “cross-check of the court’s primary fee calculation using the percentage-of-recovery methodology.” *In re Prudential Ins. Co. Am. Sales Practice Litig. Agent Actions*, 148 F.3d 283, 343 (3d Cir. 1998).

Because the lodestar cross check calculation serves only as a verification of the primary calculation, it “need entail neither mathematical precision nor bean-counting.” *In re Rite Aid Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 396 F.3d 294, 305-06 (3d Cir. 2005) (approving as “proper” an “abridged lodestar analysis” as cross-check for percentage-of-recovery calculation); *see also Stevens v. SEI Investments Co.*, No. CV 18-4205, 2020 WL 996418, at \*12 (E.D. Pa. Feb. 28, 2020) (“The Court need not receive or review actual billing records when conducting [a lodestar cross-check] analysis”); *O’Keefe v. Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC*, 214 F.R.D. 266, 310 (E.D. Pa. 2003) (lodestar crosscheck “only meant to be a cursory overview”). The lodestar cross-check is “suggested,” but not mandatory. *In re Cendant Corp. PRIDES Litig.*, 243 F.3d 722, 735 (3d Cir. 2001); *Moore v. GMAC Mortg.*, No. 07-4296, 2014 WL 12538188, at \*2 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 19, 2014) (same). “The lodestar cross-check, while useful, should not displace a district court’s primary reliance on the percentage-of-recovery method.” *In re AT&T Corp.*, 455 F.3d 160, 164 (3d Cir. 2006).

Here, the lodestar cross-check confirms that Plaintiff’s fee request is reasonable. As discussed in detail below, the total lodestar here is \$\$218,108.50, accounting for over 400 attorney and paralegal hours. Francis Decl. at ¶¶ 13-17; Tompkins Decl. at ¶¶ 14. Because Class Counsel’s lodestar actually exceeds the amount of fees and costs sought, the requested fee is plainly reasonable.

a. Hourly rates.

The hourly rates for Class Counsel are well within the range of what is reasonable and appropriate in this market. *See* Francis Decl., Ex. B (May 8, 2024 expert report of Abraham C.

Reich, Esquire, Co-Chair and Partner for the law firm of Fox Rothschild, LP). The hourly rates for the attorneys are the same as the regular current rates charged for their services in their standard non-class matters, including both contingent and non-contingent matters. *Id.*; *see also* Tompkins Declaration at ¶¶ 14. There has not been any alteration or deviation from the firm's hourly rates to account for the added complexity or increased risk factor of this action. The attorneys concentrate their practice in the area of consumer protection litigation.

The hourly rates are within the range charged by attorneys with comparable experience levels for consumer class action litigation of a similar nature. *See Flores v. Express Servs., Inc.*, No. CV 14-3298, 2017 WL 1177098, at \*3 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 30, 2017) (analyzing similar fee request); *Sapp v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*, No. Civ. 10-4312, 2013 WL 2130956 (E.D. Pa. May 15, 2013) (awarding fee request in full); *Chakejian v. Equifax Info. Servs., LLC*, 275 F.R.D. 201, 216-20 (E.D. Pa. 2011) (awarding request in full); *Barel v. Bank of Am.*, 255 F.R.D. 393, 403-04 (E.D. Pa. 2009) (awarding 1.35 multiplier of lodestar). *See also Giddiens v. LexisNexis Risk Solutions, Inc.*, No. 2:12-cv-2624 (ECF 56) (E.D. Pa. Jan. 20, 2015) (order granting fee request in full); *Robinson v. General Info. Servs., Inc.*, No. 2:11-cv-07782-PBT (ECF 57) (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014) (order granting fee request in full, approving hourly rates); *King v. General Info. Servs., Inc.*, No. 2:10-cv-06850-PBT, ECF 126 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014) (same and including 1.38 multiplier of lodestar). The history and biography of Class Counsel are attached as Exhibit A to the Francis Declaration, and are detailed in the Tompkins Declaration.

b. Hours expended.

Class Counsel attorneys, paralegals, and staff who worked on this case all kept detailed, time records of tasks completed, the date the work was completed, and specifying the nature of the work. Francis Decl. at ¶ 13; Tompkins Decl. at ¶ 14. Class Counsel also submitted detailed charts

that provide a description of the task performed, the attorney performing the work, the amount of time spent, and the hourly rate charged for the tasks. Francis Decl. at ¶ 13. Included in these records are reasonable, albeit conservative, estimates of the time expected to be spent on the case after the date of this Motion, including preparing the Motion for Final Approval to be submitted September 4, 2024, preparing for and attending the September 18, 2024 final approval hearing, time answering Class Members' questions and supervising the continuing work of the Settlement Administrator.

This submission readily meets this Circuit's requirement of the degree of specificity required. Counsel's submission also meets the requirements for a statutory fee-shifting award. *See Rode v. Dellarciprete*, 892 F.2d 1177, 1190 (3d Cir. 1990) (specificity required to extent necessary to determine if the hours claimed are unreasonable for the work performed). *Stevens v. SEI Investments Co.*, No. CV 18-4205, 2020 WL 996418, at \*12 (E.D. Pa. Feb. 28, 2020) ("The Court need not receive or review actual billing records when conducting [a lodestar cross-check] analysis"). There was no time for which compensation is now requested in this case that was "excessive, redundant, or otherwise unnecessary." *Hensley v. Eckerhart*, 461 U.S. 424, 433 (1983). The Francis Declaration also sets forth the basis for the division of labor among the attorneys and paralegals in an efficient manner. *See* Francis Decl. at ¶ 13. All the time submitted was reasonably necessary to achieve the successful outcome for the Plaintiff and the Settlement Class. Fees should not be reduced simply because a plaintiff may not have been successful on every contention in the litigation. *Id.* at 436.

Class Counsel expended at a total of over 400 hours in prosecuting this action to a successful completion. Francis Decl. at ¶¶ 13-14; Tompkins Decl. at ¶¶ 14. This amount is reasonable given the length and complexity of this litigation.



The fact that Class Counsel seek less than their lodestar of \$218,108.50 further demonstrates that the request is reasonable. Accordingly, this Court should approve an award of \$133,333.33 for Class Counsel's representation of the class. Given the fact that this figure is inclusive of over \$8,777.35 of litigation expenses, *see infra*, the request is even further below Class Counsel's documented lodestar, and thus stands out as being even more reasonable.

**B. Class Counsel's Expenses Are Reasonable and Should Be Reimbursed**

Class Counsel's efforts achieved substantial results for the class. In so doing, Class Counsel incurred out-of-pocket expenses for which they have not been reimbursed, to wit: \$8,777.35 in litigation expenses, for filing, discovery, travel, expert expenses, mediator expenses and other related expenses. *See* Francis Decl. at ¶¶ 17; Declaration of Michael Tompkins at ¶ 17. Here, Class Counsel seek reimbursement of these expenses in accordance with the parties' settlement agreement. *See* ECF 147-2 at § 5.3. Class Counsel's costs are reasonable in light of the nature of this action and the tasks that needed to be performed. *See Grove v. Wells Fargo Fin. California, Inc.*, 606 F.3d 577, 583 (9th Cir. 2010) (courts may award non-taxable costs as part of the attorney's fee award in an FCRA case). The \$8,777.35 sum is included within the \$133,333.33 requested herein. *See* ECF 45 at §6.1.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court grant the instant motion and enter the proposed Order filed herewith.

DATED: July 19, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

BRADLEY MEEHAN and CESAR E.  
CORVERA SANTAMARIA, *by their attorneys,*

/s/James A. Francis

James A. Francis, Esq.

John Soumilas, Esq.

Lauren KW Brennan, Esq.

FRANCIS MAILMAN SOUMILAS, P.C.

1600 Market Street, Suite 2510

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(T) 215-735-8600

(F) 215-940-8000

jfrancis@consumerlawfirm.com

jsoumilas@consumerlawfirm.com

lbrennan@consumerlawfirm.com

/s/Michael A. Tompkins

Michael A. Tompkins, Esq.\*

Leeds Brown Law, P.C

1 Old Country Road, Suite 347

Carle Place, NY 11514

(516) 873-9550

mtompkins@leedsbrownlaw.com

\*Admitted Pro Hac Vice

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

BRADLEY MEEHAN and CESAR E.  
CORVERA SANTAMARIA, on behalf of  
themselves and those similarly situated,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

ROADMASTER DRIVERS SCHOOL, INC.,

C.A. NO. 5:22-CV-04299

Honorable John M. Gallagher

**DECLARATION OF JAMES A. FRANCIS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF’S MOTION  
FOR A SERVICE AWARD TO PLAINTIFF AND FOR AN AWARD OF ATTORNEYS’  
FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES TO CLASS COUNSEL**

I, James A. Francis, declare as follows:

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. I am a shareholder and attorney at Francis Mailman Soumilas, P.C. (“FMS”) and one of the attorneys representing Plaintiffs Bradley Meehan and Cesar E. Corvera Santamaria in the above-captioned matter. I submit this declaration in support of the firm’s application for an award of attorneys’ fees in connection with services rendered in this matter, as well as the reimbursement of costs and expenses incurred by my firm in connection with this litigation against Defendant Roadmaster Drivers School, Inc.

2. This declaration describes the history and experience of FMS and the work undertaken by the firm in connection with this litigation and summarizes the work done by each attorney and paralegal who was involved in the litigation as well as our costs and expenses.

3. Along with the attorneys working on this case, I oversaw staffing the case with appropriate, experienced of-counsel and support staff and supervised their work. Consistent with the firm’s usual practice, tasks and assignments were apportioned to avoid the expenditure of duplicative time and redundant staffing. Time expended that has been considered duplicative or

redundant has been eliminated. Time expended in preparing this application for fees and reimbursement of expenses has been included in this request.

## II. FIRM HISTORY AND EXPERIENCE

4. FMS was founded in 1998 as Francis & Mailman, P.C. and has concentrated its practice in consumer protection litigation ever since. Within that more general practice area, we have a particular emphasis in Fair Credit Reporting Act (“FCRA”) litigation and consumer class actions. FMS has been recognized for its expertise in FCRA litigation and the high caliber of its work for the classes it represents. *See White v. Experian Info. Solutions*, No. 05-01070, 2014 WL 1716154, at \*13, 19, 22 (C.D. Cal. May 1, 2014), *aff’d sub nom. Radcliffe v. Experian Info. Solutions, Inc.*, 818 F.3d 537, 548 (9th Cir. 2016) (finding FMS “FCRA specialists” and appointing firm and its team as interim class counsel over objections from a competing national law firm (Boies Schiller) because their team’s “credentials and experience [we]re significantly stronger in class action and FCRA litigation); *Der Hacopian v. SentryLink*, C.A. 18-3001 (D. Md. Nov. 23, 2020) (firm “many, many times in the past has been found to be not just qualified or competent, but extremely well-qualified and competent to represent consumer classes in many, many other jurisdictions, not only this particular jurisdiction”); *Flores v. Express Services, Inc.*, C.A. No. 14-3298, 2017 WL 1177098, at \*3 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 30, 2017) (firm “has extensive experience in consumer class action litigation); *Barel v. Bank of America*, 255 F.R.D. 393, 398-99 (E.D. Pa. 2009) (finding firm “competent, experienced and well-qualified to prosecute class actions” and noting that class counsel “have done an excellent job in representing the class in the instant litigation.”).

5. A biography of FMS is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

6. FMS is in the small minority of class action firms that has actual experience in trying consumer class actions. We have brought several actions to trial and obtained several noteworthy verdicts and settlements. *See Samuel-Bassett v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, 34 A.3d 1 (Pa. 2011) (\$5.6 million verdict for class of Pennsylvania car purchasers, plus award of attorney's fees, which the Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld); *Little v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, 2003 WL 25568765 (N.J. Super. L. 2003) (approximately \$6 million verdict for a class of New Jersey consumers); *Chakejian v. Equifax Information Services, LLC*, 275 F.R.D. 201 (E.D. Pa. 2011) (favorable FCRA disclosure claim class settlement following opening statements to the jury); *Ramirez v. Trans Union LLC*, 951 F.3d 1008 (9th Cir. 2020) (\$60 million jury verdict in FCRA case) (reversed for a portion of class members who lacked Article III standing, *Trans Union LLC v. Ramirez*, 141 S.Ct. 2190 (2021)).

7. FMS and I have been certified to serve as class counsel (and/or is currently serving) on over 70 occasions by courts throughout the country, including some of the largest FCRA class settlements in this area of litigation. *See generally* Exhibit A; *see also Ryals, et al. v. Hireright Solutions, Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:09-cv-625 (E.D. Va. Dec. 22, 2011) (\$28.3 million); *Henderson v. Acxiom Risk Mitigation, Inc.*, C.A. No. 12-589 (E.D. Va. Aug. 7, 2015) (\$20.8 million); *Thomas v. BackgroundChecks.com*, C.A. No. 13-029 (E.D. Va. Aug. 11, 2015) (\$18 million); *Berry v. LexisNexis Risk & Info. Analytics Group, Inc.*, No. 3:11-cv-754, 2014 WL 4403524, at \*11 (E.D. Va. Sept. 5, 2014) (\$13.5 million plus national injunctive relief).

8. Other recent instances in which FMS has been appointed to serve as class counsel include *Samson v. United Healthcare Servs. Inc.*, 2023 WL 6793973, at \*8 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 13, 2023); *Martinez v. Avantus, LLC*, 343 F.R.D. 254, 266 (D. Conn. 2023); *Healy v. Milliman, Inc.*, No. 2:20-cv-01473-JCC (W.D. Wash.) at ECF 126 (Apr. 29, 2022 order granting class

certification); *Kang v. Credit Bureau Connection*, 2022 WL 658105, at \*5 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2022); *McIntyre v. RealPage, Inc.*, 336 F.R.D. 422, 436 (E.D. Pa. 2020); *Norman v. Trans Union, LLC*, 479 F. Supp. 3d 98, 137 (E.D. Pa. 2020); *Stokes v. RealPage, Inc.*, C.A. No. 15-1520, ECF 63 (E.D. Pa. Feb. 6, 2018); *Flores v. Express Services Inc.*, 2017 WL 1177098 (E.D. Pa. March 29, 2017); *Miller v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2017 WL 412641 (M.D. Pa. Jan. 18, 2017); *Larson v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2016 WL 4367253 (N.D. Ca. Aug. 11, 2016); *Magallon v. Robert Half International, Inc.*, 2015 WL 8778398 (D. Or. Nov. 10, 2015); *Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2014 WL 3734525 (N.D. Cal. July 24, 2014); *Sapp v. Experian Info. Solutions, Inc.*, 2013 WL 2130956 (E.D. Pa. May 15, 2013); *LaRocque v. TRS Recovery Services, Inc.*, 285 F.R.D. 139 (D. Me. 2012); *Giddiens v. First Advantage LNS Screening Solutions, Inc.*, No. 2:12-cv-2624, ECF 55 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 20, 2015); *Serrano v. Sterling Testing Systems, Inc.*, 711 F. Supp. 2d 402, 412 (E.D. Pa. 2010); *Summerfield v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, 264 F.R.D. 133 (D.N.J. 2009); *Chakejian v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, 256 F.R.D. 492 (E.D. Pa. 2009).

9. I am a member in good standing of the Bar of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and admitted to practice in the following additional jurisdictions:

- a. New Jersey state court;
- b. United States Courts of Appeal for the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth and Eleventh Circuits;
- c. United States District Courts for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Middle District of Pennsylvania, District of New Jersey, Eastern District of Michigan, Northern District of Oklahoma; and
- d. United States Supreme Court

10. I have been practicing consumer litigation, with an emphasis on Fair Credit Reporting litigation and consumer class actions, for the past 25 years. I have been recognized by my peers for my advocacy and work throughout my career, including being ranked as a Top 100 Superlawyer for Pennsylvania and Philadelphia on many occasions including just recently in 2023, being profiled in Law360's Titans of the Plaintiff's Bar in 2014, being awarded the Equal Justice Award by Community Legal Services of Philadelphia in 2014 and being inducted into the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers in 2023.

### **III. THE MEEHAN LITIGATION**

11. FMS acted as lead class counsel in this matter, which was filed on October 26, 2022. I personally handled or was directly involved in virtually all attorney aspects of this litigation, along with my partner Lauren KW Brennan. We were also assisted in select respects by FMS paralegals. Co-counsel Leeds Brown Law, P.C. also actively participated in the case as detailed in the contemporaneously filed declaration of Michael Tompkins, Esq. The tasks performed by FMS were substantial and are summarized below:

- a. Pre-suit investigation of the claims and defenses in this matter and venue considerations;
- b. Drafting a well-pleaded class action complaint;
- c. Drafting and filing two amended complaints in response to Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Complaint and Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Amended Complaint, respectively;
- d. Briefing on Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Amended Complaint;
- e. Engaging in extensive discovery;
- f. Taking and defending multiple depositions, including:

- i. The deposition of Irving Marcano on August 30, 2023;
  - ii. The deposition of Robert Sherman on August 30, 2023;
  - iii. The deposition of Cesar Santamaria on September 7, 2023; and
  - iv. The deposition of Bradley Meehan on September 13, 2023.
- g. Participating in settlement discussions, including attending a mediation on January 24, 2024 and participating in follow-up conferences with counsel for Defendant and the Mediator, the Hon. John J. Hughes (Retired) of JAMS;
  - h. Conferring with Plaintiffs, who provided detailed information, including about the facts of their case, and relevant documents, preparing her for a lengthy deposition, and assisting with other aspects of her full participation in this litigation, the mediation sessions, and the settlement drafting process;
  - i. Drafting, editing, and revising the settlement agreement and several short form and long form class notices; and
  - j. Conferring with counsel for Defendant regarding same, the administration of class notice, and the settlement website.
12. Additionally, FMS estimates that substantial time will be billed moving forward related to the motion for final approval, final approval hearing, and settlement administration

#### **IV. FMS'S TIME INVESTED IN THIS LITIGATION**

13. Lauren KW Brennan and I have submitted billable hours for the litigation of this case. Additionally, my firm seeks billable time for experienced paralegals who worked on the case. A detailed summary of the time expended by my firm in this matter, by activity categories maintained within our firm's Philadelphia billing software and by timekeeper, is set forth in the following table. The time entries upon which the table is based were generated from the time



records regularly prepared and maintained by my firm within our firm's billing software. Estimates have been added for time expected to be spent in the future in connection with the final approval motion and hearing and for ongoing class administration and delivery of funds to class members. Including these estimates, FMS's time expended in this case is 258.2 hours in total.<sup>1</sup> Time expended that has been considered duplicative or redundant has been eliminated from this lodestar. Consistent with our firm's usual practice, tasks and assignments were apportioned to avoid the expenditure of duplicative time and redundant staffing.

|   | <b>James Francis</b> | <b>Lauren Brennan</b> | <b>Paralegals</b> |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Pre-Suit Investigation  | 17.9                 | .9                    | 13.7              |
| Motion to Dismiss, First Amended Complaint, and briefing on Motion to Dismiss First Amended Complaint | 0                    | 18.1                  | 2.1               |
| Disclosures and Rule 26(f)  | 9.1                  | 3                     | .2                |
| Written Discovery and Depositions   | 63                   | 30.8                  | 11.4              |
| Mediation and Settlement Discussions  | 13.5                 | 21.1                  | 3.1               |
| Preparation of Settlement Agreement, Notices, and Motion for Preliminary Approval                     | 1.1                  | 11.2                  | 8.1               |
| Settlement Administration including class member contacts   | 0                    | 3.1                   | 4                 |
| Fee petition prep   | 0                    | 5.1                   | 5.2               |
| Estimated time going forward  | 6                    | 4                     | 2.5               |
| <b>Subtotal Hours</b>   | <b>110.6</b>         | <b>97.3</b>           | <b>50.3</b>       |
| <b>Hourly Rate</b>  | <b>\$890.00</b>      | <b>\$470</b>          | <b>\$345</b>      |
| <b>Subtotal Fees</b>  | <b>\$98,434.00</b>   | <b>\$45,731.00</b>    | <b>\$17,353.5</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Should this Court wish to review the individual time entry records themselves, they can be exported from our computer systems and made available in paper format for an in camera review, but they are not attached hereto in order to protect the attorney-client and work-product privileges as the individual records themselves are unredacted and unreviewed for privilege.

**FMS'S HOURLY RATES**

14. The hourly rates charged by the attorneys and paralegals at my firm are not self-determined but have been independently set for many years based upon the opinions of outside counsel at the law firm of Fox Rothschild, LLP. Our rates are based upon the expert opinion of Abraham C. Reich, which is attached as Exhibit B. The Reich report has also been adopted to various markets where my firm has offices and/or practices along with local counsel or co-counsel.

| <b>Timekeeper</b> | <b>Rate</b> | <b>Hours</b> | <b>Subtotal</b>    |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| James A. Francis  | \$890/hr    | <b>110.6</b> | <b>\$98,434.00</b> |
| Lauren KW Brennan | \$470/hr    | <b>97.3</b>  | <b>\$45,731.00</b> |
| Paralegals        | \$345/hr    | <b>50.3</b>  | <b>\$17,353.5</b>  |

**FMS TOTAL LODESTAR:           \$161,518.50**

15. The total lodestar for FMS professionals in this matter, based upon the hours expended and expected to be expended at the hourly rates set forth above, is as follows:

16. The lodestar figure above does not include out of pocket expenses and the costs of the litigation, which are billed separately.

1. As detailed in Exhibit C hereto, my firm has incurred a total of \$8,702.35 in unreimbursed expenses in connection with the prosecution of this litigation. Each of the expenses described therein would typically be billed to paying clients.

17. The expenses incurred in this action are reflected on the books and records of my firm. These books and records are prepared from expense vouchers, check records, software, and other source materials and are an accurate record of the expenses.

18. As detailed in the contemporaneously-filed declaration of Michael Tompkins, co-counsel at Leeds Brown Law, Leeds Brown has a lodestar of \$56,590 in this matter and has expended \$75 in unreimbursed litigation costs and expenses in connection with this litigation.

19. In summary, the total attorney time devoted and expected to be devoted going forward by Plaintiff's counsel in this litigation amounts to \$218,108.50 in fees and \$8,777.35 in costs and expenses, for a grand total of \$226,885.85.

20. I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 19, 2024

/s/ James A. Francis  
James A. Francis, Esq.

# Exhibit A



**FRANCIS MAILMAN SOUMILAS, P.C.** (FMS) is a law firm that concentrates in consumer protection litigation. While principally based in center-city Philadelphia, the firm also maintains offices in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco. FMS represents consumers in both individual and class actions. Founded in 1998 as Francis & Mailman, P.C., the firm’s goal is to provide exceptional advocacy to consumers subjected to unfair business, industry, and trade practices.

FMS is one of the nation’s preeminent consumer protection litigation firms. The firm has obtained numerous ground-breaking legal decisions, record jury verdicts and large consumer settlements. In 2017, FMS obtained a record \$60 million dollar class action verdict for a case tried under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The case ultimately went to the United States Supreme Court, which resulted in a 5-4 remand decision that has become a landmark case in civil litigation concerning the issue of constitutional standing. The firm has been certified to serve as class counsel in over 70 consumer class actions nationwide.

Due to its litigation proficiency, expertise and the high caliber of its work-product, FMS has been repeatedly recognized and commended by federal courts throughout the country over many years. *Barel v. Bank of America*, 255 F.R.D. 393, 398-99 (E.D. Pa. 2009) (finding firm “competent, experienced and well-qualified to prosecute class actions” and noting that class counsel “have done an excellent job in representing the class in the instant litigation.”); *Martinez v. Avantus, LLC*, 343 F.R.D. 254 2023 WL 112807, \*9 (D. Conn. Jan. 5, 2023)(firm “has substantial experience in class action litigation, including FCRA class actions....[and] demonstrated proficiency at all stages of suit”); *Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2022 WL 1772395 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 15, 2022)(“Courts have consistently recognized Francis Mailman Soumilas ‘for its expertise in FCRA litigation and the high caliber of its work for the classes it represents.’”); *Der Hacopian v. SentryLink*, C.A. 18-3001 (D. Md., Nov. 23, 2020)(firm “many, many times in the past has been found to be not just qualified or competent, but extremely well-qualified and competent to represent consumer classes in many, many other jurisdictions, not only this particular jurisdiction”); *Flores v. Express Services, Inc.*, C.A. No.14-3298, 2017 WL 1177098, at \*3 (E.D. Pa. March 30, 2017) (firm “has extensive experience in consumer class action litigation); *White v. Equifax Info. Solutions*, No. 05-01070, 2014 WL 1716154, at \*13, 19, 22 (C.D. Cal. May 1, 2014), *aff’d sub nom. Radcliffe v. Equifax Info. Sol’ns., Inc.*, 818 F.3d 537, 548 (9th Cir. 2016) (appointing firm and its team as interim class counsel over objections from a competing national law firm (Boies Schiller) because firm’s team’s “credentials and experience [we]re significantly stronger in class action and FCRA litigation.”); *Patel v. Trans Union, LLC*, 308 F.R.D. 292, 307 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (FMS “have represented consumer classes in many cases in many districts . . . [and] have shown their proficiency in this case[.]”); *Kelly v. Business Information Group*, C.A. 15-6668, 2019 WL 414915 (E.D. Pa. 2019) (firm “qualified and experienced attorneys” . . . Francis & Mailman, P.C., of Philadelphia...who have substantial experience in class action and FCRA consumer litigation and who are qualified to conduct the litigation.”); *Larson v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. 12-cv-05726, 2015 WL 3945052, at \*12 (N.D. Cal. June 26, 2015) (appointing firm as class counsel on contested motion).

## **JAMES A. FRANCIS**

---

JIM FRANCIS co-founded FMS in 1998 with the goal of creating a law firm dedicated exclusively to consumer rights litigation. Since then, he and the firm have consistently achieved ground-breaking results and cutting-edge legal rulings. He was trial and appellate counsel in *Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, a case that obtained a record \$60 million dollar verdict for a case brought under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. In 2009, Jim argued the seminal FCRA case of *Cortez v. Trans Union, LLC* before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He has been appointed to serve as class counsel by federal courts all over the country in over 70 cases.

In 2004, Jim was the youngest lawyer to be ranked a Top 100 Super Lawyer in Pennsylvania in *Philadelphia Magazine* and *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* magazine. He has been ranked a Top 100 Superlawyer for Pennsylvania and Philadelphia many times since, including in 2024. In 2014, Jim was selected as one of a small group of national plaintiffs' lawyers to be profiled in Law 360's *Titans of the Plaintiff's Bar* series. In the same year, he was awarded the *Equal Justice Award* by Community Legal Services of Philadelphia.

In 2023, Jim was elected as a Fellow of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers.

Jim regularly lectures for continuing legal education programs, law schools and community groups throughout the country, and has been a regular speaker for the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) and National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) for over 20 years. He has appeared on various news programs including the *Today Show* and *PBS NewsHour* to discuss consumer-related issues. He was featured in *The Philadelphia Inquirer's* biographical "Question & Answer" segment in February of 2009.

Prior to forming FMS and after graduating from law school, Jim was an associate with Kolsby, Gordon, Robin, Shore & Rothweiler in Philadelphia.

### **EDUCATION**

Temple University Beasley School of Law, J.D. 1995, President-Student Bar Association, 1995 Wapner, Newman & Wigrizer, P.C. award for excellence in civil trial advocacy; award for outstanding Oral Advocacy;

Muhlenberg College, B.A., *cum laude*, 1992

### **ADMISSIONS**

- Pennsylvania and New Jersey state courts
- United States Courts of Appeal for the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth and Eleventh Circuits
- United States District Courts for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Middle District of Pennsylvania, District of New Jersey, Eastern District of Michigan, Northern District of Oklahoma

- United States Supreme Court

### **HONORS/AWARD/DISTINCTIONS**

- Top 100 Superlawyer for Pennsylvania-2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Top 100 Superlawyer for Philadelphia-2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
- Law 360's *Titan of the Plaintiff's Bar*-2014
- *Equal Justice Award* by Community Legal Services of Philadelphia-2014
- Elected as a Fellow into the American College of Consumer Financial Services—April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Selected as a Member of the Nation's Top One Percent by The National Association of Distinguished Counsel

### **NOTABLE CASES**

- *Teran v. Navient Solutions, LLC et al.*, \_\_B.R. \_\_, 2023 WL 2721904 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2023). Appointed Class Counsel to represent national injunctive relief class.
- *Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 951 F.3d 1008 (9th Cir. 2020), 141 S.Ct. 2190 (2021); 2022 WL 17740302 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2022); . Served as trial and appellate counsel in record \$60 million jury verdict for a case brought under the Fair Credit Reporting Act; argued appeal against former Solicitor General of the United States affirming verdict (with remittitur), upon certiorari, remanded by US Supreme; later settled for \$9 million
- *Robinson v. National Student Clearinghouse*, No. 1-19-cv-10749, 2020 WL 4873728 (D. Mass. July 8, 2020) *aff'd* 14 F.4th 56 (1st Cir. 2021). In first challenging the defendant as a consumer reporting agency, obtained \$2 million dollar settlement for consumers who were overcharged for college verifications and brought company into FCRA compliance.
- *Patel v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2018 WL 1258194 (N.D. Cal. March 11, 2018). Served as lead Class Counsel in case which obtained an \$8 million dollar settlement for class of consumers who were falsely being reported as terrorists.
- *Thomas v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, No. 18-cv-684 (E.D. Va.). National Class Counsel in FCRA class action, alleging violations by credit bureau for misreporting public records, providing nationwide resolution of class action claims asserted across multiple jurisdictions, including injunctive relief, and an uncapped mediation program for millions of consumers.
- *Clark v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*, No. 16-cv-32 (E.D. Va.). National Class Counsel in FCRA class action, alleging violations by credit bureau for misreporting public records, providing a nationwide resolution of class action claims asserted by 32 plaintiffs in 16 jurisdictions, including injunctive relief and an uncapped mediation program, for millions of consumers.
- *Clark/Anderson v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 15-cv-391 & No. 16-cv-558 (E.D. Va.). National Class Counsel in FCRA consolidated class action, alleging violations by credit bureau for misreporting public records, providing groundbreaking injunctive relief, and an opportunity to recover monetary relief, for millions of consumers.

- *In Re: TRS Recovery Services, Inc. and Telecheck Services, Inc.*, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA Litigation)- Served as Class Counsel in a national FDCPA class action and obtained a 3.4-million-dollar settlement against one of the nation's largest check history consumer reporting agencies.
- *Berry v. LexisNexis Risk & Info. Analytics Group, Inc.*, No. 3:11-cv-754, 2014 WL 4403524, at \*11 (E.D. Va. Sept. 5, 2014) -- Appointed class counsel in national FCRA class action that obtained a \$13.5-million-dollar settlement against Lexis/Nexis, one of the largest information providers in the world, along with a groundbreaking injunctive relief settlement on behalf of 200 million Americans in which LexisNexis agreed to bring its Accurint product into FCRA compliance.
- *Thomas v. BackgroundChecks.com*, C.A. No. 13-029 (E.D. Va. Aug. 11, 2015) –Appointed class counsel in an FCRA national class action which obtained \$18 million against another of the largest background screening companies in the world, and also obtained significant injunctive and remedial relief.
- *Henderson v. Axiom Risk Mitigation, Inc.*, C.A. No. 12-589 (E.D. Va., Aug. 7, 2015)- Appointed class counsel in a national FCRA class action which obtained a \$20.8 million settlement against one of the largest data sellers and background screening companies in the world.
- *Ryals et al. v. Hireright Solutions, Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:09cv625 (E.D. Va. Dec. 22, 2011) – \$28.3 million national settlement achieved for class of consumers subjected to employment background checks in case brought under Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA); believed to be the third largest FCRA settlement in history.
- *Cortez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 617 F.3d 688 (3d. Cir. 2010) – argued precedential case of first impression before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit which outlines the liability, causation and damages standards for FCRA cases against credit reporting agencies; \$800,000 jury verdict against Trans Union in fair credit reporting case (remitted to \$150,000).
- *Little v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, 2003 WL 25568765 (N.J. Super. L. 2003) – \$6 million (approximate) verdict for class of New Jersey car purchasers.
- *Samuel-Bassett v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, \_\_\_ A.3d \_\_\_, 2011 WL 60559098 (Pa. 2011), C.P. Phila. County, January Term, 2001, No. 2199 – \$5.6 million verdict for class of Pennsylvania car purchasers, plus award of attorney’s fees.
- *Serrano v. Sterling Testing Systems, Inc.*, \_\_\_ F. Supp. 2d \_\_\_, 2008 WL 2223007 (E.D. Pa. May 30, 2008) – federal court finding as a matter of first impression what defines a record of arrest under the FCRA.
- *Ziegenfuse v. Apex Asset Management, LLC*, 239 F.R.D. 400 (E.D. Pa. 2006) – obtained court decision holding that offers of judgment under Rule 68 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure cannot be used in class actions.
- *Stoner v. CBA Information Services*, 352 F. Supp. 2d 549 (E.D. Pa. 2005) – obtained \$772,500 settlement for class of consumers who disputed errors in their credit reports.



- *Richburg v. Palisades Collection, LLC*, 247 F.R.D. 457 (E.D. Pa. 2008); federal court ruled that actions to collect delinquent credit card debt in Pennsylvania subject to 4 year statute of limitations (not 6 as the defendant collection agency had argued).
- *Perry v. FleetBoston Financial Corp.*, 2004 WL 1508518 (E.D. Pa. 2004) – defeated motion to compel arbitration in class action brought under Fair Credit Reporting Act.
- *Crane v. Trans Union, LLC*, 282 F. Supp. 2d 311 (E.D. Pa. 2003) – federal court held that credit reporting agencies that merely parrot information from credit furnishers and fail to forward dispute documentation face claims for punitive damages under the Fair Credit Reporting Act; violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act presents a violation of Pennsylvania’s Consumer Protection Law).
- *Lawrence v. Trans Union, LLC*, 296 F. Supp. 2d 582 (E.D. Pa. 2003) (same).
- *Wisneski v. Nationwide Collections, Inc.*, 227 F.R.D. 259 (E.D. Pa. 2004) – obtained class certification in Fair Debt Collection Practices action in which a Pennsylvania federal court held for the first time that statutory net worth limitation is not limited to balance sheet net worth, and includes equity, capital stock and goodwill.
- *Evantash v. G.E. Capital Mortgage Services, Inc.*, 2003 WL 22844198 (E.D. Pa. 2003) – federal court held that technical accuracy defense was not available to defendants under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.
- *Sheffer v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 2003 WL 21710573 (E.D. Pa. 2003) – federal court held that Fair Credit Reporting Act permits as recoverable damage emotional distress in trying to correct errors in a consumer’s credit file, even where no pecuniary or out-of-pocket losses.
- *Sheffer v. Experian Information Solutions Inc.*, 249 F. Supp. 2d 560 (E.D. Pa. 2003) – federal court held that FCRA provides a private right of action against furnishers of information.
- *Sullivan v. Equifax, Inc. et al.*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 7884 (E.D. Pa. 2002) – federal court held that reporting a debt to a credit reporting agency is a communication covered by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.
- *Wenrich v. Cole*, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. 2000) – federal court held that FDCPA provides protection for all persons, not just consumers.
- *Jaramillo v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 155 F. Supp. 2d 356 (E.D. Pa. 2001) – federal court held that single publication rule does not apply to actions brought for violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

### **CLASS COUNSEL CERTIFICATIONS**

*Woodard v. Navient Solutions, LLC et al.*, No. 8:23-cv-00301-RFR (D. Neb. 2024)

*Botts v. The Johns Hopkins University*, No. 1:20-cv-01335-JRR, ECF 96 (D. Md. April 20, 2023)

*Teran v. Navient Solutions, LLC et al.*, No. 20-03075-DM,  
2023 WL 2721904 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2023)

*Martinez v. Avantus, LLC*, No. 3:20-CV-1772 (JCH), 2023 WL 112807 (D. Conn. Jan. 5, 2023)

*Stewart et al v. LexisNexis Risk Data Retrieval Services, LLC et al.*, No. 3:20-cv-00903-JAG (E.D. Va. July 27, 2022)

*Healy v. Milliman, Inc.*, No. 2:20-cv-01473-JCC (W.D. Wash. 2022)

*Kang v. Credit Bureau Connection, Inc.*, No. 18-01359, 2022 WL 658105 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2022)

*Watson v. Checkr, Inc.*, No. 3:19-cv-03396-EMC (N.D. Cal. 2021)

*Deaton v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 2:20-cv-01380-AB (E.D. Pa. 2021)

*Sanders v. Makespace Labs, Inc.*, No: 1:18-cv-10016 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 29, 2021)

*Der-Hacopian v. Darktrace, Inc.*, No: 18-cv-06726-HSG (N.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2020)

*Der-Hacopian v. Sentrylink, LLC*, No. 8:18-cv-03001-PWG (N.D. Cal. Nov. 23,2020)

*McIntyre v. RealPage, Inc.*, No: 2:18-cv-03934, WL 5017612 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 25, 2020)

*Norman v. Trans Union, LLC*, No: 18-5225, 2020 WL 4735538 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 14, 2020)

*Robinson v. National Student Clearinghouse*, No. 1-19-cv-10749, 2020 WL 4873728 (D. Mass. July 8, 2020) *aff'd* 14 F.4th 56 (1st Cir. 2021)

*Leo v. Appfolio, Inc.*, No.3:17-cv-05771-RJB (W.D. Wash. 2019)

*Thomas v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, No. 18-cv-684 (E.D. Va. 2020)

*Clark v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*, No. 16-cv-32 (E.D. Va. 2019)

*Clark/Anderson v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 15-cv-391 & No. 16-cv-558 (E.D. Va. 2018)

*Gibbons v. Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA*, 2018 WL 5720749 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 31, 2018)

*Kelly v. Business Information Group*, C.A. 15-6668, 2019 WL 414915 (E.D. Pa. 2019)

*Ridenour v. Multi-Color Corporation*, C.A. No. 2:15-cv-00041, (E.D. Va., Jan. 13, 2017)

*Flores v. Express Personnel*, C.A. No. 14-cv-03298, (E.D. Pa. Oct. 21, 2016)

*Larson v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 12-cv-05726, (N.D. CA, Aug. 11, 2016)

*Miller v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 12-cv-1715, (M.D. PA, Dec. 26, 2016)

*Henderson v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 14-cv-00679, E.D. Va., May 3, 2016)

*Pawlowski v. United Tranzactions, LLC*, C.A. no. 15-cv-2330, (E.D. PA, April 18, 2016)

*Rodriguez v. Calvin Klein, Inc.*, C.A. 1:15-cv-02590 (S.D. N.Y. 2015)

*Giddiens v. Infinity Staffing*, C.A. No. 13-cv-07115, (E.D. Pa., Jan. 12, 2016)

*Giddiens v. First Advantage*, C.A. No. 14-cv-5105, (E.D. Pa., July 11, 2015)

*Jones v. Halstead Management Corporation*, C.A. No. 14-cv-03125 (S.D. N.Y., May 5, 2016)

*Berry v. LexisNexis Risk & Info. Analytics Group, Inc.*, No. 3:11-cv-754, 2014 WL 4403524 (E.D. Va. Sept. 5, 2014)

*Thomas v. BackgroundChecks.com*, C.A. No. 13-029 2015 WL 11004870 (E.D. Va. Aug. 5, 2015)

*Henderson v. Axiom Risk Mitigation, Inc.*, C.A. No. 12-589 (E.D. Va., Aug. 7, 2015)

*Magallon v. Robert Half International, Inc.* WL 8778398 (D. Or. Nov. 10, 2015)

*Carter v. McDonald's Restaurants*, 15-01531-MWF (March 15, 2015)

*Patel v. Trans Union, LLC*, 308 F.R.D. 292 (N.D. Cal. 2014)  
*Goode v. First Advantage LNS Screening Sols., Inc.*, No. 11-cv-02950 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 29, 2014)  
*Blandina v. Midland Funding, LLC*, 2014 WL 7338744 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 23, 2014)  
*King v. General Information Services, Inc.*, C.A. No. 11-06850 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014)  
*Robinson v. General Information Services, Inc.*, C.A. No. 11-07782 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014)  
*Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2014 WL 3734525 (N.D. Cal. July 24, 2014)  
*White v. Experian Information Solutions*, 993 F. Supp. 2d 1154, 1172 (C.D. Ca. 2014)  
*Sapp v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 2:10-04312 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 29, 2013)  
*LaRocque v. TRS Recovery Services, Inc.*, 2012 WL 291191 (D. Me. July 17, 2012)  
*Ryals et al. v. Hireright Solutions, Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:09-625 (E.D. Va. July 7, 2011)  
*Serrano v. Sterling Testing Systems, Inc.*, 711 F. Supp. 2d 402 (E.D. Pa. 2010)  
*Summerfield v. Equifax Information Services, LCC*, 264 F.R.D. 133 (D. N.J. 2009)  
*Chakejian v. Equifax Information Services, LLC*, 256 F.R.D. 492 (E.D. Pa. 2009)  
*Jones v. Midland Funding, LLC*, C.A. No. 3:08-802 (RNC) (D. Conn. October 13, 2009)  
*Barel v. Bank of America*, 255 F.R.D. 393 (E.D. Pa. 2009)  
*Mann v. Verizon*, C.A. No. 06-5370 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 26, 2008)  
*Smith v. Grayling Corp.*, 2008 WL 3861286, C.A. No. 07-1905 (E.D. Pa. 2008)  
*Strausser v. ACB Receivables Management, Inc.*, 2008 WL 859224 (E.D. Pa. March 28, 2008)  
*Nienaber v. Citibank (South Dakota), N.A.*, 2007 WL 2003761 (D.S.D. July 5, 2007)  
*Jordan v. Commonwealth Financial Systems, Inc.*, 237 F.R.D. 132, (E.D. Pa. 2006)  
*Marino v. UDR*, 2006 WL 1687026, C.A. No. 05-2268 (E.D. Pa. June 14, 2006)  
*Seawell v. Universal Fidelity Corp*, 235 F.R.D. 64 (E.D. Pa. 2006)  
*Perry v. FleetBoston Financial Corp.*, 229 F.R.D.105 (E.D. Pa. 2005)  
*Beck v. Maximus, Inc.*, 2005 WL 589749 (E.D. Pa. 2005)  
*Beck v. Maximus*, 457 F. 3d 291, 2006 WL 2193603 (3d Cir. Aug. 4, 2006)  
*Stoner v. CBA Information Services*, 352 F. Supp. 2d 549 (E.D. Pa. 2005)  
*Bittner v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 04-2562 (E.D. Pa. January 4, 2005)  
*Wisneski v. Nationwide Collections, Inc.*, 227 F.R.D. 259 (E.D. Pa. 2004)  
*Petrolito v. Arrow Financial Services, LLC*, 221 F.R.D. 303 (D. Conn. 2004)  
*Orloff v. Syndicated Office Systems, Inc.*, 2004 WL 870691 (E.D. Pa 2004)  
*Bonett v. Education Debt Services, Inc.*, 2003 WL 21658267 (E.D. Pa. 2003)  
*Gaumer v. The Bon-Ton Stores*, C.A. No. 02-8611 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 30, 2003)  
*Street v. Portfolio Recovery Associates*, C.A. No. 01-3684 (E.D. Pa. July 30, 2003)  
*Samuel-Bassett v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, 212 F.R.D. 271 (E.D. Pa. 2000)  
*Oslan v. Law Offices of Mitchell N. Kay*, 232 F. Supp. 2d 436 (E.D. Pa. 2002)  
*Oslan v. Collection Bureau of Hudson Valley*, 206 F.R.D. 109 (E.D. Pa. 2002)

*Saunders v. Berks Credit & Collections*, 2002 WL 1497374 (E.D. Pa. 2002)  
*Schilling v. Let's Talk Cellular and Wireless*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3352 (E.D. Pa. 2002)  
*Fry v. Hayt, Hayt and Landau*, 198 F.R.D. 461 (E.D. Pa. 2000)  
*Smith v. First Union Mortgage Corporation*, 1999 WL 509967 (E.D. Pa. 1999)  
*Miller v. Inovision*, December Term, 1999, No. 3504 (C.P. Phila. County).

### **LECTURES/PRESENTATIONS BY INVITATION**

Speaker, *Rule 23(c)(5) Subclasses: Certification, Due Process, Adequate Representation, and Settlement*, Strafford Webinars, February 23, 2023

Speaker, *Data Protection at the Federal Level*, Nevada Bar Association, January 17, 2023

Speaker, *27th Annual Consumer Financial Services Institute*, Practising Law Institute, *Debt Collection and Credit Reporting Update*, December 7, 2022, San Francisco, CA

Speaker, *Tenant Screening Litigation: FCRA and Civil Rights Claims*, National Consumer Law Center, Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, November 10, 2022, Seattle, WA

Speaker "Lightning Round-Ascertainability", Consumer Class Action Symposium, National Consumer Law Center, November 13, 2022, Seattle, WA

Speaker, *27th Annual Consumer Financial Services Institute*, Practising Law Institute, *Debt Collection and Credit Reporting Update*, September 20, 2022, Chicago, IL

Speaker, *Representing the Pro Bono Client: Consumer Law Basics*, Practising Law Institute, August 12, 2022

Speaker, *Perrin Conferences Class Action Litigation Virtual Conference*, April 26, 2022

Speaker, Introduction to Standing in Federal FDCPA Litigation, 2022 Fair Debt Conference, National Consumer Law Center, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Orlando, FL

Speaker, *27th Annual Consumer Financial Services Institute- Debt Collection and Credit Reporting Update*, Practising Law Institute, March 18, 2022, New York, NY

Speaker, *Consumer Finance Class Actions: FDCPA, FCRA & TCPA Webinar*, Strafford, September 16, 2020

Faculty, *Introduction to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, Representing the Pro Bono Client: Consumer Law Basics 2020*, Practising Law Institute, August 14, 2020, San Francisco, CA

Faculty, *Representing the Pro Bono Client: Consumer Law Basics 2019*, Practising Law Institute;

Faculty, *Consumer Financial Services & Banking Law Update*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, October 29, 2019;

Faculty, *Consumer Finance Class Actions*, The Canadian Institute, July 24, 2019;

Faculty, *Representing the Pro Bono Client: Consumer Law Basics 2019*, Practising Law Institute;

Speaker, *Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Long Beach, CA, May 1-4, 2019;

Faculty, *Judicial Scrutiny of Class Action Settlements: New Standards and Ensuring Timely Release of Attorneys' Fees*, Strafford Webinars and Publications, Tuesday, October 9, 2018;

Speaker, *Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Baltimore, MD, April 22-29, 2017;

Faculty, 21st Annual Consumer Financial Services Litigation Institute (CLE-accredited), "Fair Credit Reporting and Debt Collection Litigation", March and April 2016, NYC and Chicago;

Speaker, The Conference on Consumer Finance Law, Annual Consumer Financial Services Conference, Loyola University School of Law, Chicago, Illinois, September 16, 2016;

Speaker, "New Frontiers: FCRA Litigation Against Lesser Known CRAs", Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, National Consumer Law Center, Anaheim, California, October 2016;

Faculty, "Pursuing and Defending FDCPA, FCRA and TCPA Claims", Consumer Finance Class Actions, Strafford Publications, June 2, 2016;

Speaker, "Stump the Champs", Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, National Consumer Law Center, San Antonio, Texas, October 2015;

Speaker, *Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Las Vegas, NV May 1-3, 2015;

Co-Chair and Speaker, NACA 2013 FCRA Conference, National Association of Consumer Advocates, May 29 – June 1, 2013;

Presenter, *Beyond E-Oscar: Litigating "Non-Credit" FCRA Cases*, Webinar, National Association of Consumer Advocates, February 27, 2013;

Faculty, *FDCPA Class Actions: Latest Litigation Developments*, Strafford Webinars and Publications, November 8, 2012;

Speaker, Consumer Finance Class Actions: *FCRA and FACTA: Leveraging New Developments in Certification, Damages and Preemption*, Strafford Webinars and Publications, March 21, 2012;

Speaker, *FCRA Developments*, Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, National Consumer Law Center, Seattle, Washington, October 2012;

Speaker, *11<sup>th</sup> Consumer Class Action Symposium*, National Consumer Law Center, Chicago, Illinois, November 6, 2011;

Speaker, *Tenant, Employment and Chexsystems Reports*, Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, National Consumer Law Center, Chicago, Illinois, November 3 – 6, 2011;

Speaker, *Specialty Consumer Reports and the FCRA*, FCRA Conference on Consumer Credit, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Memphis, Tennessee, May 20 – 22, 2011;

Panelist, *Taking on the Challenges Facing Workers with Criminal Records: Advancing the Legal and Policy Advocacy Agenda*, National Employment Law Project, Washington, D.C., April 5, 2011;

Faculty, 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Financial Services Litigation Institute (CLE-accredited), *Collection Issues Including The TCPA & Hot Topics*, Practising Law Institute, New York, NY and Chicago, IL, March 2011;

Speaker, *ABCs of Fair Credit Reporting, Tips on FCRA Depositions, Evolution of Credit Reporting Industries*, Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, National Consumer Law Center, Boston, Massachusetts, November 11 – 14, 2010;

Faculty, Banking and Consumer Financial Services Law Update, *Litigation and Arbitration Update*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, April 14, 2010;

Faculty, *Deposit-Side Litigation Developments & Credit Card Developments*, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Financial Services Litigation Institute, New York, NY and Chicago, IL, March and April 2009;

Faculty, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Financial Services Litigation Institute (CLE-accredited), Practicing Law Institute, New York, NY and Chicago, IL, January 2008, March 2008;

Speaker, *Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Chicago, IL May 8 – 10, 2009;

Faculty, 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Financial Services Litigation Institute (CLE-accredited), Practicing Law Institute, New York, NY, March 2007;

Faculty, *Fair Credit Reporting Litigation*, Consumer Protection Law (CLE-accredited), Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Philadelphia, PA and Mechanicsburg, PA, December 2004, March 2007;

Speaker, *Litigating Accuracy Issues with Furnishers of Credit Data*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, New Orleans, LA, June 2 – 5, 2005;

Speaker, Philadelphia Housing Expo, Homeownership Counseling Association of the Delaware Valley, 2005 and 2006;

Speaker, *Understanding Credit Scoring*, Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, National Consumer Law Center, Boston, MA, November 7, 2004;

Speaker, *Litigating Accuracy Issues With Credit Reporting Agencies*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Chicago, Ill., May 14 – 16, 2004;

Speaker, *Protecting Privacy, Ensuring Accuracy*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Albuquerque, NM, June 1, 2002;

Faculty/Speaker, *Credit Reporting and Debt Collection Litigation*, Municipal Court Judicial Conference (CLE), Pennsylvania, PA, May 6, 1999;

Speaker, The People's Law School, Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia, PA, October 2004;

Guest Lecturer, Consumer Protection Law, Temple Law School, 2003 – 2012;

Guest Lecturer, Consumer Protection Law, Widener Law School, 2004 – 2009.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*The FCRA: A Double-Edged Sword for Consumer Data Sellers*,  
GP SOLO Magazine, American Bar Association, Volume 29, Number 6,  
November/December 2012

*Credit Rating Damage: Compensable, Yet Overlooked Damage in Tort Cases*,

The Verdict, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, Volume 2008-2009, Issue 6 (2009).

### **APPOINTMENTS, POSITIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

- Editorial Board of the Consumer Financial Services Law Report
- Philadelphia Bar Association's Lawyer Referral and Information Service Committee (chair or co-chair for 3 years)
- Philadelphia Bar Association's Federal Court's Committee.
- Arbitrator for the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County
- Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, Judge Pro Tem panel.

### **PERSONAL**

Born: June 17, 1970, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Family: Two Children, Shayna and Noah

---

### **MARK D. MAILMAN**

---

MARK D. MAILMAN, is the managing partner of FMS and one of the firm's founders. He is a tenacious and passionate consumer litigator who has for more than 26 years helped secure over \$350 million dollars in verdicts and settlements on behalf of more than 8,500 victimized consumers across the nation. Mark concentrates his practice primarily in federal courts, in the areas of Fair Debt Collection, Fair Credit Reporting, False Employment/Background Checks, Identity Theft, Unwanted Auto Calls and Texts, and Consumer Class Actions.

In October 2018, Mark was awarded the 2018 Consumer Attorney of the Year award from the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA). NACA is a nationwide organization of more than 1,500 consumer attorneys and advocates who represent the victims of abusive and fraudulent business practices. He has been consistently voted and named one of Pennsylvania's Super Lawyers by Law and Politics published by Philadelphia Magazine and Pennsylvania Super Lawyer Magazine from 2004 to the Present. Mark has repeatedly lectured before judges, lawyers and various professional organizations on the topics of Fair Debt Collection and Fair Credit Reporting litigation and has also appeared on various news programs to discuss trending consumer issues

Mark is a graduate of Muhlenberg College (B.A. magna cum laude, 1991), where he was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He received his law degree from the Temple University School of Law (J.D., 1995). While at Temple Law School, he achieved the highest grade in his Trial Advocacy clinic.

Mark is admitted to practice before the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Middle District of Pennsylvania, Eastern District of Arkansas, District of North Dakota, and District of New Jersey as well as the state courts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He has also successfully litigated cases across the country on a pro hac basis. Mark has been certified to serve as class counsel by state and federal courts in both contested and settlement class actions.

**CLASS COUNSEL CERTIFICATIONS**

*Martinez v. Avantus, LLC*, No. 3:20-CV-1772 (JCH), 2023 WL 112807 (D. Conn. Jan. 5, 2023)  
*Stewart et al v. LexisNexis Risk Data Retrieval Services, LLC et al.*, No. 3:20-cv-00903-JAG (E.D. Va. July 27, 2022)  
*Healy v. Milliman, Inc.*, No. 2:20-cv-01473-JCC (W.D. Wash. 2022)  
*Kang v. Credit Bureau Connection, Inc.*, No. 18-01359, 2022 WL 658105 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2022)  
*Watson v. Checkr, Inc.*, No. 3:19-cv-03396-EMC (N.D. Cal. 2021)  
*Deaton v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 2:20-cv-01380-AB (E.D. Pa. 2021)  
*Sanders v. Makespace Labs, Inc.*, No: 1:18-cv-10016 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 29, 2021)  
*Der-Hacopian v. Darktrace, Inc.*, No: 18-cv-06726-HSG (N.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2020)  
*Der-Hacopian v. Sentrylink, LLC*, No. 8:18-cv-03001-PWG (N.D. Cal. Nov. 23,2020)  
*McIntyre v. RealPage, Inc.*, No: 2:18-cv-03934, WL 5017612 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 25, 2020)  
*Norman v. Trans Union, LLC*, No: 18-5225, 2020 WL 4735538 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 14, 2020)  
*Robinson v. National Student Clearinghouse*, No. 1-19-cv-10749, 2020 WL 4873728 (D. Mass. July 8, 2020) *aff'd* 14 F.4th 56 (1st Cir. 2021)  
*Leo v. Appfolio, Inc.*, No.3:17-cv-05771-RJB (W.D. Wash. 2019)  
*Thomas v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, No. 18-cv-684 (E.D. Va. 2020)  
*Clark v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*, No. 16-cv-32 (E.D. Va. 2019)  
*Clark/Anderson v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 15-cv-391 & No. 16-cv-558 (E.D. Va. 2018)  
*Gibbons v. Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA*, 2018 WL 5720749 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 31, 2018)  
*Kelly v. Business Information Group*, C.A. 15-6668, 2019 WL 414915 (E.D. Pa. 2019)  
*Ridenour v. Multi-Color Corporation*, C.A. No. 2:15-cv-00041, (E.D. Va., Jan. 13, 2017)  
*Flores v. Express Personnel*, C.A. No. 14-cv-03298, (E.D. Pa. Oct. 21, 2016)  
*Larson v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 12-cv-05726, (N.D. CA, Aug. 11, 2016)  
*Miller v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 12-cv-1715, (M.D. PA, Dec. 26, 2016)  
*Henderson v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 14-cv-00679, E.D. Va., May 3, 2016)  
*Pawlowski v. United Tranzactions, LLC*, C.A. no. 15-cv-2330, (E.D. PA, April 18, 2016)  
*Rodriguez v. Calvin Klein, Inc.*, C.A. 1:15-cv-02590 (S.D. N.Y. 2015)  
*Giddiens v. Infinity Staffing*, C.A. No. 13-cv-07115, (E.D. Pa., Jan. 12, 2016)  
*Giddiens v. First Advantage*, C.A. No. 14-cv-5105, (E.D. Pa., July 11, 2015)  
*Jones v. Halstead Management Corporation*, C.A. No. 14-cv-03125 (S.D. N.Y., May 5, 2016)  
*Berry v. LexisNexis Risk & Info. Analytics Group, Inc.*, No. 3:11-cv-754, 2014 WL 4403524 (E.D. Va. Sept. 5, 2014)  
*Thomas v. BackgroundChecks.com*, C.A. No. 13-029 2015 WL 11004870 (E.D. Va. Aug. 5, 2015)



*Henderson v. Acxiom Risk Mitigation, Inc.*, C.A. No. 12-589 (E.D. Va., Aug. 7, 2015)  
*Magallon v. Robert Half International, Inc.* WL 8778398 (D. Or. Nov. 10, 2015)  
*Carter v. McDonald's Restaurants*, 15-01531-MWF (March 15, 2015)  
*Patel v. Trans Union, LLC*, 308 F.R.D. 292 (N.D. Cal. 2014)  
*Goode v. First Advantage LNS Screening Sols., Inc.*, No. 11-cv-02950 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 29, 2014)  
*Blandina v. Midland Funding, LLC*, 2014 WL 7338744 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 23, 2014)  
*King v. General Information Services, Inc.*, C.A. No. 11-06850 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014)  
*Robinson v. General Information Services, Inc.*, C.A. No. 11-07782 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014)  
*Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2014 WL 3734525 (N.D. Cal. July 24, 2014)  
*White v. Experian Information Solutions*, 993 F. Supp. 2d 1154, 1172 (C.D. Ca. 2014)  
*Sapp v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 2:10-04312 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 29, 2013)  
*LaRocque v. TRS Recovery Services, Inc.*, 2012 WL 291191 (D. Me. July 17, 2012)  
*Ryals et al. v. Hireright Solutions, Inc.*, C.A. No. 3:09-625 (E.D. Va. July 7, 2011)  
*Serrano v. Sterling Testing Systems, Inc.*, 711 F. Supp. 2d 402 (E.D. Pa. 2010)  
*Summerfield v. Equifax Info. Services, LCC*, 2009 WL 3234191 (D. N.J. Sept. 30, 2009)  
*Chakejian v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, 256 F.R.D. 492, 2009 WL 764656 (E.D. Pa. 2009)  
*Barel v. Bank of America*, \_\_\_ F.R.D. \_\_\_, 2009 WL 122805 (E.D. Pa. 2009)  
*Mann v. Verizon*, C.A. No. 06-5370 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 26, 2008)  
*Smith v. Grayling Corp.*, 2008 WL 3861286, C.A. No. 07-1905 (E.D. Pa. 2008)  
*Strausser v. ACB Receivables Management, Inc.*, 2008 WL 859224 (E.D. Pa., March 28, 2008)  
*Nienaber v. Citibank (South Dakota), N.A.*, 2007 WL 2003761 (D.S.D., July 5, 2007)  
*Jordan v. Commonwealth Financial Sys., Inc.*, 237 F.R.D. 132, 2006 WL 2294855 (E.D. Pa. 2006)  
*Seawell v. Universal Fidelity Corp.*, 235 F.R.D. 64 (E.D. Pa. 2006)  
*Perry v. FleetBoston Financial Corp.*, 299 F.R.D. 105, 2005 WL 1527694 (E.D. Pa. 2005)  
*Beck v. Maximus, Inc.*, 2005 WL 589749 (E.D. Pa. 2005); *vacated on other grounds, Beck v. Maximus*, 457 F. 3d 291, 2006 WL 2193603 (3d. Cir. Aug. 4, 2006)  
*Stoner v. CBA Information Services*, 352 F. Supp. 2d 549 (E.D. Pa. 2005)  
*Bittner v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 04-2562 (E.D. Pa. January 4, 2005)  
*Wisneski v. Nationwide Collections, Inc.*, 227 F.R.D. 259 (E.D. Pa. 2004)  
*Petrolito v. Arrow Financial Services, LLC*, 221 F.R.D. 303 (D. Conn. 2004)  
*Orloff v. Syndicated Office Systems, Inc.*, 2004 WL 870691 (E.D. Pa. 2004)  
*Bonett v. Education Debt Services, Inc.*, 2003 WL 21658267 (E.D. Pa. 2003)  
*Gaumer v. The Bon-Ton Stores*, C.A. No. 02-8611 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 30, 2003)  
*Street v. Portfolio Recovery Associates*, C.A. No. 01-3684 (E.D. Pa. July 30, 2003)

*Samuel-Bassett v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, 212 F.R.D. 271 (E.D. Pa. 2000), *vacated on other grounds*

*Oslan v. Law Offices of Mitchell N. Kay*, 232 F. Supp. 2d 436 (E.D. Pa. 2002)

*Oslan v. Collection Bureau of Hudson Valley*, 206 F.R.D. 109 (E.D. Pa. 2002)

*Saunders v. Berks Credit & Collections*, 2002 WL 1497374 (E.D. Pa. 2002)

*Schilling v. Let's Talk Cellular and Wireless*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3352 (E.D. Pa. 2002)

*Fry v. Hayt, Hayt and Landau*, 198 F.R.D. 461 (E.D. Pa. 2000)

*Smith v. First Union Mortgage Corporation*, 1999 WL 509967 (E.D. Pa. 1999)

*Miller v. Inovision*, C.P. Phila. County, December Term, 1999, No. 3504

### **NOTABLE CASES**

- *Schwartz v. Aracor Search & Abstract, Inc.*, 2014 WL 4493662 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 11, 2014) (upholding compensatory and punitive damages judgment against title company that misappropriated certain funds at real estate closing)
- *Ferguson v. Wells Fargo Bank, NA*, 538 Fed. Appx. 782 (9th Cir. 2013) (reversing summary judgment for bank that failed to properly remove bankruptcy notation)
- *King v. General Info. Servs., Inc.*, 903 F. Supp. 2d 303 (E.D. Pa. 2012) (first court to uphold constitutionality of FCRA's obsolescence provision)
- *Seamans v. Temple University*, Civil No. 11-6774(E.D. Pa., Oct. 28, 2011) — precedential case of first impression before U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit addressing duties of furnishers and interplay between the FCRA and HCA.
- *Adams v. LexisNexis Risk & Info. Analytics Group, Inc.*, 2010 WL 1931135 (D.N.J. May 12, 2010) (first court to find that consumers may sue under FRCA over information in specialty Accurint report used by debt collectors)
- *Dixon-Rollins v. Trans Union, LLC*, Civil No. 09-646 (E.D. Pa., April 10, 2010) – \$530,000 jury verdict against a credit reporting agency that falsely reported an old landlord collection claim for rent (remitted to \$300,000)
- *Shames-Yeakel v. Citizens Financial Bank*, 677 F. Supp. 2d 994 (N.D. Ill. 2009) (first court to rule that consumer may proceed to jury trial on claim that bank breached its duty to sufficiently secure its online banking system).
- *Cortez v. Trans Union, LLC*, Civil No. 05-5684 (E.D. Pa., April 26, 2007)—\$800,000 jury verdict against Trans Union in fair credit reporting case (remitted to \$150,000)
- *Samuel-Bassett v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, C.P. Phila. County, January Term, 2001, No. 2199—5.6 million dollar verdict for class of Pennsylvania car purchasers
- *Little v. Kia Motors America, Inc.*, 2003 WL 25568765 (N.J.Super.L. 2003)—6 million dollar (approximate) verdict for class of New Jersey car purchasers, damages later decertified

- *Serrano v. Sterling Testing Systems, Inc.*, —F.Supp.2d—, 2008 WL 2223007 (E.D. Pa. May 30, 2008)—federal court finding as a matter of first impression what defines a record of arrest under the FCRA
- *Stoner v. CBA Information Services*, 352 F. Supp. 2d 549 (E.D. Pa. 2005)—obtained \$772,500 settlement for class of consumers who disputed errors in their credit reports
- *Perry v. FleetBoston Financial Corp.*, 2004 WL 1508518 (E.D. Pa. 2004)—defeated motion to compel arbitration in class action brought under Fair Credit Reporting Act
- *Crane v. Trans Union, LLC*, 282 F. Supp. 2d 311 (E.D. Pa. 2003)—federal court held that credit reporting agencies that merely parrot information from credit furnishers and fail to forward dispute documentation face claims for punitive damages under the Fair Credit Reporting Act; violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act presents a violation of Pennsylvania’s Consumer Protection Law); *Lawrence v. Trans Union, LLC*, 296 F. Supp. 2d 582 (E.D. Pa. 2003)—same
- *Wisneski v. Nationwide Collections, Inc.*, 227 F.R.D. 259 (E.D. Pa. 2004)—in fair debt class action, Pennsylvania federal court held for the first time that statutory net worth limitation is not limited to balance sheet net worth, and includes equity, capital stock and goodwill
- *Evantash v. G.E. Capital Mortgage Services, Inc.*, 2003 WL 22844198 (E.D. Pa. 2003)—in fair credit reporting case, court held that technical accuracy is not a defense
- *Sheffer v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 2003 WL 21710573 (E.D. Pa. 2003)—federal court held that Fair Credit Reporting Act permits as recoverable damage emotional distress in trying to correct errors in a consumer’s credit file, even where no pecuniary or out-of-pocket losses
- *Sheffer v. Experian Information Solutions Inc.*, 249 F. Supp. 2d 560 (E.D. Pa. 2003)—federal court held that FCRA provides a private right of action against furnishers of information
- *Sullivan v. Equifax, Inc. et al.*, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 7884 (E.D. Pa. 2002)—federal court held that reporting a debt to a credit reporting agency is a communication covered by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act
- *Wenrich v. Cole*, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18687 (E.D. Pa. 2000)—federal court held that FDCPA provides protection for all persons, not just consumers
- *Jaramillo v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 155 F. Supp. 2d 356 (E.D. Pa. 2001); 2001 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10221 (E.D. Pa. 2001)—federal court held that single publication rule does not apply to actions brought for violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act

### **PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES BY INVITATION**

Speaker, *Spring Training 2023 (FCRA)*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, New Orleans, LA, May 3-5, 2023

Speaker, *Spring Training 2022 (FCRA)*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Phoenix, AZ, May 11-14, 2022

Speaker, *Consumer Rights Litigation Conference*, National Consumer Law Center's Office Hours with the FCRA Stars, December 6-17, 2021

Speaker, *Spring Training 2020 (FCRA)*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Online Webinars, May 1-June 30, 2020

Speaker, *Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Long Beach, CA, May 1-4, 2019

Speaker, *Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Baltimore, MD, April 22-29, 2017

Speaker, *Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Las Vegas, NV, May 1-3, 2015

Speaker, *Fair Debt Collection Experienced Training Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Baltimore, MD, March 7-8, 2013

Speaker, *Fair Debt Collection Experienced Training Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, New Orleans, LA, February 23-24, 2012

Speaker, *Negotiating 101*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Memphis, TN, May 20-22, 2011

Speaker, *Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Chicago, IL, May 8-10, 2009

Speaker, *Fair Debt Collection Experienced Training Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Nashville, TN, March 27-29, 2008

Speaker, *Litigation Trends: "Getting to Know the Other Team"*, 11th Annual DBA International World Championship of Debt Buying, Las Vegas, NV, February 5-7, 2008

Speaker, *Protecting Vulnerable Consumers and Promoting Marketplace Justice*, Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, National Consumer Law Center, Miami, FL, November 10-13, 2006

Speaker, *FCRA: Playing to Win*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Las Vegas, NV, May 5-7, 2006

Speaker, *Litigating Accuracy Issues With Furnishers of Credit Data*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, New Orleans, LA, June 2-5, 2005

Speaker, *Understanding Credit Scoring*, Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, National Consumer Law Center, Boston, MA, November 7, 2004

Speaker, *Litigating Accuracy Issues With Credit Reporting Agencies*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Chicago, Ill., May 14-16, 2004

Speaker, *FCRA/Building On Our Success*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Orlando, FL, March 7-9, 2003

Speaker, *Protecting Privacy, Ensuring Accuracy*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Albuquerque, NM, June 1, 2002

Faculty/Speaker, *Credit Reporting and Debt Collection Litigation*, Municipal Court Judicial Conference (CLE), Pennsylvania, PA, May 6, 1999

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*CFPB Details Student Loan Servicers' Struggles in Wake of Borrowers Resuming Payments, The Legal Intelligencer, (February, 2024)*

*Third Circ. Clarifies Furnishers' Duties Under the FCRA to Probe Indirect Disputes, 268 The Legal Intelligencer, 5, 8 (2023)*

*CFPB Explores AI's Impact on Consumers' Relationships With Financial Institutions, 268 The Legal Intelligencer, 5, 8 (2023)*

*CFPB Reminds Consumer Reporting Agencies to Toss 'Junk Data' in the Trash, 266 The Legal Intelligencer, 5, 8 (2022)*

*Your Clients' Consumer Rights Legal Issues May Be Hiding in Plain Sight, 264 The Legal Intelligencer, 7-8 (2021)*

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND POSITIONS**

Mark regularly lectures for continuing legal education programs, law schools and community groups throughout the country, and has been a regular speaker for the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) and National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) for over 20 years. He is a certified arbitration panelist with the Federal Arbitration Panel and serves on the Editorial Board of the Consumer Financial Services Law Report. Additionally, Mark is a member of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association, Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, Philadelphia Bar Association, and National Association of Consumer Advocates, and regularly serves on the Philadelphia Bar Association's Federal Courts Committee.

## **JOHN SOUMILAS**

---

JOHN SOUMILAS is a partner of the firm. His primary office is located in Philadelphia. A seasoned litigator, John has represented thousands of consumers in individual cases and class actions, with career settlements and verdicts valued at more than \$180M. He currently represents persons defamed and otherwise harmed by credit reporting, employment background and tenant screening errors, victims of identity theft, students and student loan borrowers, individuals harassed and deceived by collectors and other businesses, as well as consumers who are subjected to unwelcome invasions of their privacy, overcharging, and other deceptive trade practices.

John has been repeatedly recognized by Philadelphia Magazine as a "SuperLawyer," a recognition received by only 5% of attorneys in Pennsylvania. He has been nationally recognized for his work in protecting consumer rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). Throughout his career, John has obtained some of the highest consumer jury verdicts, including the highest known FCRA verdicts in Pennsylvania, California, and Michigan, and had been appointed by federal judges as class counsel in some of the largest FCRA class cases and settlements.

John lives in Philadelphia with his wife and has four adult children. John is a 1994 *cum laude* graduate of Rutgers University, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He also holds

a master's degree in American history from Stony Brook University, obtained in 1996. John received his law degree *cum laude* from the Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1999, where he was a member of the Temple Law Review. He began his legal career by clerking for Justice Russell M. Nigro of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

## ADMISSIONS

John has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, United States Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth and Eleventh Circuits, the United States District Courts for the District of Colorado, Eastern District of Michigan, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and the District of New Jersey, as well as the state courts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He has also successfully litigated cases on a *pro hac vice* basis throughout the country.

## RECENT WORK

John is known for his ability to tackle a wide array of novel and complex legal problems. A sampling of his work in recent years is set forth below:

### False Terrorist Alerts on Credit Reports

- *Martinez v. Avantus, LLC*, 343 F.R.D. 254 (D. Conn. 2023) (certified class of mortgage applicants in case involving the reporting of inaccurate OFAC “terrorist” alerts appearing on the credit reports of innocent American consumers); later settled for \$6.7M; *Kang v. Credit Bureau Connection, Inc.*, No. 18-01359, 2022 WL 658105 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2022) (certified class of car buyers in case involving the reporting of inaccurate OFAC alerts) (also appointed class counsel and represented classes of similar consumers for false OFAC alert claims in *Patel v. Trans Union, LLC*, 308 F.R.D. 292 (N.D. Cal. 2015); later settled for \$8M; and *Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 301 F.R.D. 408 (N.D. Cal. 2014); *see also Ramirez v. Trans Union LLC*, 951 F.3d 1008 (9th Cir. 2020) (upholding certification of entire class, but reversed for portion of class that lacked Article III standing per *Trans Union LLC v. Ramirez*, 141 S. Ct. 2190 (2021); later settled for over \$9M.

### Unlawful College Charges and Student Loan Collections

- *Teran v. Navient Sols. (In re Teran)*, No. 10-31718, 2022 Bankr. LEXIS 381 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Feb. 15, 2022) (summary judgment ruling siding with class of student debtors who had collection efforts taken against them even though certain of their student loans were discharged in their bankruptcies); later certified and settled as part of nationwide \$28M damages and \$54M debt forgiveness deal, *Woodard v. Navient Sols.*, No. 8:23-cv-301, 2024 WL 94468 (D. Neb. Jan. 9, 2024);
- *Botts v. Johns Hopkins Univ.*, No. 20-1335, 2021 WL 1561520 (D. Md. Apr. 21, 2021) (leading decision in litigation against universities for class of undergraduate and graduate students claiming overcharging during the Covid-19 pandemic, upholding breach of contract and unjust enrichment claims) later settled for over \$10M;
- *Seamans v. Temple University*, 744 F.3d 853 (3d Cir. 2014) (reversing summary judgment for credit furnisher concerning improperly reported old student loan debt, and setting standard for

certain delinquent student debt that cannot be reported to the credit agencies after seven-and-a-half years).

Credit Reporting Errors and Problems

- *Norman v. Trans Union, LLC*, 669 F. Supp. 3d 351 (E.D. Pa. 2023) (finding that credit reporting agency must reinvestigate consumers’ disputes of contested “hard inquiries” (credit applications) and refusing agency’s request to de-certify class); *Norman v. Trans Union, LLC*, 479 F.Supp.3d 98 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 14, 2020) (first court to certify class action for credit report agency’s failure to investigate hundreds of thousands of consumer disputes of certain inquiries disputed as unauthorized); followed by *Rivera v. Equifax Info. Servs., LLC*, 341 F.R.D. 328 (N.D. Ga. 2022) (certifying even larger class of over 300,000 consumers for same claim);
- *Adams v. LexisNexis Risk & Info. Analytics Group, Inc.*, No. 08–4708, 2010 WL 1931135 (D.N.J. May 12, 2010) (first court to find that consumers may sue under FRCA over personal information in specialty Accurant credit report used by debt collectors and others) (leading to *Berry v. LexisNexis Risk & Info. Analytics Group, Inc.*, No. 11-754, 2014 WL 4403524 (E.D. Va. Sept. 5, 2014) and resulting in \$13.5M class action settlements with LexisNexis);
- *Ferguson v. Wells Fargo Bank, NA*, 538 Fed. Appx. 782 (9th Cir. 2013) (reversing summary judgment for bank that failed to remove bankruptcy notation from consumer’s credit report).

Tenant and Employment Screening Violations

- *In re TransUnion Rental Screening Sols., Inc., Fair Credit Reporting Act Litig.*, 437 F. Supp. 3d 1377, 1378 (U.S. Jud. Pan. Mult. Lit. 2020) (later settled in 2023 for over \$11M to compensate victims of inaccurate data on tenant screening reports);
- *McIntyre v. RealPage, Inc.*, 336 F.R.D. 422 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 25, 2020) (certifying claim on behalf of tenant applicants for improper reporting of stale eviction records against them in largest tenant screening class to date); later settled for over \$6.3M;
- *Kelly v. Business Information Group*, No. 15-6668, 2019 WL 414915 (E.D. Pa. Feb. 1, 2019) (as part of approval of over \$3.1M class settlement requiring employment background screener to provide important “same time” notice to job candidates of any adverse information being included in their background reports);
- *Leo v. AppFolio, Inc.*, No. 17-5771, 2018 WL 623647 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 30, 2018) (upholding class action claims against start-up tenant screening company); later settled for \$4.5M;
- *Flores v. Express Personnel*, No. 14-03298, 2017 WL 1177098 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 30, 2017) (certifying settlement class regarding improper background screening practices by a job placement agency); later settled for over \$6M;
- *Magallon v. Robert Half International, Inc.*, 311 F.R.D. 626 (D. Or. Nov. 10, 2015) (one of few cases certifying a 5-year FCRA class on contest for failure to timely disclose adverse temp-placement decisions against job placement agency).

**NOTEWORTHY CASES**

Throughout his career, John has litigated some of the most groundbreaking consumer rights cases including several cases involving issues of first impression. The following is a list of cases involving complex and novel issues that John had litigated through the years:

- *Teran v. Navient Sols. (In re Teran)*, 649 B.R. 794 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. March 30, 2023) (certifying circuit-wide damages class and also nationwide injunctive class of student loan borrowers of non-Title IV loans subjected to unlawful post-bankruptcy collection efforts);
- *Clark v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 15-391, 2017 WL 814252 (E.D. Va. Mar. 1, 2017) (certifying one of first misreported public records FCRA classes);
- *Schwartz v. Aracor Search & Abstract, Inc.*, No. 13–870, 2014 WL 4493662 (E.D. Pa. Sept. 11, 2014) (upholding compensatory and punitive damages judgment against title company that misappropriated certain funds at real estate closing);
- *King v. General Info. Servs., Inc.*, 903 F. Supp. 2d 303 (E.D. Pa. 2012) (first court to uphold constitutionality of FCRA’s obsolescence provision for old or outdated background history);
- *Howley v. Experian Info. Solutions, Inc.*, 813 F. Supp. 2d 629 (D.N.J. 2011) (first court to find that consumer may sue agency that improperly disclosed information to an identity thief);
- *Cortez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 617 F.3d 688 (3d Cir. 2010) (upholding first ever court finding that false terrorist/OFAC alerts are subject to the FCRA, also upholding punitive damages of case tried by same counsel before a jury at the district court level, *Cortez v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 05-5684 (E.D. Pa. Apr. 26, 2007));
- *Chakejian v. Equifax Info. Servs., LLC*, 256 F.R.D. 492 (E.D. Pa. 2009) (first certified class action under FCRA section 1681i regarding consumer disputes);
- *Shames-Yeakel v. Citizens Financial Bank*, 677 F. Supp. 2d 994 (N.D. Ill. 2009) (first court to rule that consumer may proceed to jury trial on claim that bank breached its duty to sufficiently secure its online banking system).

## **LECTURES / PUBLICATIONS**

John is also a regular lecturer on consumer matters, including for the National Business Institute, National Consumer Law Center, Practicing Law Institute, National Association of Consumer Advocates, and other organizations. John has been interviewed and quoted concerning many legal issues affecting consumers by a wide range of media outlets, from the Wall Street Journal and Forbes Magazine to Consumer Reports and Free Speech Radio. He has authored several popular and scholarly articles, including *Third Circuit Refuses to Allow Litigant to Sidestep Its Chosen Arbitration Body’s Rules* (The Legal Intelligencer Feb. 2, 2024); *CFPB Tries to Nip New Wave of Unlawful Medical Debt Collection in the Bud* (The Legal Intelligencer Apr. 1, 2022), *Predatory Lending, the FCRA and the FDCPA* (NBI 2009), and *How Can I Combat Identity Theft* (Philadelphia Magazine, Dec. 2008).

---

## **LAUREN KW BRENNAN**

LAUREN KW BRENNAN is a partner of the firm. Lauren is a zealous consumer advocate and skilled litigator who has spent her entire career seeking to vindicate the rights of consumers. She concentrates her practice on class action litigation on behalf of consumers harmed by credit



reporting errors, inaccurate employment background screening, abusive debt collection practices, and other unfair and fraudulent trade practices. Lauren lives in West Philadelphia with her husband and two children.

### **EDUCATION**

Temple University Beasley School of Law J.D. *cum laude*, 2013; Beasley Scholar, Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review

Swarthmore College, B.A. 2008

### **ADMISSIONS**

Lauren has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Second, Third, Seventh, Ninth, and Eleventh Circuits, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, as well as in state courts in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She has also successfully litigated cases after being admitted *pro hac vice* in federal district courts around the country.

### **NOTABLE CASES**

- *Hernandez v. MicroBilt Corporation*, 88 F.4th 215 (3d Cir. 2023) (upholding denial of CRA’s motion to compel arbitration of claims regarding misreporting of terrorist watch list information, confirming that claims return to court where AAA declined to administer dispute).
- *Kelly v. RealPage, Inc.*, 47 F.4th 202 (3d Cir. 2022) (after granting Plaintiff’s Rule 23(f) petition for permission to appeal, holding that consumers had Article III standing for claim that tenant screening company failed to disclose sources of information, that consumers are not required to use term “file” in order to trigger disclosure obligations, and that class is ascertainable under Rule 23 even where individual review of objective records is required).
- *Healy v. Milliman, Inc.*, No. 2:20-cv-01473-JCC (W.D. Wash. 2022) at ECF 126 (Apr. 29, 2022 order certifying FCRA accuracy claims of over 300,000 consumers who were the subject of inaccurate reports regarding medical and prescription history)
- *Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 951 F.3d 1008 (9th Cir. 2020), 141 S.Ct. 2190 (2021); 2022 WL 17740302 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2022). Member of plaintiff’s trial team in record \$60 million jury verdict for a case brought under the Fair Credit Reporting Act; central contributor to post-trial briefing and appellate proceedings including at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and in the U.S. Supreme Court; later settled for \$9 million

### **CLASS COUNSEL CERTIFICATIONS**

*Martinez v. Avantus, LLC*, No. 3:20-CV-1772 (JCH), 2023 WL 112807 (D. Conn. Jan. 5, 2023)

*Healy v. Milliman, Inc.*, No. 2:20-cv-01473-JCC (W.D. Wash. 2022)

Watson v. Checkr, Inc., No. 3:19-cv-03396-EMC (N.D. Cal. 2021)  
Deaton v. Trans Union, LLC, No. 2:20-cv-01380-AB (E.D. Pa. 2021)  
Sanders v. Makespace Labs, Inc., No: 1:18-cv-10016 (S.D.N.Y. 2021)  
*McIntyre v. RealPage, Inc., d/b/a On-Site*, No: 2:18-cv-03934-CFK (E.D. Pa. 2020)  
*Norman v. Trans Union, LLC*, No: 18-5225, 2020 WL 4735538 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 14, 2020)  
*Der-Hacopian v. DarkTrace, Inc.*, No. 4:18-cv-06726-HSG (N.D. Cal. 2020)  
*Der-Hacopian v. SentryLink*, No. 8:18-cv-03001-PWG (D. Md.)  
*Taylor v. GfK Custom Research, Inc.*, No. 1:16-cv-09968-ER (S.D.N.Y. 2019)  
*Leo v. AppFolio, Inc.*, No.3:17-cv-05771-RJB (W.D. Wash. 2019)  
*Clark/Anderson v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 15-cv-391 & No. 16-cv-558 (E.D. Va. 2018)  
*Kelly v. Business Information Group*, C.A. 15-6668, 2019 WL 414915 (E.D. Pa. 2019)  
*Flores v. Express Personnel*, C.A. No. 14-cv-03298, (E.D. Pa. Oct. 21, 2016)  
*Larson v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 12-cv-05726, (N.D. CA, Aug. 11, 2016)  
*Miller v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 12-cv-1715, (M.D. Pa. Dec. 26, 2016)  
*Henderson v. Trans Union, LLC*, C.A. No. 14-cv-00679 (E.D. Va. May 3, 2016)  
*Pawlowski v. United Tranzactions, LLC*, C.A. no. 15-cv-2330, (E.D. Pa. April 18, 2016)  
*Rodriguez v. Calvin Klein, Inc.*, C.A. 1:15-cv-02590 (S.D.N.Y. 2015)  
*Giddiens v. Infinity Staffing*, C.A. No. 13-cv-07115, (E.D. Pa. Jan. 12, 2016)  
*Giddiens v. First Advantage*, C.A. No. 14-cv-5105, (E.D. Pa. July 11, 2015)  
*Magallon v. Robert Half International, Inc.*, 2015 WL 8778398 (D. Or. Nov. 10, 2015)  
*Patel v. Trans Union, LLC*, 308 F.R.D. 292 (N.D. Cal. 2014)  
*Blandina v. Midland Funding, LLC*, 2014 WL 7338744 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 23, 2014)  
*Robinson v. General Information Services, Inc.*, No. 11-07782 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014)  
*Ramirez v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2014 WL 3734525 (N.D. Cal. July 24, 2014)

### **LECTURES/PUBLICATIONS**

Speaker, *Consumer Financial Services Fundamentals 2024*, Practising Law Institute, New York City, “The Credit Reporting Ecosystem: Major Players and Overview of the Key Laws That Apply,” March 15, 2024.

Speaker, *Consumer Law Basics Webinar Series*, Social Law Library & National Consumer Law Center, “FCRA Basics,” Webinar, March 5, 2024.

Speaker, *Consumer Rights Litigation Conference*, National Consumer Law Center, Chicago, IL “ABCs of FCRA,” October 26, 2023.

Co-author, “FCRA Remedies When Criminal Records Lead to Rental Denials” National Consumer Law Center, September 21, 2023.

Speaker, *Spring Training Class Action Workshop*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, New Orleans, LA “Class Action Trials,” May 3, 2023.

Co-Chair, *Spring Training - Case Valuation and Damages Track*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Phoenix, AZ May 11-14, 2022.

Facilitator, *Spring Training*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Online Webinar, “FCRA Background Screening Networking Session” April 29, 2021.

Speaker, *Consumer Rights Litigation Conference*, National Consumer Law Center, Online Webinar “FCRA Mini-Intensive, Specialty CRAs Part 2: Tenant Screening” November 12, 2020.

Planning Committee, *Spring Training – FCRA Track*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Online Webinar, April 30-May 2, 2020.

Speaker, *FCRA Conference*, National Association of Consumer Advocates, Long Beach, CA “Trial Updates,” May 4, 2019.

---

## DAVID A. SEARLES

---

DAVID A. SEARLES, of counsel to the firm, is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fourth and Sixth Circuits, and the United States District Courts for the District of Maryland, the District of Colorado, the Northern District of Oklahoma, and Eastern and Middle Districts of Pennsylvania, as well as the state courts of Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the American University School of Law, Washington, D.C., where he served on law review.

Following graduation from law school, Mr. Searles was an attorney for Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, where he specialized in consumer and bankruptcy law. In 1990, he successfully argued the first consumer reorganization bankruptcy case considered by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Pennsylvania v. Davenport*, 495 U.S. 552 (1990), and has served as lead counsel and presented arguments in numerous consumer law cases before the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. From 1992 through 1997, Mr. Searles was associated with the Philadelphia law firm of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, where his practice focused on Chapter 11 bankruptcy and creditors’ rights. Thereafter, he was a member of Donovan Searles, LLC until 2011, specializing in consumer class action litigation.

In 2005, Mr. Searles was awarded the Equal Justice Award at the Community Legal Services Breakfast of Champions for his role in directing funding for legal assistance for low-income residents of Philadelphia. Mr. Searles has served as the Pennsylvania contributor to SURVEY OF STATE CLASS ACTION LAW (ABA Section of Litigation – 2010), and as a contributing author of PENNSYLVANIA CONSUMER LAW (2010). He has taught advanced bankruptcy law at the

Rutgers University School of Law – Camden, business law at Widener University and bankruptcy law at Pierce Junior College, Philadelphia. He is a past co-chairperson of the Education Committee of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Bankruptcy Conference. Mr. Searles has been named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer for many years.

### **CLASS ACTIONS**

*Lucas v. Accutrace, Inc.*, No. 18-9059 (S.D.N.Y. June 29, 2020);  
*Kelly v. Business Information Group*, 2019 WL 414915 (E.D. Pa. 2019);  
*Gibbons v. Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA*, 2018 WL 5720749 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 31, 2018);  
*Patel v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2018 WL 1258194 (N.D. Ca. March 11, 2018);  
*Carter v. Shalhoub Management Company, Inc.*, 2017 WL 5634300 (C.D. Ca. March 15, 2017);  
*Flores v. Express Services, Inc.*, 2017 WL 1177098 (E.D. Pa. March 30, 2017);  
*Miller v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2017 WL 412641 (M.D. Pa. Jan. 18, 2017);  
*Larson v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 12-5726 (N.D. Ca. June 26, 2015);  
*Blandina v. Midland Funding, LLC*, 2014 WL 7338744 (E.D. Pa. Dec. 23, 2014);  
*King v. General Information Services, Inc.*, C.A. No. 2:11-cv-06850 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014);  
*Robinson v. General Information Services, Inc.*, C.A. No. 2:11-cv-07782 (E.D. Pa. Nov. 4, 2014);  
*Jones v. Midland Funding, LLC*, 2013 WL 12286081 (D. Conn. Dec. 3, 2013);  
*Sapp v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 2:10-cv-04312 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 29, 2013);  
*Reibstein v. Rite Aid Corporation*, 2011 WL 192512 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 18, 2011);  
*McCall v. Drive Financial*, January Term 2006, No. 0005 (C.P. Phila. July 20, 2010);  
*Serrano v. Sterling Testing Systems, Inc.*, 711 F.Supp.2d 402 (E.D. Pa. 2010);  
*Summerfield v. Equifax Information Services, LLC*, 264 F.R.D. 133 (D.N.J. 2009);  
*Chakejian v. Equifax Information Services, LLC*, 256 F.R.D. 492 (E.D. Pa. 2009);  
*Barel v. Bank of America*, 255 F.R.D. 393 (E.D. Pa. 2009);  
*Markocki v. Old Republic National Title Ins. Co.*, 254 F.R.D. 242 (E.D. Pa. 2008);  
*Strausser v. ACB Receivables Management, Inc.*, 2008 WL 859224 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 28, 2008);  
*Allen v. Holiday Universal, Inc.*, 249 F.R.D. 166 (E.D. Pa. 2008);  
*Cohen v. Chicago Title Insurance Company*, 242 F.R.D. 295 (E.D. Pa. 2007);  
*Jordan v. Commonwealth Financial Systems, Inc.*, 237 F.R.D. 132 (E.D. Pa. 2006);  
*Braun v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 2005 WL 3623389 (C.P. Phila. Dec. 27, 2005);  
*Perry v. FleetBoston Financial Corp.*, 229 F.R.D. 105 (E.D. Pa. 2005);  
*Beck v. Maximus, Inc.*, 2005 WL 589749 (E.D. Pa. March 11, 2005);  
*Stoner v. CBA Information Services*, 352 F.Supp.2d 549 (E.D. Pa. 2005);

*Orloff v. Syndicated Office Systems, Inc.*, 2004 WL 870691 (E.D. Pa. April 22, 2004);  
*Petrolito v. Arrow Financial Services, LLC*, 221 F.R.D. 303 (D. Conn. 2004);  
*Piper v. Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd.*, 216 F.R.D. 325 (E.D. Pa. 2003);  
*Bonett v. Education Debt Services, Inc.*, 2003 WL 21658267 (E.D. Pa. 2003).

---

**GEOFFREY H. BASKERVILLE**

---

GEOFFREY H. BASKERVILLE is a 1982 graduate of Gettysburg College and a 1992 graduate of the Dickinson School of Law. During law school, Geoffrey published an article entitled *Human Gene Therapy: Application, Ethics and Regulation* in the Dickinson Law Review, Vol. 96, No. 4.

Since graduating from law school, Geoffrey has worked for both plaintiff and defense litigation firms practicing in the areas of medical malpractice, architect's and engineer's malpractice, the Federal Employer's Liability Act, and trucking litigation. In 2007, Geoffrey joined Francis Mailman Soumilas P.C. and began to practice in the area of consumer protection litigation, including fair credit reporting and fair debt collection.

Since that time, Geoffrey has concentrated his practice on representing consumers in cases under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other consumer statutes. He has represented clients in cases against background screening companies, credit reporting agencies, banks, credit card companies and other financial institutions. Geoffrey is admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of Pennsylvania, the District of New Jersey, the Eastern District of Michigan, the District of Colorado, the Western District of Texas, the Central District of Illinois, and the District of New Mexico, as well as the state courts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Geoffrey is an avid amateur photographer.

---

**JORDAN M. SARTELL**

---

JORDAN M. SARTELL joined the class action practice of Francis Mailman Soumilas, P.C. in 2017 and litigates on behalf of consumers harmed by unlawful credit reporting, tenant screening, background checks, debt collection, and other deceptive and unfair business practices.

Jordan received his law degree *summa cum laude* from the DePaul University College of Law in 2012, where he was a member of the DePaul Law Review. Jordan began his legal career protecting vulnerable senior citizens from financial exploitation with Prairie State Legal Services. Jordan is admitted in Illinois and practices in federal district and appellate courts throughout the United States.

Jordan lives in suburban Chicagoland with his wife and two. Jordan served on the Editorial Board of the DuPage County Bar Association's legal journal, *The Brief*, from 2014 to 2023, including as its Editor in Chief from 2021 to 2022 and Associate Editor from 2020 to 2021. Jordan

is also a member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and regularly provides pro bono advice and counsel on a variety of consumer issues.

### **CLASS COUNSEL CERTIFICATIONS**

*Schultz v. Emory University*, No. 1:20-cv-02002-TWT, ECF 98 (N.D. Ga. June 15, 2023)

*Botts v. The Johns Hopkins University*, No. 1:20-cv-01335-JRR, ECF 96 (D. Md. April 20, 2023)

*Teran v. Navient Solutions, LLC et al.*, No. 20-03075-DM, 2023 WL 2721904 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2023)

*Stewart v. LexisNexis Risk Data Retrieval Serv's, LLC*,  
No. 3:20-cv-00903-JAG (E.D. Va. July 27, 2022)

*Rivera v. Equifax Info. Servs., LLC*, 341 F.R.D. 328 (N.D. Ga. 2022)

*Kang v. Credit Bureau Connection, Inc.*, No. 1:18-CV-01359-AWI-SKO,  
2022 WL 658105 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2022)

*McIntyre v. RealPage, Inc., d/b/a On-Site*, 336 F.R.D. 422 (E.D. Pa. 2020)

*Norman v. Trans Union, LLC*, 479 F. Supp. 3d 98 (E.D. Pa. 2020)

*Wills v. Starbucks Corporation*, No. 1:16-cv-3654-CAP-CMS, ECF 59 (N.D. Ga. July 16, 2020)

*Robinson v. National Student Clearinghouse*, No. 1:19-CV-10749,  
2020 WL 4873728 (D. Mass. July 8, 2020), *aff'd* 14 F.4th 56 (1st Cir. 2021)  
2020 WL 2563437 (E.D. Wis. May 14, 2020)

*Shekar v. Accurate Background, Inc.*, No. 17-CV-0585,

### **JOSEPH GENTILCORE**

---

JOSEPH GENTILCORE is a passionate advocate for every one of his clients, and truly believes in the work that he does. Joseph focuses his practice on Fair Credit Reporting Act cases and other consumer protection matters under both state and federal law. He currently represents consumers in cases against credit card companies, banks, debt collectors, mortgage servicers and background check companies. Joseph has dedicated the majority of his career to representing individuals who have been wronged by large financial entities, and along the way has helped thousands of consumers obtain compensation from the corporations that have harmed them. As a result of Joseph's specialties, he has given lectures on various topics, including background checks, credit reporting inaccuracies, and mortgage fraud.

Joseph graduated Ursinus College, and Temple University School of Law.

Joseph has been lead counsel in over 300 individual federal consumer protection cases, and appointed class counsel in consumer protection matters. Every year since 2013, Joseph has been named a Super Lawyer or Rising Star by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers. Joseph is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and is admitted in numerous federal courts throughout the country.

---

## SIOBHÁN MCGREAL

---

SIOBHÁN MCGREAL joined Francis Mailman Soumilas, P.C. in 2021, and concentrates her advocacy on behalf of consumers harmed by credit reporting errors, inaccurate background screening reports for employment and housing applications, and other abusive and unfair trade practices. Siobhán has dedicated the majority of her career to helping those who have had difficulty having their voices heard within the legal system.

Prior to joining FMS, Siobhán was a Deputy City Solicitor in the Child Welfare Unit of the City of Philadelphia Law Department, where she litigated thousands of hearings of child abuse, child neglect, applications for orders of protective custody, permanent legal custodianship, and terminations of parental rights. She started her law career as an attorney for the Administration of Children’s Services in Brooklyn, NY, before moving to Southern California and working in private practice for several years. Siobhán earned her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from New York Law School after teaching English in Thailand for a short time. She has been admitted to practice in the state courts of Pennsylvania, California, and New York, as well as before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

---

## ERIKA HEATH

---

ERIKA HEATH joined Francis Mailman Soumilas, P.C. in 2020, and focuses her San Francisco practice on individual and class action litigation for consumers harmed by erroneous credit reports, inaccurate employee background checks, unlawful debt collection practices, and other unfair trade practices.

Erika is a 2002 graduate of Southern Methodist University, where she majored in business. She worked in finance in both Texas and Germany before earning her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law in 2009. After graduating, Erika got her start as an attorney at Atlanta Legal Aid Society, where she focused on protecting low-income consumers from abusive business practices.

Both during her time as a legal aid attorney and after, Erika has participated in a number of high-profile cases. She served as lead counsel on the case of *Strickland v. Alexander*, which ultimately led to a federal court declaring Georgia’s garnishment process to be unconstitutional and enjoining most consumer garnishments in the state. As a result of her work on the *Strickland* case, Erika received numerous awards, including the 2015 Consumer Achievement of the Year award from the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA). In the summer of 2017, she served as co-counsel in the trial of *Bowerman v. Field Asset Services, Inc.* (N.D. Cal.), which led to a jury verdict of more than \$2 million for 11 employees who were misclassified as independent contractors. She is currently a lecturer at University of California, Berkeley (BerkeleyLaw), where she teaches a course on the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Erika moved with her family to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2015. She is licensed to practice in California, Georgia, and New York. She is an active member of the National Association of Consumer Advocates.

---

## **KEVIN MALLON**

---

KEVIN MALLON joined Francis Mailman Soumilas, P.C. as Of Counsel in 2020. Mr. Mallon is also the owner of Mallon Consumer Law Group, PLLC, a New York City based consumer protection law firm focused on representing consumers harmed by credit reporting agencies, debt collectors, identity theft and consumer fraud.

Mr. Mallon has obtained relief for thousands of consumers harmed by unlawful corporate conduct since becoming an attorney in 1999. He represents consumers in both individual cases and class actions. He has successfully obtained jury verdicts on behalf of consumers as well as successfully representing consumers on appeal. Mr. Mallon is recognized as a national expert in credit reporting cases and has spoken numerous times at credit reporting conferences.

Mr. Mallon received his undergraduate degree from the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University, magna cum laude, in 1995. He attended the Santa Clara University School of Law on a full Dean's scholarship, and graduated summa cum laude in 1999. He is licensed to practice in all New York State Courts as well as the Southern District of New York and Eastern District of New York federal courts.

---

## **THE FIRM'S STAFF**

---

The firm employs a highly qualified staff of paralegals, legal assistants, and secretaries to advance its objectives.



# Exhibit B



2000 Market Street  
20th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
☎ 215.299.2000 📠 215.299.2150  
WWW.FOXROTHSCHILD.COM

ABRAHAM C. REICH  
Direct No: 215.299.2090  
Email: areich@foxrothschild.com

May 8, 2024

**Via Email ([jfrancis@consumerlawfirm.com](mailto:jfrancis@consumerlawfirm.com))**

James A. Francis, Esquire  
Francis, Mailman, Soumilas, P.C.  
1600 Market Street  
Suite 2510  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

**Re: Billing Rates at Francis Mailman Soumilas P.C.**

Dear Mr. Francis:

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

By letter dated October 18, 2022, I gave you my expert opinion with regard to the proposed range of reasonable hourly billing rates for the lawyers at Francis Mailman Soumilas, P.C. ("Francis Mailman Soumilas" or "the Firm") and, specifically, whether such rates were consistent with the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct and the Philadelphia market for legal services. You have asked me to analyze whether the rates currently charged by the Firm, as outlined in my October 2022 opinion, are within market rates and whether any adjustment is warranted. You have also asked me to consider rates for other markets where the Firm currently has ongoing litigation: Rochester, NY and Portland, OR. This serves as a supplement to my October 2022 opinion.

## **II. QUALIFICATIONS**

I am a partner at the law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP ("Fox Rothschild"). I have been at Fox Rothschild since 1974 as a member of its Litigation Department. From 2005 through

A Pennsylvania Limited Liability Partnership

California Colorado Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Illinois Massachusetts Minnesota Missouri  
Nevada New Jersey New York North Carolina Oklahoma Pennsylvania South Carolina Texas Washington



May 8, 2024

Page 2

2017, I served as Co-Chair of Fox Rothschild and now hold the title of Chair Emeritus. For five years prior to becoming Co-Chair, I was the Managing Partner of the Philadelphia office. I have been a member of the management group at Fox Rothschild since 1985. I was the founding member of Fox Rothschild's Professional Responsibility Committee (in 1988) and served as Chair of the Committee for eight years.

As part of the management of Fox Rothschild over the past forty years, I have participated in the review and analysis of the hourly rates that we charge for our lawyers. This review is completed at least once a year and involves a review and analysis of the markets in which we participate to ensure that we set competitive rates and that the rates we charge are consistent with the Rules of Professional Conduct (or its predecessor, the Code of Professional Responsibility).

The process of setting hourly billable rates encompasses a number of steps. Initially, Fox Rothschild obtains public data of national, regional and local law firms' hourly billing rates. In addition, management often speaks with consultants with expertise in this area to ensure that our rates are within the range of our competitors in the market. The management team, which comprises leaders from each of our offices, discusses the hourly billing rates in each of our markets.<sup>1</sup> We try to establish rates that are fair and competitive.

I have had an active litigation practice for more than forty-nine years. The majority of my practice involves commercial litigation matters, in which I represent plaintiffs and defendants. I have also been active for many years representing lawyers and law firms in a myriad of issues involving professional responsibility and legal ethics, including the defense of legal malpractice claims. I have also been involved in dealing with fee disputes between and among lawyers and their clients. In 1998, I was selected to be a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

In Fox Rothschild's litigation practice, we have handled matters in the area of consumer law. Our firm has represented large financial institutions, which have been sued for

---

<sup>1</sup> Fox Rothschild currently has thirty offices in distinct marketplaces throughout the country, including Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.



May 8, 2024

Page 3

violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA"), the Consumer Credit Protection Act ("CCPA") and the Fair Debt Collection Protections Act ("FDCPA"). We have defended some of the parties sued by clients of Francis Mailman Soumilas.

For over forty years, I have been active in the area of legal ethics and the interpretation and application of the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct (and its predecessor, the Code of Professional Responsibility). For many years, I have been a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association's Professional Responsibility Committee and Professional Guidance Committee. In 1983 and 1984, I served as Chair of the Professional Responsibility Committee. In 1987 and 1988, I served as Chair of the Professional Guidance Committee. I have also served as a member of a Hearing Committee for the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for six years. For a portion of that time, I chaired the Hearing Committee. From approximately 1988 to 1995, I have also served as one of two appointed lawyers (non-judicial) liaisons to the Judicial Ethics Committee of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

I have, for many years, served on the Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. For the past nineteen years, I have taught legal ethics and professional responsibility at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

In 1995, I served as Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association. I have been a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Bar Association for over twenty years. I participated in the debates surrounding the enactment of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and many of the Amendments.

I have spoken and written on issues of trial practice and legal ethics over many years in many different forums. I have counseled hundreds of lawyers on issues of legal ethics and professional responsibility.



May 8, 2024

Page 4

### **III. DOCUMENTS REVIEWED**

I have reviewed the following documents as part of my analysis:

1. Francis Mailman Soumilas Firm Biography.
2. Francis Mailman Soumilas Attorney Biographies.
3. Francis Mailman Soumilas current hourly rates.
4. 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey of Law Firm Economics (2022 Edition).
5. Valeo Reports: Annual Partner Billing Rates by City.
6. Laffey Matrix.
7. Fox Rothschild LLP current rate schedule for its Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco lawyers.
8. "Big Law Rates Continue Rising, But Trail 2023 Increases So Far" The American Lawyer, January 31, 2024.
9. Consumer Price Index, 2023-24

### **IV. DISCUSSION**

#### **A. The Firm's Accomplishments**

Francis Mailman Soumilas ("FMS") is one of the leading law firms representing clients in consumer-related litigation in both individual and class action suits. When the Firm was founded in 1998, few firms were actively litigating cases under the CCPA. In addition, Francis Mailman Soumilas was one of the first firms to have a significant legal practice concentrating in federal fair credit reporting, fair debt collection and consumer class actions. Over the past twenty-six years, Francis Mailman Soumilas has become a well-known and highly regarded firm in the area of consumer protection litigation.

FMS has obtained record-breaking jury verdicts and settlements in cases brought under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). It has been certified to serve as class counsel in more than 70 consumer class actions nationwide and has obtained groundbreaking legal rulings at both the trial and appellate court levels on behalf of its clients. The firm has further served as counsel in some of the largest class action settlements in consumer



May 8, 2024

Page 5

protection litigation history. The following examples illustrate the groundbreaking work of FMS in the area of consumer law.

In *Ramirez v. Trans Union*, C.A. No. 12-cv-000632-JSC (N.D. Cal.), the Firm tried a class action case against Trans Union (one of the country's "big three" credit reporting agencies) and obtained a \$60 million verdict on behalf of a class of 8,000 people who were mislabeled as Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) criminals by Trans Union on credit reports in a claim brought under the FCRA. *Ramirez* is a record FCRA verdict, a rare class verdict, and was one of the top verdicts for 2017. Thereafter, Francis Mailman Soumilas argued the appeal against the former Solicitor General of the United States and the Ninth Circuit affirmed the trial court verdict (with remittitur): 951 F.3d 1008 (9th Cir. 2020). The United States Supreme Court granted certiorari in 2020, and in March of 2021, issued a 5-4 decision reversing the trial court's decision in part on the basis of its finding only a portion of the certified class had Article III jurisdiction. 141 S.Ct. 2190 (2021). The Firm achieved a \$9 million dollar settlement, which was approved by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. 2022 WL 17740302 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2022).

In *Robinson v. National Student Clearinghouse*, No. 1-19-cv-107490, 2020 WL 4873728 (D. Mass. July 8, 2020) *aff'd* 14 F.4th 56 (1st Cir. 2021), the Firm successfully obtained a \$2 million settlement for consumers who were overcharged for college verifications. This case was notable for the Firm's decision to challenge the defendant as a consumer reporting agency and ultimately bring the defendant into compliance with the FCRA.

In *Patel v. Trans Union, LLC*, 2018 WL 1258194 (N.D. Cal. March 11, 2018), the Firm served as lead Class Counsel and obtained an \$8 million settlement for a class of consumers who were falsely being reported as terrorists.

In *Thomas v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, No. 18-cv-684 (E.D. Va.), Francis Mailman Soumilas served as National Class Counsel in an FCRA class action alleging violations by a credit bureau for misreporting public records. The Firm provided a nationwide resolution of class action claims that were asserted across multiple jurisdictions (including injunctive relief) and an uncapped mediation program for millions of consumers. The Firm also



May 8, 2024

Page 6

served as National Class Counsel and obtained similar relief for millions of consumers with similar claims in *Clark v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*, No. 16-cv-32 (E.D. Va.) and *Clark/Anderson v. Trans Union, LLC*, NO. 15-cv-391 and No. 16-cv-558 (E.D. Va.).

In *Beach v. American Heritage Federal Credit Union*, C.A. No. 15-5942 (E.D. Pa. July 26, 2017), the Firm obtained a settlement exceeding \$1 million against American Heritage Federal Credit Union ("AHFCU") for AHFCU having generated a cash advance from consumers' accounts to pay fees, interest, charges or attorney fees. The court in *Beach* noted the Firm's experience in consumer class actions and found that "[t]he settlement agreement in this matter resulted from Class Counsel's vigorous advocacy and contested, protracted settlement negotiations."

In *Flores v. Express Services, Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 14-3298 (E.D. Pa. March 30, 2017), the Firm brought an action against Express Services, Inc. and Express Personnel – Philadelphia for violations of the FCRA and obtained a \$5.75 million settlement on behalf of the class. The court found that the skill and efficiency of the Firm was apparent, having "achieved a significantly favorable result on behalf of plaintiffs at the expense of the inherent risk that accompanies undertaking a contingency fee action," and also noted that Francis Mailman Soumilas has extensive experience in consumer class action litigation.

In *White v. Experian Info. Solutions*, C.A. No. 05-01070, 2014 WL 1716154 (C.D. Cal. May 1, 2014), the court found Francis Mailman Soumilas "FCRA specialists" and appointed the Firm and its team as interim class counsel over objections from competing groups (including Boise Schiller) because the Francis, Mailman, Soumilas team's "credentials and experience [we]re significantly stronger in class action and FCRA litigation"; affirmed sub nom *Radcliffe v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 818 F.3d 537 (9th Cir. 2016).

In *Henderson v. Axiom Risk Mitigation, Inc.*, C.A. No. 12-589 (E.D. Va. Aug. 7, 2015), Francis Mailman Soumilas was appointed class counsel in a national FCRA class action and obtained a \$20.8 million settlement against one of the largest data sellers and background screening companies in the world.



May 8, 2024

Page 7

In *Thomas v. BackgroundChecks.com*, C.A. No. 13-029 (E.D. Va. Aug. 11, 2015), Francis Mailman Soumilas was appointed class counsel in an FCRA national class action and obtained \$18 million against another one of the largest background screening companies in the world, in addition to significant injunctive and remedial relief.

Additionally, Francis Mailman Soumilas has been certified as class counsel in federal and state courts throughout the country in over 70 matters. The Firm has been certified as class counsel in the following matters<sup>2</sup>:

- *Woodard v. Navient Solutions, LLC et al.*, No. 8:23-cv-00301-RFR (D. Neb. 2024)
- *Schultz v. Emory University*, No. 1:20-cv-02002-TWT, ECF 98 (N.D. Ga. June 15, 2023)
- *Botts v. The Johns Hopkins University*, No. 1:20-cv-01335-JRR, ECF 96 (D. Md. April 20, 2023)
- *Teran v. Navigant Solutions, LLC et al.*, \_\_\_B.R. \_\_\_, 2023 WL 2721904 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Mar. 30, 2023) (appointed class counsel to represent national injunctive relief class).
- *Martinez v. Avantus, LLC*, No. 3:20-CV-1772 (JCH), 2023 WL 112807 (D. Conn. Jan. 5, 2023)
- *Stewart et al. v. LexisNexis Risk Data Retrieval Services, LLC et al.*, No 3:20-cv-00903-JAG (E.D. Va. July 27, 2022);
- *Kang v. Credit Bureau Connection*, No. 18-1359, 2022 WL 658105 (E.D. Cal. Mar 4, 2022)
- *Rivera v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, 341 F.R.D. 328 (N.D. Ga. 2022)
- *Healy v. Milliman, Inc.*, No. 2:20-cv-01473-JCC (W.D. Wash. 2022)
- *Watson v. Checkr, Inc.*, No. 3:19-cv-03396-EMC (N.D. Cal. 2021)
- *Deaton v. Trans Union, LLC*, No. 2:20-cv-01380-AB (E.D. Pa. 2021)
- *Sanders v. Makespace Labs, Inc.*, No: 1:18-cv-10016 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 29, 2021)

---

<sup>2</sup> This is only a partial list of the matters where FMS has been certified as class counsel.





May 8, 2024

Page 8

- *Der-Hacopian v. Darktrace, Inc.*, No: 18-cv-06726-HSG (N.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2020)
- *Der-Hacopian v. Sentrylink, LLC*, No. 8:18-cv-03001-PWG (N.D. Cal. Nov. 23, 2020)
- *McIntyre v. RealPage, Inc.*, No: 2:18-cv-03934, WL 5017612 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 25, 2020)
- *Norman v. Trans Union, LLC*, No: 18-5225, 2020 WL 4735538 (E.D. Pa. Aug. 14, 2020)
- *Thomas v. Equifax Info. Services, LLC*, NO. 18-cv-684 (E.D. Va. 2020)

In addition to obtaining substantial and favorable verdicts, the Firm has also made significant contributions to public policy. The Firm set legal precedent and clarified legal issues, including: (i) the proper standard for the investigation of a consumer dispute by credit reporting agencies and furnishers of information; (ii) the standard for proving willfulness under the FCRA; (iii) the accuracy standard for credit reports; (iv) the types of information permitted to be included in credit reports; (iv) the types of cognizable actual damages available in an FCRA action; (v) the consumer's burden of proof in an FCRA action; and, (vi) proper jury charges. Francis Mailman Soumilas has also been counsel to some of the largest FCRA settlements in history, such as *Acxiom* (\$20.8 million), *Ramirez* (\$9 million), *Hireright*, (\$29 million) and *White/Hernandez* (\$45 million).

Through Francis Mailman Soumilas' jury verdicts and class settlements, the Firm has established the "market value" for class and individual cases under the FCRA and the FDCPA. I have been informed that there were few to no reported plaintiff FCRA verdicts prior to the Firm's victories. Moreover, Francis, Mailman, Soumilas has helped establish the standards for obtaining class certification in FCRA and FDCPA cases. *See, e.g., Cortez.*

The attorneys at Francis Mailman Soumilas are very active and well known in the legal community. They regularly share their expertise at local and national conferences. By way of example, attorneys from the Firm made the following presentations: Speaker: *Spring Training, 2023* (FCRA) National Association of Consumer Advocates, May 3-5, 2023, New Orleans, LA; Speaker: *Rule 23(c)(5) Subclasses: Certification, Due Process, Adequate Representation, and Settlement*, Stafford Webinars, February 23, 2023; Speaker: *Data Protection at the Federal Level*, Nevada Bar Association, January 17, 2023; Speaker: *27<sup>th</sup> Annual Consumer Financial Services Institute*, Practising Law Institute, *Debt Collection and*



May 8, 2024

Page 9

*Credit Reporting Update*, December 7, 2022, San Francisco, CA; Speaker: *Tenant Screening Litigation: FCRA and Civil Rights Claims*, National Consumer Law Center, Consumer Rights Litigation Conference, November 10, 2022, Seattle WA; Speaker: *"Lightning-Round Ascertainability"*, Consumer Class Action Symposium, National Consumer Law Center, November 13, 2022, Seattle, WA.

Attorneys from the Firm also served on the faculty for the *Perrin Conferences Class Action Litigation Virtual Conference*, April 26, 2022; as a Panel Member for the *27th Annual Consumer Financial Services Institute- Debt Collection and Credit Reporting Update* on September 20, 2022 in Chicago and March 18, 2022 in New York, NY; as a speaker for *Consumer Finance Class Actions: FDCPA, FCRA & TCPA* Webinar on September 16, 2020, and at *Representing the Pro Bono Client: Consumer Law Basics* in 2020 and 2019, presented by the Practising Law Institute. Firm members also served on the faculty for *Consumer Financial Services & Banking Law Update*, presented by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute on October 29, 2019 and *Consumer Finance Class Actions*, presented by The Canadian Institute on July 24, 2019.

Members of the Firm also spoke at the Fair Credit Reporting Act Conference, National Association of Consumer Advocates, in Long Beach, CA in May 2019 and Baltimore, MD in April 2017. They also served on the faculty for the 21st Annual Consumer Financial Services Litigation Institute (which was CLE accredited) on "Fair Credit Reporting and Debt Collection Litigation," which took place in March and April 2016 in New York City and Chicago.

One of the founding partners, James A. Francis, has been repeatedly named to the Top 100 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, as well as the Top 100 Philadelphia Super Lawyers, including as recently as 2023 and 2024. Mr. Francis was elected as a Fellow of the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers in 2023 and was also selected as a member of the Nation's Top One Percent by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel in 2024. Mr. Francis was also featured on LAW360 in October 2014 as one of a small handful of American plaintiff's lawyers to be selected from a national pool and featured as part of the "Titans of the Plaintiff's Bar" series. See



May 8, 2024

Page 10

<https://www.law360.com/articles/583536/titan-of-the-plaintiffs-bar-jim-francis>. Mr. Francis has been appointed to serve as class counsel by federal courts throughout the country in more than 70 cases.

Mark Mailman, also a founding partner and currently the managing partner of the Firm, was awarded the 2018 Consumer Attorney of the Year award from the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA). Mr. Mailman has repeatedly been voted and named one of Pennsylvania's Super Lawyers by Law and Politics published by Philadelphia Magazine and Pennsylvania Super Lawyer Magazine from 2004- present. He has also appeared on various news programs to discuss trending consumer issues and recently published an article in *The Legal Intelligencer*, a prominent Philadelphia legal publication, entitled "Your clients' consumer rights legal issues may be hiding in plain sight". Mark regularly lectures for continuing legal education programs, law schools and community groups throughout the country, and has been a regular speaker for the National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) and National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) for more than 20 years.

John Soumilas, another partner of the firm, was lead class counsel and lead trial counsel in the record breaking \$60 million class action jury verdict, the largest verdict in history for a case brought under the FCRA. Mr. Soumilas has been nationally recognized for his work in protecting consumer rights under the FCRA and, throughout his career, has obtained some of the highest consumer jury verdicts, including the highest known FCRA verdicts in Pennsylvania, California, and Michigan. Mr. Soumilas has also been appointed by federal judges as class counsel in some of the largest FCRA class cases and settlements. Mr. Soumilas' has career settlements and verdicts valued at more than \$180 million.

## **B. Methodology for Determining Rates**

**There are two complementary approaches for determining reasonable hourly rates.** The **first approach** is to consider the rates for comparably skilled practitioners in the relevant market. To that end, I have reviewed the hourly billing rates of lawyers in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Portland, Rochester, and comparable local areas.



May 8, 2024

Page 11

The hourly rates of lawyers listed in the Updated Laffey Matrix was a source I consulted.<sup>3</sup> For the period of June 2023 through May 2024, the hourly billing rates identified were: (i) \$1057 for an attorney with twenty or more years of experience; (ii) \$878 for an attorney with eleven to nineteen years of experience; (iii) \$777 for an attorney with eight to ten years of experience; (iv) \$538 for an attorney with four to seven years of experience; (v) \$437 for an attorney with one to three years of experience; and (vi) \$239 for a paralegal or law clerk. These numbers reflect an increase of approximately 17.5% from the 2019 rates.

I have also reviewed the current hourly rates set by my firm for its Philadelphia, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco lawyers and I have consulted with colleagues in my firm's New York, Chicago, and San Francisco offices who have served in management capacities and have experience in setting hourly rates in those jurisdictions. As I stated above, the process of setting hourly rates for my firm begins with obtaining public data, speaking with knowledgeable consultants, and discussions with the management team. I also considered the fact that the Consumer Price Index increased by 4.6% between my last report in October 2022 and the current date.

A **second approach** to determine a reasonable hourly rate would look at the relevant factors set forth in Rule 1.5(a) of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

While the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct do not specifically address the reasonableness of a specific hourly rate, they do address the considerations for assessing "the propriety of a fee" in Rule 1.5. In my opinion, some of those considerations can provide a useful analytical checklist when trying to determine a reasonable hourly rate.

The factors set forth in Rule 1.5(a) are:

1. Whether the fee is fixed or contingent;
2. The time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions

---

<sup>3</sup> The Laffey Matrix is reflective of market rates in the Baltimore/Washington area. See [www.laffeymatrix.com](http://www.laffeymatrix.com). In my experience, the rates in the Baltimore/Washington area are comparable to the Philadelphia Market and lower than the New York or Chicago markets.



May 8, 2024

Page 12

- involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal services properly;
3. The likelihood, if apparent to the client, that the acceptance of the particular employment will preclude other employment by the lawyer;
  4. The fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services;
  5. The amount involved and results obtained;
  6. The time limitations imposed by the client or by the circumstances;
  7. The nature and length of the professional relationship with the client; and
  8. The experience, reputation, and ability of the lawyer or lawyers performing the services.

**Factor Number 4** ["The fee customarily charged in the locality for similar legal services"] has already been addressed. This is a comparative review of rates charged by other lawyers in the market.

**Factor Number 1** ["whether the fee is contingent or fixed"] suggests that higher rates may be justified when fees are contingent. Francis Mailman Soumilas handles its cases on a contingent fee basis. As a result, the Firm bears all the risk of the cost of litigation until resolution. In some instances, the Firm may not receive payment of its fees for several years. Further, most of the defendants are large companies with substantial financial resources and lawyers equipped to defend the actions. Many of the lawsuits address novel areas of law. In order to obtain favorable outcomes, the attorneys at Francis Mailman Soumilas spend numerous hours conducting research, conducting discovery, and crafting innovative legal arguments to overcome attempts to have their clients' cases dismissed before trial. The Firm's investment of time and resources prevent it from litigating numerous matters at the same time.

**Factor Number 2** ["The time and labor required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal services properly"] also supports the notion that a higher rate would be justified for lawyers at Francis Mailman Soumilas who have distinguished themselves in their area of expertise. Finally, Factor



May 8, 2024

Page 13

**Number 8** [“The experience, reputation, and ability of the lawyer or lawyers performing the services”] likewise provides another reason to justify increasing rates recommended for the lawyers at Francis, Mailman, Soumilas.

The table below displays Francis Mailman Soumilas’ current hourly billing rates in each jurisdiction and dates of admission to the Bar. I have been advised that in federal court hearings, the judges who have been presented with the rates I and the colleagues of my firm have supported have found them to be reasonable. *See, e.g., Chakejian v. Equifax Information Services, LLC*, 275 F.R.D. 201 (E.D. Pa. 2011), *Sapp v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc.*, 2013 WL 2130956 (E.D. Pa. May 15, 2013); *Gibbons v. Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA, C.A. No-17-0151-JHS* (E.D. Pa., Jan. 26, 2022)(“And I’ve also read the Report of Abe Reich, Esquire, that confirms the reasonableness of the billing rates and fees charged in this case.”)

| <b>Attorney/Paralegal</b>      | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Philadelphia)</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (New York)</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Chicago)</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (San Francisco)</b> |
|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| James A. Francis (1995)        | \$785 - \$825                                       | \$1045 - \$1085                                 | \$900 - \$945                                  | \$865 - \$905  |
| Mark D. Mailman (1995)         | \$785 - \$825                                       | \$1045 - \$1085                                 | \$900 - \$945                                  | \$865 - \$905  |
| David A. Searles (1975)        | \$815 - \$855                                       | \$1135 - \$1175                                 | \$975 - \$1015                                 | \$895 - \$935  |
| Geoffrey H. Baskerville (1992) | \$655 - \$695                                       | \$915 - \$955                                   | \$785 - \$825                                  | \$720 - \$760  |
| John Soumilas (1999)           | \$695 - \$735                                       | \$975 - \$1015                                  | \$835 - \$875                                  | \$765 - \$805  |
| Lauren KW Brennan (2013)       | \$385 - \$425                                       | \$565 - \$605                                   | \$460 - \$500                                  | \$425 - \$465  |
| Jordan Sartell (2012)          | \$385 - \$425                                       | \$565 - \$605                                   | \$460 - \$500                                  | \$425 - \$465  |
| Joseph Gentilcore (2011)       | \$400 - \$445                                       | \$575 - \$615                                   | \$480 - \$520                                  | \$440 - \$480  |
| Erika Heath                    | \$425 - \$465                                       | \$595 - \$635                                   | \$520 - \$560                                  | \$490 - \$530  |
| Kevin Mallon                   | \$685 - \$725                                       | \$965 - \$1005                                  | \$825 - \$865                                  | \$755 - \$795  |
| Siobhan McGreal (2008)         | \$425 - \$465                                       | \$595 - \$635                                   | \$520 - \$560                                  | \$490 - \$530  |
| Experienced paralegal          | \$305   | \$305   | \$305  | \$305  |
| Inexperienced paralegal        | \$265   | \$265   | \$265  | \$265  |



May 8, 2024

Page 14

In consideration of the attorneys' years of experience, successful verdicts and recognition in the legal community, the level of current hourly billing rates is, in my opinion, below the market. An increase in the Firm's hourly billing rates is justified. The Firm has not raised its hourly billing rates since my last report of October 18, 2022. The additional experience and years practiced by the Firm's attorneys, the increase in legal fees and the increase in the Consumer Price Index during this time period justify a reasonable increase for Francis Mailman Soumilas.

## V. CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing analysis, and based upon my review of the prevailing market hourly billing rates, it is my opinion, within a reasonable degree of professional certainty, that the following range of hourly billing rates at Francis Mailman Soumilas is consistent with the hourly billing rates charged in the Philadelphia, New York, Chicago San Francisco, Portland (Oregon) and Rochester (New York) markets, and within the considerations outlined in the Rules of Professional Conduct. Moreover, my colleagues in each of those markets have reviewed this report and concur with the rates outlined below. The level of hourly billing rates within the range will depend on the complexity of the matter, the duration of the dispute and the result obtained.

| <b>Attorney/Paralegal</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Philadelphia)</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (New York)</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Chicago)</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (San Francisco)</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Portland, OR)</b> | <b>Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Rochester, NY)</b> |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| James A. Francis (1995)   | \$850 - \$890                                       | \$1120 - \$1180                                 | \$955-\$995                                    | \$920-\$960  | \$705-\$745   | \$680-\$720  |
| Mark D. Mailman (1995)    | \$850 - \$890                                       | \$1120 - \$1180                                 | \$955-\$995                                    | \$920-\$960  | \$705-\$745   | \$680-\$720  |
| David A. Searles (1975)   | \$875 - \$905                                       | \$1205 - \$1245                                 | \$1040-\$1080                                  | \$955-\$995  | \$720-\$760   | \$690-\$730  |
| Geoffrey H.               | \$700-\$740   | \$975-  | \$840-   | \$765-\$805  | \$565-\$605   | \$545-\$585  |



May 8, 2024

Page 15

| Attorney/Paralegal       | Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Philadelphia) | Range of Hourly Billing Rates (New York) | Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Chicago) | Range of Hourly Billing Rates (San Francisco) | Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Portland, OR) | Range of Hourly Billing Rates (Rochester, NY) |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| Baskerville (1992)       |  | \$1015                                   | \$880                                   |   |  |   |
| John Soumilas (1999)     | \$745 - \$785                                | \$1040-\$1080                            | \$895-\$935                             | \$820-\$860                                   | \$600-\$640                                  | \$650-\$690                                   |
| Lauren KW Brennan (2013) | \$430 - \$470                                | \$605-\$645                              | \$500-\$540                             | \$460-\$500                                   | \$400-\$440                                  | \$360-\$400                                   |
| Jordan Sartell (2012)    | \$410 - \$450                                | \$600-\$640                              | \$490-\$530                             | \$455-\$495                                   | \$355-\$395                                  | \$340-\$380                                   |
| Joseph Gentilcore (2011) | \$425 - \$465                                | \$605-\$645                              | \$510-\$550                             | \$470-\$510                                   | \$365-\$405                                  | \$345-\$385                                   |
| Erika Heath (2009)       | \$460 - \$500                                | \$635-\$675                              | \$565-\$605                             | \$525-\$565                                   | \$385-\$425                                  | \$370-\$410                                   |
| Kevin Mallon (2000)      | \$730 - \$770                                | \$1025-\$1065                            | \$855-\$915                             | \$805-\$845                                   | \$590-\$630                                  | \$640-\$680                                   |
| Siobhan McGreal (2008)   | \$455 - \$495                                | \$630-\$670                              | \$560-\$600                             | \$520-\$560                                   | \$385-\$425                                  | \$370-\$410                                   |
| Experienced paralegal    | \$345  | \$345                                    | \$345                                   | \$345   | \$325  | \$275   |
| Inexperienced paralegal  | \$295  | \$295                                    | \$295                                   | \$295   | \$275  | \$235   |

## VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Attached as Exhibit A is a copy of my curriculum vitae. It contains is a list of all publications that I have authored in the past ten years. I have not testified as an expert at trial in the past four years. In the past four years, I testified at a deposition as an expert witness in a confidential dispute involving a lawyer who became disabled. The matter was unrelated to an analysis of hourly rates. My current hourly rate is \$1,160.. I have been assisted in preparing this opinion by my partner, Beth Weisser, whose hourly rate is \$715. We spent approximately \$8500 in preparing this opinion.





May 8, 2024

Page 16

If I am provided with additional information, I reserve the right to supplement or amend my opinion.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A.C. Reich".

Abraham C. Reich

ACR:cah

Enclosure

# **EXHIBIT "A"**

2000 Market Street, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-299-2090 | www.foxrothschild.com  
reich@foxrothschild.com

## ABRAHAM C. REICH

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP

- Chair Emeritus, Fox Rothschild LLP (April 2017 to Present)
- Co-Chairman, Fox Rothschild LLP (April 2005 to March, 2017)
- Firm Executive Committee
- Partner, Litigation Department
- Former Managing Partner, Philadelphia Office (2000- April 2005)
- Professional Responsibility Committee (1998-2008), (Founding Member and Former Chair)

Abe has been with the firm since 1974. His area of practice involves all aspects of business litigation and counseling, including representation of lawyers and law firms in defense of legal malpractice claims and other disputes. Abe has taught professional responsibility at University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law since 2007. He also provides expert testimony in connection with legal ethics and professional responsibility and business litigation matters.

### EDUCATION

- The Beasley School of Law at Temple University, J.D. 1974, Editor, Law Review
- University of Connecticut, B.A., magna cum laude; 1971, Elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi

### ADMISSIONS

- Pennsylvania
- United States Supreme Court
- United States Courts of Appeal for the Third, Fourth, Seventh and Eighth Circuits

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- American Bar Association, House of Delegates (1995-2015; 2018-2023)
- American Bar Foundation
- American Association for Justice (formerly American Trial Lawyers Association)
- Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, House of Delegates; First Statewide Bench Bar Conference, Chair, 1986; Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee; Co- Chair, Task Force to Revise the Code of Judicial Conduct, 2012- 2013
- Pennsylvania Association for Justice (Formerly Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association) Board of Governors, 1985-1990; Commercial Litigation Committee, Former Co-Chair
- The Beasley School of Law at Temple University, Board of Overseers

### PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

- Chancellor, 1995
- Board of Governors, 1987-1999; Chair, 1989
- Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, 1986-1989, 1993-1994; Vice-Chair, 1989; Chair, Investigative Division, 1988-1989
- Professional Guidance Committee; Chair, 1987-1988
- Professional Responsibility Committee; Chair, 1983-1984
- Annual Conference Committee (Bench Bar Conference), Vice-Chair, 1984; Chair, 1985
- Trustee, Philadelphia Bar Foundation, 1993-1996

- 
- Trustee, Philadelphia Bar Education Center, 1993-1999
  - Trustee, International Human Rights Fund, 1993-1995
  - Federal Courts Committee
  - State Civil Judicial Procedures Committee
  - Editorial Board, the Philadelphia Lawyer, 1975-1987 (Former Publication of Business Law Section)
  - Counsel to Philadelphia Bar Association in *Restifo v. Philadelphia Bar Association*, 1991-1994

---

**OTHER  
ORGANIZATIONAL  
ACTIVITY**

- Lecturer in Law, University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law, “Ethics and Advocacy – From the Boardroom to the Courtroom”; Spring Semesters 2007-2023
- The Continuing Legal Education Board of the Supreme Court Of Pennsylvania, Board Member 2005 – 2010; Chair, 2011
- The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, Former Hearing Committee Member and Chair, 1985-1991
- Pennsylvania Committee of State Trial Judges, Lawyer Liaison, Judicial Ethics Committee, 1988-1995
- Campaign for Qualified Judges, Former Trustee
- Pennsylvania Law Journal-Reporter, Former Member of Corporate Law Advisory Board
- The Legal Intelligencer, Former Editorial Board Member, 1992
- Lawyers Club of Philadelphia, Former Member of Board of Directors
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Task Force on Equal Treatment in the Courts, 1996
- Lawyer’s Advisory Committee, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Chair, 1998
- Jenkins Law Library, Board Member and President (1995-2015)
- Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, Advisory Board Member
- Brandeis Law Society Foundation, Director

---

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Co-Author, *The Metaverse for the Risk-Averse: Law Firms and Legal Advertising, Parts 1 and 2*, Pennsylvania Law Weekly, 45 PLW 962 (October 25, 2022) and 45 PLW 966 (November 8, 2022)
- Contributing Author, *Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel – Ethics*, Chapter 31 (Thomson Reuters 2009-2020)
- Contributing Author, *Pennsylvania Ethics Handbook*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2017
- Co-Author, *Attorney Self-Governance, Federal Oversight Clash in Dodd-Frank Act*, The Legal Intelligencer, November 15, 2010
- Co-Author: *The Lawyer’s Duty of Disclosure: Ethics and Sarbanes-Oxley – The New Conundrum for Patent Lawyers*, Akron Intell. Prop. 43-63, 2007
- “*The IP Lawyer’s Duty of Disclosure Under Sarbanes-Oxley*,” The Legal Intelligencer – May 8, 2006
- Co-Author: *When Competition Crosses The Line, Mid-Atlantic Executive Legal Advisor*, Winter 2005
- Co-Author: *What Do You Do When Confronted With Client Fraud, Business Law Today*, Vol. 12, Number 1, September/October 2002
- Co-Author: *Screening Mechanisms: A Broader Application? Balancing Economic Realities and Ethical Obligations*, Vol. 72, Temple Law Review 1023, 2000

- *Lawyer Controlled MDPs: Critical to the Future Economic Vitality Of Our Profession*, American Bar Association Section of Environment Energy and Resources, Ethics Committee Newsletter, Vol. 1 No. 1, November 2000
- Co-Author: *The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995; An Overview*, *The Barrister*, Vol. XXVII, No. 2, Fall, 1996
- Co-Editor: *Commercial Litigation Case Notes*, *Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association*, 1985-1995
- Co-Author: *Time Out – A Time for Reflection on Statutes of Limitation in Federal Securities Laws and RICO Claims*, *The Barrister*, Vol. XVIII, No. 1, Spring 1987
- Co-Author: *Getting Even*, *Litigation*, Vol. 13, No. 2, Winter, 1987
- Book Review, *Newberg on Class Actions, (Second)*, *The Barrister*, Vol. XVI No. 4, Winter 1985/1986
- Co-Author: *Mandamus Used as Pretrial Appeal*, *Pennsylvania Law Journal Reporter*, Vol. VI, No. 10, March 1983
- Co-Author: *Derivative Action Requirements Eased*, *Pennsylvania Law Journal Reporter*, Vol. V., No. 46, December 1982
- Co-Author: *Non-Parties May Recover Discovery Costs*, *Pennsylvania Law Journal Reporter*, Vol. V, No. 39, October 1982
- *Action in Restraint of Trade: What Constitutes Conspiracy?*, *Pennsylvania Law Journal Reporter*, Vol. IV, No. 15, April 19814
- *A Shot in the Arm for Dissenting Shareholders*, *The Philadelphia Lawyer*, Vol. 17, No. 2, March 1980
- *The New Judicial Code as Part of Pennsylvania’s Consolidated Statutes*, *The Philadelphia Lawyer*, Vol. 16, No. 2, June 1979
- *Equal Fault Revisited*; *The Philadelphia Lawyer*, Vol. 14, No 4, December 1977
- Co-Author: *Individual Issues in Securities Class Actions*, *The Philadelphia Lawyer*, Vol. 13, No. 3, October 1976
- *United States v. Byrum: The Troubled Application of Section 2036*, Vol. 46, *Temple Law Quarterly* 498, 1973

## LECTURES

- **American Association for Justice** (Formerly American Trial Lawyers Association): *Commercial Litigation*, 1986
- **American Bar Association**: Section of Business Law, *Client Fraud: To Disclose or Not to Disclose*, October 2002 (National Teleconference)
- **American Conference Institute Forum On Reduced Legal Costs**, *The Ethics of Alternative Fee Arrangements and Cost Reduction Strategies*, 2009
- **American Intellectual Property Law Association**: *Advanced Computer & Electronic Patent Practice Seminar, The Lawyers Duty of Disclosure – Ethics and Sarbanes-Oxley – The New Conundrum for Patent Attorneys*, Boston, June 2006
- **Berks County Bar Association**: *Legal Ethics*, 1993
- **Delaware Valley Corporate Counsel Association**: *Legal Ethics*, 1987
- **Dickinson Law School**: *Intellectual Property Forum, Trade Secrets*, 1983 and 1985
- **DuPont Chemical CLE Series**, *Ethics and the Federal Circuit*, September 2007
- **Federal Bar Association**: *Federal Class Actions*, 1986
- **Frankford’s Rotary Club**: *Legal Ethics*, 1987
- **Intellectual Property Owners Association**: *Annual Meeting “Sarbanes-Oxley and the Duty of Disclosure for IP Lawyers”*, Seattle, September 2005
- **Lorman Seminars, Ethics Seminars**, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020
- **Minnesota Institute of Legal Education**: *Securities/Commercial Litigation*, 1986;
- **Antitrust/Unfair Competition**, 1987; *Securities/Commercial Litigation*, 1989
- **Montgomery County Trial Lawyers Association**: *Legal Ethics/Fee Disputes*, 1991

- **Pennsylvania Association for Justice** (Formerly Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association)
  - Broker/Dealer Litigation, 1984;
  - Commercial Litigation Update, 1986-1989;
  - Antitrust/Health Care, 1989;
  - Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility, 1992/1993 (Multiple Seminars);
  - Winning with Expert Testimony, April 2002;
  - “What’s It Worth” Seminar (Ethics Component), November 2002; March 2010
- **Pennsylvania Bar Association: Young Lawyers Section**, The Transition from Associate to Partner, 1986
- **Pennsylvania Bar Institute**
  - Directors and Officers Insurance, 1987;
  - Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility, 1988;
  - Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility – Bucknell University, 1992;
  - Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility, 1993;
  - Alternative Dispute Resolution, 1994;
  - Legal Ethics/Professional Responsibility, 1997;
  - Alternative Dispute Resolution, 1997;
  - Recent Developments in Federal Practice/Federal Evidence, 1998;
  - The Ethics of Law Firm Governance, 2000;
  - Intellectual Property Issues for Business Lawyers, April 2002;
  - Accounting Litigation After Enron, WorldCom. (Ethics Component), November 2002;
  - Attorney Fees, June 2003;
  - My First Federal Court Trial, October 2004;
  - Tortious Interference in Business/Professional Relationships, August 2005;
  - Ethical Considerations in Litigating Employment Discrimination Cases, December 2005;
  - Best Practices in Pretrial Litigation in Federal Courts, 2012, 2013, 2014; 2015, 2016;
  - Annual Labor Law Update (Ethics Component) 2014;
  - Ethics And The Labor Lawyer, November 2016;
  - Plenary CLE Ethics Program, Business Law Institute, October 2019
- **Philadelphia Bar Association**
  - Bench Bar Conference, Commercial Litigation, 1979
  - Commercial Litigation, 1982
  - Professional Responsibility, 1983
  - Federal Bench Bar Conference, 2015
  - Client Confidentiality/Duty of Disclosure, 1985
  - Professional Responsibility Committee, May 2004; September 2004 (New Rules of Professional Conduct)
  - Federal Bench Bar Conference “The Rocket Docket”, 2005
- **Philadelphia Bar Education Center**
  - Legal Ethics/Solicitation, October 1992;
  - Legal Ethics/Pro Bono Representation, November 1992; November 1993
  - “Client Conflicts: Charting Safe Courses After Maritrans”, April 1993;
  - Legal Ethics: “Attorney/Accountant Ethical Clashes in the 90’s: How to Bridge the Gap”, January 1994;
  - Ethics of Pro Bono, 1992, 1994, 1996
- **Philadelphia Business Journal**, Roundtable: The Future of Law Firms (May 22-28, 2009)
- **Pennsylvania Law Journal-Reporter**: Antitrust Law Seminar, 1981 – Course Planner
- **Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association**
  - Commercial Litigation, 1985
  - Legal Ethics/Fee Disputes, 1991
  - Legal Ethics/Trial Practice, 1997
  - Legal Ethics and Attorney Malpractice, 2016

- 
- **Philadelphia Intellectual Property Law Association**
    - Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility for the Intellectual Property Lawyer, 1996;
    - ADR in IP Cases, 2005;
    - IP Lawyers and the Duty of Disclosure under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, May 2006;
    - Ethics, May 2010
  - **Smithsonian Institution/American Association of Museums:** Legal Ethics: Who is the Client? – The Museum Board, Officers, Employee, or the “Public” - 2007
  - **Temple University School of Law:** Legal Ethics, 1995; Rome Program, Visiting Professor, International Civil Litigation, June 2004; Legal Ethics and Social Media 2013; 2014
  - **Third Circuit Judicial Conference:** Litigating Federal Civil Cases in the 21st Century: Changes and Challenges (Course Planner) 1997; Ethics in a Digital Age (Panelist), 2011
  - **Thomson Reuters:** *Conflicts and Ethical Duties to Clients and the Public: Are They Reconcilable?*, Speaker, June 25, 2013
  - **University of Akron School of Law,** Eighth Annual Richard C. Sughrue Symposium: The New Conundrum for Patent Lawyers: Sarbanes-Oxley, March 2006
  - **University of Pennsylvania School of Law:** Social Media and Ethics, 2012
  - **Villanova University School of Law:** Professional Responsibility, 1983

---

#### AWARDS

- Named as one of the Leading Litigation Attorneys in Pennsylvania, Chambers USA (2008 through 2018)
- Philadelphia Magazine Super Lawyers, “The Top Ten”, 2006; 2011-2016 “The Top 100”, 2006-2017
- Most Admired CEO Award by *Philadelphia Business Journal*, 2014
- Brandeis Society Community Achievement Award (Ben Levy), 2014
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, Award for Service as Co-Chair of Task Force on Code of Judicial Conduct, 2014
- Learned Hand Award, American Jewish Committee, 2012
- Temple University, Founder’s Day Award, 2009
- Wachovia Fidelity Award, 2007
- Fund for Religious Liberty Award, American Jewish Congress, 1997
- Outstanding Leadership Award by Pennsylvania Legal Services, 1996
- IOLTA Leadership Award, 1993
- Equal Justice Award by Community Legal Services, 1991

---

**PERSONAL** Born: April 17, 1949, Waterbury, Connecticut  
Married: Sherri Engelman Reich  
Children: Two sons, Spencer and Alexander  
Daughters-in-Law, Elena Steiger Reich (lawyer); Lea Michele Sarfati  
Three grandchildren, Gabriella, Levi and Ever

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

BRADLEY MEEHAN and CESAR E. CORVERA  
SANTAMARIA, on behalf of themselves and those  
similarly situated,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

ROADMASTER DRIVERS SCHOOL, INC.,

*Defendant.*

Case No. 5:22-CV-04299

Honorable John M. Gallagher, U.S.  
D.J.

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL A. TOMPKINS, ESQ.**  
**IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR APPROVAL**  
**OF COSTS AND FEES AND PLAINTIFFS' SERVICE AWARDS**

I, Michael A. Tompkins, Esq., declare as follows:

1. I am a partner at Leeds Brown Law, P.C. Counsel for Named Plaintiffs Bradley Meehan, Cesar E. Corvera Santamaria, and the proposed Settlement Class in the above-captioned case, and I am admitted *pro hac vice* to practice in this Action.
2. I respectfully submit this Declaration in further support of Class Counsel's request for attorney's fees and expenses, which is being filed contemporaneously along with Plaintiffs' motion for attorneys' fees, expenses, and service awards.
3. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein and, if called upon to testify, I could and would testify competently thereto.
4. I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Expenses, and Service Awards, which seeks an order that, among other things, awards attorneys' fees and expenses to Class Counsel and a case contribution award to the Named Plaintiffs".
5. I have been actively involved in the representations of Plaintiffs in this action and



have coordinated internally between attorneys and our staff at Leeds Brown Law, P.C. (“LBL”) including between litigation staff and I have also coordinated externally amongst Plaintiffs’ counsel including working with James A. Francis, John Soumilas, and Lauren KW Brennan of Francis Mailman Soumilas, P.C. (“FMS”).

6. Mr. Francis, Ms. Brennan, and myself have been the primary attorneys coordinating between the two firms, balancing assignments, coordinating on motion practice, making strategic decisions for Plaintiffs, and various work that was required in this action.

7. Our team throughout this course has worked efficiently and effectively to avoid duplication of work to make the best decision for the class, especially as this matter has been complicated and complex that involves the rights of thousands of students and novel issues of law.

8. Our firm was primarily tasked with coordinating amongst Named Plaintiffs for discovery, vetting the facts and claims with putative class members, communicating with the class representatives about the progress of the case, and supporting FMS in motion practice.

**Request for Attorney’s Fees & Costs**

9. In coordination with co-counsel and pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement and proposed resolution, my firm seeks attorneys’ fees and reimbursement of expenses for the work performed as Counsel for the Named Plaintiffs in connection with the above captioned Action and Settlement of the claims brought on behalf of the Class. My firm undertook this representation on a wholly contingent basis, with the understanding that we would receive no compensation, and our expenses would not be reimbursed, unless our efforts resulted in the recovery for the Class. None of the attorneys’ fees and expenses submitted to this Court have been paid from any source nor have they been the subject of any prior request or prior award in any litigation or other proceeding.

10. My firm actively engaged in extensive investigation and other litigation efforts for over three years throughout the prosecution of the Action, including, *inter alia*: (1) corresponding with clients for intakes and to identify who would be viable class representatives; (2) assisted in researching and drafting an initial complaint filed on October 26, 2022; (3) researching and drafting an amended complaint filed on December 7, 2022; (4) corresponding with clients for written discovery responses; (5) assisting in the negotiation and drafting of the Class Action Settlement Agreement and Release and the associated documents to actualize Preliminary Approval; (6) communications throughout the litigation and settlement process with Plaintiff Meehan and Corvera; (7) responding to inquiries from dozens of class members with questions about this action, the progress of the case, the prospect of settlement, the settlement itself, their rights, and the mechanisms to participate or ensure they would receive settlement funds, if the Settlement was approved.

11. Our firm has worked efficiently with the leadership team and co-counsel to ensure that work was not duplicated but ensuring that the class was properly represented.

12. From the inception of the matter in 2022 through the present, Leeds Brown Law, P.C. devoted, at least 146 hours to the litigation, representing total lodestar of \$56,590.00. Leeds Brown's lodestar was prepared from contemporaneous, daily time records prepared and maintained by the firm. Our hourly rates, as reflected in the chart in paragraph fourteen (14) below, are usual and customary rates, including similar to those previously approved in class actions around the country. *See e.g., Kincheloe v. Univ. of Chicago*, Case No. 1:20-cv-3015 (N.D. Ill., May 23, 2024) (granting final approval of the \$4.95M settlement and approving Class Counsel's fees, including via the submissions of Michael A. Tompkins, Esq., which detailed rates for LBL staff at between \$125 and \$200 for support staff and \$425 and \$800 for attorneys); *Qureshi v.*

*American Univ.*, Case No. 1:20-cv-1141-CRC (D.C. Dist. May 7, 2024) (approving attorney's fees and costs in the amount of \$1,812,818.70 in fees, based on the submission of Class Counsel, including Michael A. Tompkins, Esq., which detailed rates for LBL from \$125 to \$800 per hour for partners); *see also Booth v. Molloy College*, Index No. 608750/2020 (Sup. Ct. Nassau Cnty., Oct. 5, 2023) (approving settlement including attorney's requests based on lodestar and rates for LBL).

13. These rates are set based on market rates for attorneys of comparable skill and experience, and they have been approved by federal and state courts throughout the nation. *See* Exhibit A attached hereto (firm résumé).

14. The chart below summarizes the hours, hourly rates, and lodestar of each Leeds Brown professional who performed worked on this matter:

| NAME                             |       | HOURS         | RATE       | LODESTAR           |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Michael A. Tompkins              | P     | 54.3          | \$700      | \$38,010.00        |
| Thao Williams                    | PL    | 60.3          | \$200      | \$12,060.00        |
| Yulia Pechenkina                 | PL    | 23.7          | \$200      | \$4,740.00         |
| Other Paralegals & Support Staff | PL/LA | 3.6           | \$125-200  | \$495.00           |
| Other Attorneys                  | ASE   | 4.2           | \$300-425s | \$1,285.00         |
|                                  |       |               |            |                    |
| <b>Grand Total</b>               |       | <b>146.10</b> |            | <b>\$56,590.00</b> |

Partner (P)

Associate (ASE)

Paralegal (PL)

Legal Assistant (LA)

15. I supervised and worked directly with the attorneys and other professional staff who billed time to this matter. I can aver that the hours reported and the work they reflect were

reasonably necessary to the successful commencement, prosecution, and settlement of the Action. To the extent that the Court would like a line-item billing record, Leeds Brown could provide the same to the Court.

16. Additionally, I would also expect our firm to expend an additional 10 to 40 hours moving ahead in three primary areas: (1) finalizing the notice and claims process by working with American Legal Claim Services, Defendants' counsel, and co-counsel; (2) preparing Plaintiffs' motion for final approval of the settlement and submitting the same to the Court; (3) keeping Class Members advised of the status up to and after the Fairness Hearing; (4) working with Class Members to update addresses and contact information, especially around the time frame when Settlement Checks would be mailed; (5) completing the Settlement processes outlined in the Agreement including dealing with reversions before the QSF closes; and (6) following up with American Legal Claim Services in the administration of the various steps after approval.

17. In addition to our team, Leeds Brown incurred a total of \$75.00 in unreimbursed expenses in connection with the Action and negotiating and seeking approval of the Settlement, as summarized in the chart below:

| <b>CATEGORY</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Filing Fee      | \$75.00      |
|                 |              |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>   | \$75.00      |

18. Additionally, as counsel for Plaintiff Meehan and Corvera, I support their application for a service award in this action for their work and dedication towards the class in pursuit of this action, especially given that recovery was not guaranteed. Both Plaintiffs made themselves readily available to answer questions, provide documents, attend depositions, respond to discovery requests, and have performed the work necessary to prosecute the case for not only

themselves but for the entire class. Plaintiff Meehan and Corvera have served as ideal class representatives throughout the entirety of this action and have devoted their own time and energy, ensuring that this action was prosecuted in the best interest of class members.

19. As set forth in Leeds Brown's firm résumé, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, the attorneys primarily responsible for participating in the prosecution of the above captioned action are experienced and skilled advocates.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this July 17, 2024  
Carle Place, New York.

/s/ Michael A. Tompkins  
Michael A. Tompkins, Esq.\*  
Leeds Brown Law, P.C  
1 Old Country Road, Suite 347  
Carle Place, NY 11514  
(516) 873-9550  
[mtompkins@leedsbrownlaw.com](mailto:mtompkins@leedsbrownlaw.com)  
\*Admitted Pro Hac Vice

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

BRADLEY MEEHAN and CESAR E.  
CORVERA SANTAMARIA, on behalf of  
themselves and those similarly situated,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

ROADMASTER DRIVERS SCHOOL,  
INC.,

*Defendant*

C.A. NO. 5:22-CV-04299

**[PROPOSED] ORDER FOR AN AWARD  
OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND  
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES TO  
CLASS COUNSEL**

Upon consideration of Plaintiffs and Class Representatives Bradley Meehan and Cesar E. Corvera Santamaria's unopposed Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of Expenses to Class Counsel, it is therefore **HEREBY ORDERED**:

A. Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Reimbursement of Expenses to Class Counsel is granted; and

B. Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees for their representation of the Settlement Class, of \$133,333.33, which includes reimbursement of litigation expenses, is approved.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

BY THE COURT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
HON. John M. Gallagher  
United States District Judge