

**INDIANA COMMERCIAL COURT**

STATE OF INDIANA            )  
  ) SS:                    IN THE MARION SUPERIOR COURT 1  
COUNTY OF MARION        )                            CAUSE NO. 49D01-2512-CE-056640

JUSTIN MCLAUGHLIN and ATURINA  
ESHW, on behalf of themselves and all others  
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

TAYLOR UNIVERSITY,

Defendant.

**PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER**

Justin McLaughlin and Aturina Eshw (“Plaintiffs”), and Taylor University (“Defendant” or “TU”), have entered into a proposed Class Action Settlement Agreement and Release (the “Settlement”). Plaintiffs have moved the Court to grant preliminary approval to the Settlement under Indiana Rule of Trial Procedure 23(E), to approve the form and method for giving notice of the proposed Settlement to the Settlement Class, and to schedule a final approval hearing on the Settlement after the deadlines to object to, or opt out of, the Settlement have passed. The requested relief is not opposed by Defendant.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. Terms capitalized herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Settlement.
2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this lawsuit and jurisdiction over the Class Representative and Defendant (the “Parties”).
3. The Court finds that the Court will likely be able to certify the proposed Settlement Class for settlement purposes only, defined as:

All living individuals in the United States who were mailed Notice, including notice of this Settlement, that their Private Information may have been impacted in the Data Incident.

Excluded from the Settlement Class are: a) all persons who are directors and officers of Defendant and any entity in which Defendant has a controlling interest; (b) governmental entities; (c) the Judge assigned to the Action, that Judge’s immediate family, and Court staff; (d) Settlement Class Members who submit a valid opt-out request prior to the Opt-Out Deadline; and (e) any person found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be guilty under criminal law of initiating, causing,

aiding or abetting the criminal activity occurrence of the Security Incident, or who pleads *nolo contendere* to any such charge.

“Data Incident” means the May 2023 cybersecurity incident, discovered on or about May 18, 2023, in which a criminal third party gained unauthorized access to Defendant’s networks, and may have accessed the Private Information of approximately 34,362 individuals.

4. Specifically, the Court finds that the requirements of Indiana Trial Rules 23(A) and 23(B)(3) appear to be met:

- a. The class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, as there are thousands of class members;
- b. There are questions of law or fact common to the class based upon the claims raised in the lawsuit relating to the Data Incident that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including whether Defendant breached any duty in failing to protect class members’ data from unauthorized access;
- c. The claims of the Class Representatives are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class as they arise from the Data Incident;
- d. The Class Representatives and Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class as the Class Representatives have no interests antagonistic to the Class and Class Counsel are experienced in complex class action litigation;
- e. Questions of law or fact common to the Class Members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members and a class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating this lawsuit, as the same issues relating to duty and breach in relation to the Data Incident are substantially the same for all Class Members.

5. The Court finds that Plaintiffs are adequate Class Representatives and appoints them as such. The Court likewise finds Lynn A. Toops and Amina A. Thomas of the law firm of CohenMalad, LLP to be competent and appoints them as Class Counsel.

6. The Court finds that the terms of the Settlement are within the range of a fair, reasonable, and adequate compromise under the circumstances of this case. Specifically, the Court finds that:

- (A) the Class Representatives and Class Counsel have adequately represented the Class;
- (B) the proposal was negotiated at arm’s length;
- (C) the relief provided for the class appears adequate, taking into account:
  - (i) the costs, risks, and delay of trial and appeal;
  - (ii) the effectiveness of any proposed method of distributing relief to the class, including the method of processing class-member claims;
  - (iii) the terms of the proposed award of attorney’s fees, including timing of payment; and
- (D) the proposal treats class members equitably relative to each other.

7. The Court therefore preliminarily approves the Settlement and directs the parties to the Settlement Agreement to perform and satisfy the terms and conditions that are triggered by such preliminary approval.

8. The Court likewise approves the form and method of notice provided for in the Settlement and finds that it complies with the applicable rules and the requirements of Due Process. Specifically, the Court finds that the form and method of notice (a) will constitute the best practicable notice to the Settlement Class; (b) are reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the Litigation, the terms of the proposed Settlement, and their rights under the proposed Settlement, including, but not limited to, their rights to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement and other rights under the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (c) are reasonable and constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all Settlement Class Members and other persons entitled to receive notice; (d) meet all applicable requirements of law, including Indiana Trial Rule 23(c); and (e) and meet the requirements of the Due Process Clause of the United States. The Court further finds that the Notice provided for in the Settlement Agreement is written in plain language, uses simple terminology, and is designed to be readily understandable by Settlement Class Members.

9. The Court appoints RG2 Claims Administration LLC as Settlement Administrator and orders the Settlement Administrator and the Parties to implement the notice program set forth in the Settlement.

10. A final approval hearing (the “Final Approval Hearing”) shall be held before the undersigned August 31, 2026 at 11:30AM via video or teleconference, for the purpose of: (a) determining whether the Settlement Class should be finally certified for entry of judgment on the Settlement; (b) determining whether the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be finally approved; (c) determining whether a Final Approval Order should be entered; and (d) considering Class Counsel’s application for an award of attorneys’ fees and expenses. The Court may adjourn, continue, and reconvene the Final Approval Hearing pursuant to oral announcement without further notice to the Class, and the Court may consider and grant final approval of the Settlement, with or without minor modification and without further notice to the Class.

11. Members of the Settlement Class shall be afforded an opportunity to request exclusion from the Class. A request for exclusion from the Class must comply with the requirements for form and timing set forth in the Detailed Notice included in the Settlement. Members of the Settlement Class who submit a timely and valid request for exclusion shall not participate in and shall not be bound by the Settlement. Members of the Settlement Class who do not timely and validly opt out of the Class in accordance with the Detailed Notice shall be bound by all determinations and judgments in the action concerning the Settlement.

12. Class Members who have not excluded themselves shall be afforded an opportunity to object to the terms of the Settlement Agreement. Any objection must comply with the requirements for form and timing set forth in the Detailed Notice included in the Settlement.

13. Any Class Member who does not make his or her objection known in the manner provided in the Detailed Notice shall be deemed to have waived such objection and shall forever be foreclosed from making any objection to the fairness or adequacy of the proposed Settlement Agreement.

14. Any request for intervention in this action for purposes of commenting on or objecting to the Settlement Agreement must meet the requirements set forth above, including the deadline for filing objections, and also must be accompanied by any evidence, briefs, motions or other materials the proposed intervenor intends to offer in support of the request for intervention.

15. Any lawyer intending to appear at the Final Approval Hearing must be authorized to represent a Class Member, must be duly admitted to practice law before this Court, and must file a written appearance. Copies of the appearance must be served on Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant.

16. Class Counsel shall file a motion for approval of the attorneys' fees, expenses, and service awards to be paid by Defendant, along with any supporting materials, on or before the deadline provided in the Settlement.

17. If the Settlement does not become effective or is rescinded pursuant to the Settlement, the Settlement and all proceedings had in connection therewith shall be without prejudice to the status quo ante rights of the Class Representatives and Defendant, and all Orders issued pursuant to the Settlement shall be vacated.

18. The Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: 2/27/2026



---

Hon. Christina Klineman  
Indiana Commercial Court  
Marion Superior Court No.1