In re GTT Communic	ations, Inc. Securities Litigation	Dpc. 65
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9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
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12	In re GTT Communications, Inc. Securities Litigation	Master File No. 2:21-cv-00270-DOC-AS
13	Securities Litigation	
14		<u>CLASS ACTION</u>
15	This Document Relates To: All	
16	Actions	
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19	ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT	
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	ORDER AND FINAL JUDGMENT; No. 2:21-cv-00270-DOC-AS Dockets.Justia.com	
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On the 21st day of March, 2022, a hearing having been held before this Court to determine: (1) whether the terms and conditions of the Stipulation of Settlement dated October 29, 2021 ("Stipulation") are fair, reasonable and adequate for the settlement of all claims asserted by the Settlement Class against Defendants (as defined in the Stipulation), including the release of the Released Claims against the Released Parties, and should be approved; (2) whether judgment should be entered dismissing this Action with prejudice; (3) whether to approve the proposed Plan of Allocation as a fair and reasonable method to allocate the Net Settlement Fund among Settlement Class Members; (4) whether and in what amount to award Lead Counsel as fees and reimbursement of expenses; and (5) whether and in what amount to approve an award to the Lead Plaintiff; and

The Court having considered all matters submitted to it at the hearing and otherwise; and

It appearing in the record that the Notice substantially in the form approved by the Court in the Court's Order Granting Lead Plaintiff's Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement, dated December 6, 2021 ("Preliminary Approval Order") was disseminated to all reasonably identifiable Settlement Class Members and posted to the website of the Claims Administrator, both in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order and the specifications of the Court; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED THAT:

- 1. All capitalized terms used herein have the same meanings as set forth and defined in the Stipulation.
- 2. For purposes of this Settlement, the Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action, Lead Plaintiff, all Settlement Class Members, and Defendants.

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- 3. The Court finds that the prerequisites for a class action under Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure have been satisfied in that: (a) the number of Settlement Class Members is so numerous that joinder of all members thereof is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class; (c) Lead Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class it seeks to represent; (d) Lead Plaintiff fairly and adequately represents the interests of the Settlement Class; (e) questions of law and fact common to the members of the Settlement Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Settlement Class; and (f) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this Action. The Settlement Class is being certified for settlement purposes only.
- 4. The Court hereby finally certifies this action as a class action for purposes of the Settlement, pursuant to Rule 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of all Persons (including, without limitation, their beneficiaries) who acquired publicly traded GTT Communications, Inc. securities during the period from May 5, 2016 through July 30, 2021, inclusive ("Settlement Class Period"), except that excluded from the Settlement Class are: (a) persons who suffered no compensable losses; and (b) Defendants; the present and former officers and directors of the Company at all relevant times; members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors, or assigns, and any entity in which any of the Defendants, or any person excluded under this subsection (b), has or had a majority ownership interest at any time. Also excluded from the Settlement Class are Persons who filed valid and timely requests for exclusion from the Settlement Class in accordance with this Preliminary Approval Order, as listed on Exhibit A to this Final Judgment. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Lead Plaintiff is certified as the class representative on behalf of the Settlement Class ("Class Representative") and Lead Counsel previously

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selected by Lead Plaintiff and appointed by the Court are hereby appointed as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class ("Class Counsel").

- 5. In accordance with the Court's Preliminary Approval Order, the Court hereby finds that the forms and methods of notifying the Settlement Class of the Settlement and its terms and conditions met the requirements of due process, Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Section 21D(a)(7) of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(7), as amended by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995; constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances; and constituted due and sufficient notice of these proceedings and the matters set forth herein, including the Settlement and Plan of Allocation, to all persons and entities entitled to such notice. No Settlement Class Member is relieved from the terms and conditions of the Settlement, including the releases provided for in the Stipulation, based upon the contention or proof that such Settlement Class Member failed to receive actual or adequate notice. A full opportunity has been offered to the Settlement Class Members to object to the proposed Settlement and to participate in the hearing thereon. Thus, it is hereby determined that all Settlement Class Members are bound by this Final Judgment except those persons listed on Exhibit A to this Final Judgment.
- The Settlement is approved as fair, reasonable and adequate, and in the 6. best interests of the Settlement Class. This Court further finds that the Settlement set forth in the Stipulation is the result of good faith, arm's-length negotiations between experienced counsel representing the interests of Class Representative, Settlement Class Members, and Defendants. The Parties are directed to consummate the Settlement in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Stipulation.
- 7. The Action and all claims contained therein, as well as all of the Released Claims, are dismissed with prejudice as against each and all of the

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Defendants. The Parties are to bear their own costs, except as otherwise provided in the Settlement Stipulation.

- 8. Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Parties, on behalf of themselves, their successors and assigns, and any other Person claiming (now or in the future) through or on behalf of them, regardless of whether any such Releasing Party ever seeks or obtains by any means, including without limitation by submitting a Proof of Claim, any disbursement from the Settlement Fund, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Final Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever compromised, settled, resolved, released, relinquished, waived, dismissed and discharged all Released Claims against the Released Parties and shall have covenanted not to sue the Released Parties with respect to any and all Released Claims, and shall be permanently barred and enjoined from asserting, commencing, prosecuting, instituting, assisting, instigating, or in any way participating in the commencement or prosecution of any action or other proceeding, in any forum, asserting any Released Claim, in any capacity, against any of the Released Parties. For the avoidance of doubt, Defendants are released from any and all claims for contribution or indemnity, as would otherwise be allowed by Section 21D of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(f)(7). Nothing contained herein shall, however, bar the Releasing Parties from bringing any action or claim to enforce the terms of the Stipulation or this Final Judgment. Nor shall anything contained herein limit or release any claims Defendants may have with regard to insurance coverage that may be available to them under any applicable policy. This release shall not apply to any Settlement Class Members who timely and properly exclude themselves from the Settlement Class.
- With respect to any and all Released Claims, Class Representative and 9. the Released Parties shall waive and each of the Settlement Class Members shall be

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deemed to have waived, and by operation of this Final Judgment shall have waived, the provisions, rights, and benefits of California Civil Code § 1542, which provides:

A general release does not extend to claims that the creditor or releasing party does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release and that, if known by him or her, would have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor or released party.

With respect to any and all Released Claims, Class Representative and 10. the Released Parties shall waive and each of the Settlement Class Members shall be deemed to have waived, and by operation of this Final Judgment shall have waived, any and all provisions, rights and benefits conferred by any law of any state, territory, foreign country or principle of common law, which is similar, comparable or equivalent to California Civil Code § 1542. Class Representative, the Released Parties and/or one or more Settlement Class Members may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those which he, she or it now knows or believes to be true with respect to the Released Claims, but Class Representative, the Released Parties and each Settlement Class Member, upon the Effective Date, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Final Judgment shall have, fully, finally and forever settled and released, any and all Released Claims, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to, conduct which is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of fiduciary duty, law or rule, without regard to the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts. Class Representative and the Released Parties acknowledge and the Settlement Class Members shall be deemed by operation of

this Final Judgment to have acknowledged, that the foregoing waiver was separately bargained for and a key element of the Settlement.

- 11. Upon the Effective Date, the Released Parties shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all claims they may have against the Releasing Parties related to the Releasing Parties' prosecution of the Action or any other known or unknown counter-claim related thereto and shall have covenanted not to sue the Releasing Parties with respect to any counter claim, claim, or sanction related to the Released Claims, and shall be permanently barred and enjoined from asserting, commencing, prosecuting, instituting, assisting, instigating, or in any way participating in the commencement or prosecution of any action or other proceeding, in any forum, asserting any such claim, in any capacity, against any of the Releasing Parties. Nothing contained herein shall, however, bar the Released Parties from bringing any action or claim to enforce the terms of this Stipulation or the Final Judgment.
- 12. The Court finds that all Parties and their counsel have complied with all requirements of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Private Securities Litigation Record Act of 1995 as to all proceedings herein.
- 13. Neither this Final Judgment, the Stipulation (nor the Settlement contained therein), nor any of its terms and provisions, nor any of the negotiations, documents or proceedings connected with them is evidence, or an admission or concession by any Party or their counsel, any Settlement Class Member, or any of the Released Parties, of any fault, liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, as to any facts or claims alleged or asserted in the Action or could have been alleged or asserted, or any other actions or proceedings, or as to the validity or merit of any of the claims or defenses alleged or asserted or could have been alleged or asserted in any such action or proceeding. This Final Judgment is not a finding or evidence of

14. Except as otherwise provided herein or in the Stipulation, all funds held by the Escrow Agent shall be deemed to be in *custodia legis* and shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Court until such time as the funds are distributed or returned pursuant to the Stipulation and/or further order of the Court.

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- 15. Exclusive jurisdiction is hereby retained over the Parties and the Settlement Class Members for all matters relating to the Action, including the administration, interpretation, effectuation or enforcement of the Stipulation and this Final Judgment, and including any application for fees and expenses incurred in connection with administering and distributing the Settlement Fund to the Settlement Class Members.
- 16. Without further order of the Court, Defendants and Class Representative may agree to reasonable extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of the Stipulation.
- 17. There is no just reason for delay in the entry of this Final Judgment and immediate entry by the Clerk of the Court is expressly directed pursuant to Rule 54(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 18. The finality of this Final Judgment shall not be affected, in any manner, by rulings that the Court makes herein on the proposed Plan of Allocation or Class Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses or an award to Class Representative.
- 19. The Court hereby finds that the proposed Plan of Allocation is a fair and reasonable method to allocate the Net Settlement Fund among Settlement Class Members, and Class Counsel and the Claims Administrator are directed to administer the Plan of Allocation in accordance with its terms and the terms of the Stipulation.
- 20. Class Counsel are hereby awarded 30 % of the Settlement Amount in fees, which the Court finds to be fair and reasonable, and \$40,238.30 in reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses. Class Representative is hereby awarded \$7,500 which the Court finds to be fair and reasonable. Defendants and the Released Parties shall have no responsibility for, and no liability whatsoever with

respect to, any payments to Class Counsel, Class Representative, the Settlement Class and/or any other Person who receives payment from the Settlement Fund.

21. In the event the Settlement is not consummated in accordance with the terms of the Stipulation, then the Stipulation and this Final Judgment (including any amendment(s) thereof, and except as expressly provided in the Stipulation or by order of the Court) shall be shall have no further force and effect with respect to the Parties and shall not be used in the Action or in any other proceeding for any purpose, and any judgment or order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of this Stipulation shall be treated as vacated, nunc pro tunc. and each Party shall be restored to his, her or its respective litigation positions as they existed prior to August 9, 2021, pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation.

Dated: March 21, 2022

HON, DAVID O, CARTER

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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