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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 IN RE INTUIT DATA LITIGATION

Master Docket No. 15-CV-1778-EJD-SVK

12 THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

13 ALL ACTIONS  
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~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER GRANTING FINAL  
APPROVAL OF CLASS SETTLEMENT,  
AWARDING REASONABLE ATTORNEYS'  
FEES, COSTS AND SERVICE AWARDS;  
AND ENTERING FINAL JUDGMENT

Honorable Edward J. Davila

17 This matter came before the Court for hearing on May 9, 2019, pursuant to the Court's  
18 Preliminary Approval Order dated October 4, 2018 (Dkt. No. 173; as modified by Dkt. 179,  
19 189), and on the motion for final approval of the Class Action Settlement Agreement, dated  
20 August 23, 2018 (the "Agreement"), entered into by the Parties, as well as Class Counsel's  
21 motion for an award of attorneys' fees and costs and for Plaintiff service awards. Due and  
22 adequate notice having been given to the Class Members of the proposed Settlement and the  
23 pending motions, as directed by the Court's Preliminary Approval Order, and upon consideration  
24 of all papers filed and proceedings had herein, and good cause appearing, **IT IS HEREBY  
ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED** as follows:

25 1. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meaning as set  
26 forth in the Agreement.  
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1           2.       The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, and has  
2 personal jurisdiction over the Parties. Venue is proper in this District.

3           3.       The “Class” for purposes of this Order, shall mean:

4                   All persons in the United States in whose identities fraudulent  
5 federal tax returns for the Tax Years 2014, 2015, and/or 2016 were  
6 filed using TurboTax, as determined by the United States Internal  
7 Revenue Service. Excluded from the Class are all employees of  
Intuit, counsel for the Parties, the Judge presiding over this Action,  
and Court staff.

8           4.       The Court finds that the notice provisions set forth under the Class Action  
9 Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1715, were complied with in this matter.

10          5.       The Court finds that the program for disseminating notice to the Class Members  
11 provided for in the Agreement, and previously approved and directed by the Court (hereinafter,  
12 the “Notice Program”), has been implemented by the Settlement Administrator and the Parties,  
13 and that such Notice Program, including the approved forms of notice, is reasonable and  
14 appropriate and satisfies all applicable due process and other requirements, and constitutes notice  
15 reasonably calculated under the circumstances to appraise Class Members of the pendency of the  
16 Action, the terms of the Settlement, their right to object to the Settlement, and their right to  
17 appear at the Final Approval Hearing.

18          6.       The Court reaffirms that this Action is properly maintained as a class action, for  
19 settlement purposes only, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), 23(b)(2) and 23(e),  
20 and that Class Counsel and the Plaintiffs, as class representatives, fairly and adequately represent  
21 the interests of the Class Members. Specifically, for settlement purposes only, the Court finds  
22 that the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) are satisfied: The Class is so  
23 numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. There are more than 1 million persons in  
24 the Class. Moreover, there are issues that are common to the Class, including whether Intuit  
25 took adequate steps to prevent taxpayers’ identities from being used by third parties to file  
26 fraudulent federal tax returns using the TurboTax service. Further, the Plaintiffs’ claims arise  
27 from the same alleged course of conduct and are typical of the Class. Finally, the Court finds  
28 that the Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have adequately represented the class and that there are not

1 conflicts among the class. The Court further finds, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
2 23(b)(2), that as alleged, Intuit has acted on grounds that apply generally to the Class, so that  
3 final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the Class as a  
4 whole.

5         7.         The Court finds that the Agreement, including the exhibits thereto, is fair,  
6 reasonable and adequate to the Class Members, has been entered into in good faith, and should  
7 be and hereby is fully and finally approved pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. The  
8 Agreement represents a fair resolution of the claims asserted on behalf of the Plaintiffs and the  
9 Class Members in this Action and released by the Agreement, and fully and finally resolves all  
10 such claims. Intuit, Plaintiffs, and the Class Members shall be bound by the Agreement,  
11 including the Release provisions set forth in paragraphs 72-79 of the Agreement, which is  
12 incorporated by reference herein, and by this Order and the Final Judgment entered in connection  
13 with this Order.

14         8.         In granting final approval of the Agreement, the Court has considered the factors  
15 that courts in this Circuit consider in evaluating proposed class settlements. *See Churchill*  
16 *Village LLC v. General Electric Corp.*, 361 F.3d 566, 575 (9th Cir. 2004). The Court finds that,  
17 given the benefits provided to Class Members pursuant to the Agreement; the strengths and  
18 weaknesses of the parties' respective claims and defenses in the litigation; the risk, expense,  
19 complexity, and likely duration of further litigation; the fact that significant discovery and  
20 litigation have occurred in this case; given the experience and views of Class Counsel who have  
21 considerable experience litigating class actions and other complex cases; and given the positive  
22 reaction of the Class Members—only eight objections were filed—the Agreement is fair,  
23 reasonable, and adequate and should be approved.

24         9.         The Court finds that the Agreement was negotiated in good faith and at arms-  
25 length by the parties and their experienced counsel, with the assistance of a highly-capable  
26 mediator, Hon. Edward A. Infante (Ret.) of JAMS, and is free of any evidence of collusion. *See*  
27 *In re Bluetooth Headset Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 946 (9th Cir. 2011).

1           10.     The Court further finds, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e)(2), that  
2 the Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have adequately represented the Class; the Agreement here was  
3 negotiated at arms-length; the settlement benefits provided under the Agreement are adequate in  
4 relation to the scope of the claims released; and that the Agreement treats the Class Members  
5 equitably relative to each other.

6           11.     The Court also grants Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees, costs, and  
7 Plaintiff service awards.

8           12.     Class Counsel are hereby awarded attorneys' fees and costs in the total amount of  
9 \$2,820,000.00 (with such total amount comprised of attorneys' fees of \$2,717,225.56, and  
10 reimbursement of litigation costs of \$102,774.44). Intuit shall pay such amount to Class Counsel  
11 pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, separate from and in addition to the other benefits  
12 provided to Class Members pursuant to the Settlement. The requested fees represent a negative  
13 multiplier of approximately 0.715 on counsel's submitted lodestar. The Court finds that the  
14 requested fees are reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances and under applicable  
15 standards, given *inter alia* the novelty and complexity of the issues in this case, the results  
16 achieved, Class Counsel's commitment of time and resources in this case; and the risks that  
17 Class Counsel assumed in litigating this case on a contingency basis. The Court further finds  
18 that Class Counsel's request for reimbursement of litigation costs is reasonable in amount, and  
19 that such costs were reasonably incurred in the prosecution of this case.

20           13.     The Court hereby awards service awards of \$5,000 each, to Plaintiffs Richard  
21 Brown, Christine Diaz, Carol Knoch, James Lebinski, David Stock, and Marilyn Williams, to  
22 compensate them for their commitments and efforts on behalf of the Class Members. Intuit shall  
23 pay such amounts pursuant to the terms of the Agreement, separate from and in addition to the  
24 other benefits provided to Class Members pursuant to the Settlement. The Court finds that the  
25 requested service awards are reasonable, appropriate, and justified by the circumstances of the  
26 Plaintiffs' efforts and commitments on behalf of the Class.

1           14.     Eight (8) objections to the Agreement and/or Class Counsel's fee request were  
2 submitted. As stated at the hearing, the Court has considered the objections and hereby overrules  
3 each of them.

4           15.     The Parties and Settlement Administrator are hereby directed to implement the  
5 Settlement in accordance with the terms and provisions thereof.

6           16.     As of the Effective Date, Plaintiffs and all other Class Members, on behalf of  
7 themselves and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, representatives, agents, partners,  
8 successors, and assigns (collectively, the "Releasing Parties"), shall waive, release, forever  
9 discharge, and will not in any manner pursue the Released Claims against any Released Parties,  
10 as defined and set forth in paragraph 72 of the Agreement. As set forth in the Agreement, the  
11 Release shall apply only to claims for declaratory, injunctive and non-monetary equitable relief,  
12 and not to any claims for damages or other monetary relief. Intuit shall not sue Plaintiffs or their  
13 counsel for malicious prosecution or abuse of process based on the filing of this Action or the  
14 underlying actions, or any papers previously filed therein.

15           17.     The Court hereby dismisses this Action with prejudice, and without fees or costs  
16 except as provided in the Agreement and this Order.

17           18.     Nothing in this Order or the Final Judgment entered in connection with this Order  
18 shall preclude any action to enforce the terms of the Settlement.

19           19.     Without affecting the finality of this Order or the Final Judgment entered in  
20 connection with this Order in any way, the Court hereby retains continuing jurisdiction over:  
21 (a) all matters relating to the modification, interpretation, administration, implementation,  
22 effectuation and enforcement of the Settlement; and (b) the Parties, Class Counsel and Class  
23 Members for the purpose of administering, supervising, construing and enforcing this Order and  
24 the Settlement in accordance with its terms.

25           20.     Neither this Order (nor the Final Judgment entered in connection with this Order),  
26 the Agreement, nor any action taken to carry out this Order or the Final Judgment entered in  
27 connection with this Order shall be construed or used against Intuit or the Released Parties as an  
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1 admission, concession or evidence of the validity of any claim or defense or any actual or  
2 potential fault, wrongdoing, or liability whatsoever.

3 21. Without further order of the Court, the Parties may agree to reasonably necessary  
4 extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of the Settlement and to make other non-  
5 material modifications, in implementing the Settlement, that are not inconsistent with this Order.

6 22. There is no just reason for delay in the entry of this Final Judgment and  
7 immediate entry by the Clerk of the Court is expressly directed pursuant to Rule 54 (b) of the  
8 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

9 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

10 Dated: May 15, 2019



Edward J. Davila  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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