CASE No. 2:13-CV-01533-JLR

1 THE HONORABLE JAMES L. ROBART 2 3 4 5 U.S. DISTRICT COURT 6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 7 MONTY J. BOOTH, ATTORNEY AT LAW, 8 P.S., a Washington corporation, RICARDO T. NO. 2:13-cy-01533-JLR MASCARENAS, a Washington resident, and 9 CHRISTOPHER GREGORY, a Washington (PROPOSED) ORDER GRANTING resident, individually and on behalf of all others 10 MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY similarly situated, APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION 11 SETTLEMENT Plaintiffs, 12 Noted on Motion Calendar: VS. 13 August 22, 2016 APPSTACK, INC., a Delaware corporation; 14 STEVE ESPINOSA, individually; and JOHN 15 ZDANOWSKI, individually, 16 Defendants. 17 WHEREAS, on or about August 22, 2016, the Parties entered into a Settlement 18 Agreement and Release ("Agreement"), which sets forth the terms and conditions of the 19 settlement and release of certain claims against Defendants Appstack, Inc., Steve Espinosa, and 20 John Zdanowski (collectively "Defendants"); the Court having reviewed and considered the 21 Agreement and all of the filings, records, and other submissions; the Court finds upon a 22 preliminary examination that the Agreement appears fair, reasonable, and adequate, and that a 23 hearing should and will be held after notice to the Settlement Class in order to confirm that the 24 settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and to determine whether the Settlement Order and 25 26 27 [PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR TERRELL MARSHALL LAW GROUP PLLC PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION 936 North 34th Street, Suite 300 Seattle, Washington 98103-8869
TEL. 206.816.6603 • FAX 206.319.5450
www.terrellmarshall.com SETTLEMENT - 1

Final Judgment should be entered in this Action pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Agreement ("Final Approval Hearing").

THEREFORE, THE COURT FINDS AND CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Action and personal jurisdiction over the Parties and the Settlement Class.
- 2. The Court finds that (a) the Agreement resulted from arm's-length negotiations, with participation of an experienced mediator, and (b) the Agreement is sufficient to warrant notice of the Settlement and the Final Approval Hearing to the members of the Settlement Class.
- 3. Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and for the purposes of settlement only, the Settlement Class is preliminarily certified as follows:

All persons or entities in the United States who, on or after four years before the filing of this action to July 21, 2016, received a call to their cellular telephone line with a pre-recorded message, made by or on behalf of Defendants.

The Settlement Class does not include any persons who validly request exclusion from the Class.

- 4. For purposes of settlement, the Court hereby appoints Plaintiffs Ricardo T. Mascarenas and Christopher Gregory as "Class Representatives" pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and finds that these Class Representatives have and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class.
- 5. For purposes of settlement, the Court appoints the attorneys at Terrell Marshall Law Group and Gallagher Law Offices, P.S. as Class Counsel and finds that Class Counsel have and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class.
- 6. The Court preliminarily finds that the Agreement is fundamentally fair, adequate, and reasonable, and that the Settlement Class satisfies the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as follows:

- a. The number of members in the Settlement Class appears to be so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable;
 - b. There appear to be common questions of law and fact;
- c. The claims of the Class Representatives appear to be typical of the claims of the Settlement Class;
- d. The Class Representatives and Class Counsel appear to be able to fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Settlement Class;
- e. The questions of law and fact common to the members of the Settlement Class appear to predominate over individual questions of law and fact; and
- f. A class action settlement appears to be superior to other methods of adjudication.
- 7. The Court appoints Epiq Systems, Inc. as the Claims Administrator, who shall fulfill the functions, duties, and responsibilities of the Claims Administrator as set forth in the Agreement and this Order.
- 8. The Court approves the proposed forms of notice and notice plan for giving direct notice to the Settlement Class by U.S. Mail as set forth in the Agreement and its attached exhibits ("Notice Plan"). The Notice Plan, in form, method, and content, fully complies with the requirements of Rule 23 and due process, constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and is due and sufficient notice to all persons entitled thereto. The Court finds that the Notice Plan is reasonably calculated to, under all circumstances, reasonably apprise the persons in the Settlement Class of the pendency of this action, the terms of the Agreement, the right to object to the settlement and to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class, and the process for submitting a claim for monetary relief.
- 9. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Claims Administrator shall provide individual notice via U.S. Mail to the most recent mailing address of the Settlement Class no later than September 28, 2016, which is thirty (30) days following entry of this Order.

10. Members of the Settlement Class may exclude themselves from the Settlement Class by advising the Claims Administrator in writing no later than November 28, 2016 ("Opt-Out Deadline"), which is sixty-one (61) days after the date notice is sent to the Settlement Class. All such writings must be signed, and if mailed, must be postmarked no later than the Opt-Out Deadline.

- 11. Any Settlement Class Member who desires to object to the fairness of this settlement must file a written objection with the Court by November 28, 2016 ("Objection Deadline"), which is sixty-one (61) days from the date notice is mailed to the Settlement Class. The objection must provide the objector's name, address, telephone number at which the calls were received, and the reason(s) for the objection.
- Approval Hearing, including through an attorney hired at the objector's expense. Such objectors or their attorneys intending to appear at the Final Approval Hearing must file a notice of appearance with this Court no later than ten (10) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. Any member of the Settlement Class who fails to comply with this provision shall waive and forfeit any and all rights to appear and/or object separately, and shall be bound by the terms of this settlement and the orders and judgments of this Court. Class Counsel shall file responses to any valid objections no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. Defendants' counsel also may file responses, but no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing.
- 13. The Court approves the claims procedures set forth in the Agreement. The Court approves the form and content of the Claim Form substantially in the form attached as Exhibit C to the Agreement. A properly executed Claim Form must be submitted as required in the Notice over the Internet or postmarked by a date specified in the Class Notice.
- 14. Pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure a hearing will be held before this Court to finally determine whether the prerequisites for class certification and

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treatment under Rule 23(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are met; to determine whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and should be approved by this Court; to determine whether the Settlement Order and Final Judgment under this settlement should be entered; to consider the application for attorneys' fees and expenses of Class Counsel: to consider the application for service awards to the class representatives; to consider the distribution of the Settlement Fund pursuant to the Agreement; and to rule on any other matters that the Court may deem appropriate. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court may enter the Settlement Order and Final Judgment in accordance with the Agreement that will adjudicate the rights of the Settlement Class Members.

- 15. The Final Approval Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. The Hearing will occur at 700 Stewart Street, Seattle, Washington 98101, in Courtroom 14106.
- 16. All memoranda and other submissions in support of the Settlement shall be filed no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, including proof of compliance with the notice provisions of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1715.
- All notice and Settlement Administration expenses shall be paid from the 17. Settlement Fund pursuant to the Agreement.
- 18. On or before thirty (30) days after the Notice Date, Class Counsel shall file and serve an application for an award of attorneys' fees and out-of-pocket costs, and an application for service awards to Plaintiffs. The application shall be posted on the Settlement Website within twenty-four hours after the day it is filed.
- 19. On or before fourteen (14) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, Class Counsel shall file and serve a motion for final approval and responses to any objections.
- 20. All members of the Settlement Class will be bound by all orders pertaining to the settlement unless such persons request exclusion from the Settlement Class. Members of

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the Settlement Class who do not timely and validly request exclusion shall be so bound, even if they have previously or subsequently initiated individual litigation or other proceedings against the Released Parties relating to the Release Claims.

- 21. Settlement Class Members do not need to appear at the Final Approval Hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval and partake in this settlement.
- 22. This Order and the settlement are not admissions or concessions by Defendants of any liability or wrongdoing. This Order is not a determination of liability or wrongdoing. This Order also does not constitute any opinion or position of this Court as to the merits of the claims and defenses related to this Action.
- 23. This Action is stayed until further ordered by this Court, except such actions and proceedings that may be necessary to implement this Settlement and issue a Final Approval Order and Judgment.
- 24. Pending final determination of whether the settlement should be approved, Plaintiffs, all Settlement Class Members and any person or entity allegedly acting on behalf of Settlement Class Members, either directly, representatively or in any other capacity, are preliminarily enjoined from commencing or prosecuting against the Released Parties any action or proceeding in any court or tribunal asserting any of the Released Claims, provided, however, that this injunction shall not apply to individual claims of any Settlement Class Members who timely exclude themselves in a manner that complies with this Order. This injunction is necessary to protect and effectuate the settlement, this Order, and the Court's flexibility and authority to effectuate this settlement and to enter judgment when appropriate, and is ordered in aid of the Court's jurisdiction and to protect its judgments pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a).
- 25. If Final Approval does not occur, the parties shall be returned to the status quo ex ante, for all litigation purposes, as if no settlement had been negotiated or entered into and thus this Order and all other findings or stipulations regarding the settlement, including but not

limited to, certification of the Settlement Class shall be automatically void, vacated, and treated as if never filed.

- 26. Counsel for the parties are hereby authorized to utilize all reasonable procedures in connection with the administration of the settlement which are not materially inconsistent with either this Order or the terms of the Settlement Agreement.
- 27. This Court retains jurisdiction to consider all further matters arising out of or connected with the settlement. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the date of the Final Approval Hearing without further notice to Settlement Class Members, and retains jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the settlement. The Court may approve or modify the settlement without further notice to Settlement Class Members.
- 28. The following timeline will govern proceedings through the Final Approval Hearing:

Ten days after entry of this Order	Deadline to serve CAFA Notice
Thirty days after entry of this Order	Deadline to mail notice
Seven days after entry of this Order	Deadline to make the Settlement Website available
Sixty days after entry of this Order	Deadline for Class Counsel to file fee petition and request for service awards
Ninety-one days after entry of this Order	Deadline for Settlement Class Members to submit claims, exclusion requests, and objections
Fourteen days before Final Approval Hearing	Deadline to file responses to objections and motion for final approval
January 11, 2016, at 2:00 p.m.	Final Approval Hearing

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED. DATED this 29 day of Angel, 2016.

UNITÈD STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

TERRELL MARSHALL LAW GROUP PLLC
936 North 34th Street, Sulte 300
Seattle, Washington 98103-8869
TEL. 206.816.6603 • FAX 206.319.5450
www.terrellmarshall.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

1	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>	
2	I, Jennifer Rust Murray, hereby certify that on August 28, 2016, I electronically filed	
3	the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send	
4	notification of such filing to the following:	
5	Anne Cohen, WSBA #41183	
6	Email: acohen@smithfreed.com Joseph A. Rohner IV, WSBA#47117	
7	Email: jrohner@smithfreed.com Legal Assistant: Sandra Reust	
8	Email: sandra@smithfreed.com	
9 /	Legal Assistant: Kimberly Harmon Email: kharmon@smithfreed.com	
10	SMITH FREED & EBERHARD, P.C. 111 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 4300	
11	Portland, Oregon 97204	
12	Telephone: (503) 227-2424 Facsimile: (503) 227-2535	
13	Attorneys for Defendants	
14	DATED this 28th day of August, 2016.	
15		
16	TERRELL MARSHALL LAW GROUP PLLC	
17	By: /s/ Jennifer Rust Murray, WSBA #36983	
	Jennifer Rust Mutray, WSBA #36983	
18	Email: jmurray@terrellmarshall.com 936 North 34th Street, Suite 300	
19	Seattle, Washington 98103 Telephone: (206) 816-6603	
20	Facsimile: (206) 319-5450	
21	Attorney for Plaintiffs	
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25		
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