

Honorable James L. Robart

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

VERIDIAN CREDIT UNION, on behalf of
itself and a class of similarly situated financial
institutions,

Plaintiff,

v.

EDDIE BAUER LLC,

Defendant.

NO. 2:17-cv-00356-JLR

PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement (the "Motion") between Plaintiff Veridian Credit Union ("Plaintiff" or "Veridian"), for itself and on behalf of the Settlement Class, and Eddie Bauer, LLC ("Eddie Bauer" or "Defendant") for consideration of whether the Settlement reached by the Parties should be preliminarily approved, the proposed Settlement Class preliminarily certified, and the proposed plan for notifying the Settlement Class approved.¹ Having reviewed the proposed Settlement, together with its exhibits, and based upon the relevant papers and all prior proceedings in this matter, the Court has determined that the proposed Settlement satisfies the criteria for preliminary approval, the proposed Settlement Class is preliminarily certified, and the proposed Notice Program is approved. Accordingly, good cause appearing in the record, Plaintiff's Motion is **GRANTED**, and **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

Provisional Certification of the Settlement Class

1. The Court provisionally certifies the following Settlement Class:

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all capitalized terms used herein have the same meaning as those in the Settlement.

1 All banks, credit unions, financial institutions, and other entities in the United
2 States (including its Territories and the District of Columbia) that issued Alerted
3 on Payment Cards. Excluded from the Settlement Class is the judge presiding
over this matter and any members of his judicial staff, Eddie Bauer, and persons
who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class.

4 This Settlement Class is provisionally certified for purposes of settlement only.

5 2. The Court determines that for settlement purposes, the proposed Settlement Class
6 meets all the requirements of Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, namely
7 that the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical; there are common issues of
8 law and fact; the claims of the Plaintiff are typical of absent class members; Plaintiff will fairly and
9 adequately protect the interests of the class, as it has no interests antagonistic to or in conflict with
10 the class, and has retained Class Counsel who are experienced and competent counsel to prosecute
11 this matter; common issues predominate over any individual issues; and a class action is the superior
12 means of adjudicating the controversy.

13 3. Plaintiff is designated and appointed as the Settlement Class Representative.

14 4. The following lawyers, who were previously appointed by the Court as interim Co-
15 Lead Counsel, are designated as Class Counsel pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g): Joseph P. Guglielmo
16 of Scott+Scott Attorneys at Law LLP; and Gary F. Lynch of Carlson Lynch LLP. The Court finds
17 that these lawyers are experienced and will adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class.

18 **Preliminary Approval of the Proposed Settlement**

19 5. Upon preliminary review, the Court finds the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable,
20 and adequate, satisfies Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 (“Rule 23”), otherwise meets the criteria for approval, and
21 warrants issuance of notice to the Settlement Class. Accordingly, the proposed Settlement is
22 preliminarily approved.

23 **Final Approval Hearing**

24 6. A Final Approval Hearing shall take place before the Court on October 25, 2019, at
25 9:00 a.m., in Courtroom Suite 14106, before Judge James L. Robart of the U.S. District Court for the
26 Western District of Washington, United States Courthouse, 700 Stewart Street, Seattle, Washington
27 98101, to determine, among other things, whether: (a) the proposed Settlement Class should be finally

1 certified for settlement purposes, pursuant to Rule 23; (b) the Settlement should be finally approved
2 as fair, reasonable, and adequate and, in accordance with the Settlement's terms, all claims in the
3 Complaint and Litigation should be dismissed with prejudice; (c) Settlement Class Members should
4 be bound by the releases set forth in the Settlement; (d) the proposed Final Approval Order and
5 Judgment should be entered; (e) the application of Class Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees,
6 costs, and expenses should be approved; and (f) the application for a Service Award to Plaintiff should
7 be approved. Any other matters the Court deems necessary and appropriate will also be addressed at
8 the hearing.

9 7. Class Counsel shall submit their application for fees, costs, and expenses and the
10 application for a Service Award **100 days** after entry of this Order. The deadline to file an objection
11 and any response to Class Counsel's motions is no later than **114 days** after entry of this Order. By
12 no later than **128 days** after entry of this Order, responses shall be filed, if any, to any filings by
13 objectors, and any replies in support of final approval of the Settlement and/or Class Counsel's
14 application for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses and for a Service Award shall be filed.

15 8. Any Settlement Class Member that has not timely and properly excluded itself from
16 the Settlement Class in the manner described below may appear at the Final Approval Hearing in
17 person or by counsel and be heard, to the extent allowed by the Court, regarding the proposed
18 Settlement; provided, however, that no Settlement Class Member that has elected to exclude itself
19 from the Settlement Class shall be entitled to object or otherwise appear and, further provided, that
20 no Settlement Class Member shall be heard in opposition to the Settlement unless the Settlement
21 Class Member complies with the requirements of this Order pertaining to objections, which are
22 described below.

23 Administration

24 9. Analytics Consulting, LLC ("Analytics") is appointed as the Settlement
25 Administrator, with responsibility for Claims Administration, the Notice Program, and all other
26 obligations of the Claims Administrator, as set forth in the Settlement. The Settlement
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1 Administrator's fees, as well as all other costs and expenses associated with notice and administration,
2 will be paid by Eddie Bauer, as provided in the Settlement.

3 **Notice to the Class**

4 10. The Notice Program set forth in the Settlement, including the forms of Notice and
5 Claim Form attached as exhibits to the Settlement, satisfy the requirements of Rule 23 and due process
6 and thus are approved. Non-material modifications to the exhibits may be made without further order
7 of the Court. The Settlement Administrator is directed to carry out the Notice Program in
8 conformance with the Settlement and to perform all other tasks that the Settlement requires.

9 11. The Court finds that the form, content, and method of giving notice to the Settlement
10 Class, as described in the Settlement and exhibits: (a) constitute the best practicable notice to the
11 Settlement Class; (b) are reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class
12 Members of the pendency of the action, the terms of the proposed Settlement, and their rights under
13 the proposed Settlement; (c) are reasonable and constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to those
14 persons entitled to receive notice; and (d) satisfy the requirements of Rule 23, the constitutional
15 requirement of due process, and any other legal requirements. The Court further finds that the Notice
16 is written in plain language, uses simple terminology, and is designed to be readily understandable
17 by Settlement Class Members.

18 **Exclusions from the Class**

19 12. Any Settlement Class Member that wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class
20 must mail a written notification of the intent to exclude itself to the Settlement Administrator, Class
21 Counsel, and Eddie Bauer's counsel at the addresses provided in the Notice, postmarked no later than
22 September 10, 2019, (the "Opt-Out Deadline") and sent via first class postage pre-paid U.S. mail.
23 The written notification must include the name of this Litigation (*Veridian Credit Union v. Eddie*
24 *Bauer LLC*, No. 2:17-cv-00356-JLR (W.D. Wash.)); the full name, address, and telephone number
25 of the Settlement Class Member; the name, address, email address, telephone number, position, and
26 signature of the individual who is acting on behalf of the Settlement Class Member; the words
27 "Request for Exclusion" at the top of the document, or a statement in the body of the document

1 requesting exclusion from the Settlement; and the total number of payment cards issued by the
2 Settlement Class Member that were identified as having been at risk as a result of the Cyber Attack
3 in any alerts or similar documents by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and JCB. If the Settlement Class
4 Member fails to provide all of the required information on or before the deadlines specified in the
5 Settlement, and fails to cure any deficiency within the time allowed in the Settlement, then its attempt
6 to opt-out shall be invalid and have no legal effect, and the Settlement Class Member shall be bound
7 by the Settlement, including the releases, if finally approved.

8 13. All Settlement Class Members who submit valid and timely notices of their intent to
9 be excluded from the Settlement shall not receive any benefits of or be bound by the terms of the
10 Settlement. Any Settlement Class Member that does not timely and validly exclude itself from the
11 Settlement shall be bound by the terms of the Settlement. If final judgment is entered, any Settlement
12 Class Member that has not submitted a timely, valid written notice of exclusion from the Settlement
13 (in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement) shall be bound by all subsequent proceedings,
14 orders, and judgments in this matter, the Settlement, including, but not limited to, the releases set
15 forth in the Settlement, and the Final Approval Order and Judgment.

16 14. The Settlement Administrator shall provide the Parties with copies of all opt-out
17 notifications promptly upon receipt, and a final list of all that have timely and validly excluded
18 themselves from the Settlement Class in accordance with the terms of the Settlement, which Class
19 Counsel may move to file under seal with the Court no later than **10 days** prior to the Final Approval
20 Hearing.

21 Objections to the Settlement

22 15. A Settlement Class Member that complies with the requirements of this Order may
23 object to the Settlement, the request of Class Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and
24 expenses, and/or the request for a Service Award.

25 16. No Settlement Class Member shall be heard, and no papers, briefs, pleadings, or other
26 documents submitted by any Settlement Class Member shall be received and considered by the Court,
27 unless the objection is: (a) electronically filed with the Court by the Objection Deadline; or (b) mailed

1 first-class postage prepaid to the Clerk of Court, Class Counsel, and Eddie Bauer's counsel at the
2 addresses listed in the Notice and postmarked by no later than the Objection Deadline, which shall
3 be October 4, 2019, as specified in the Notice. Objections shall not exceed 12 pages. For the
4 objection to be considered by the Court, the objection shall set forth:

5 a. the name of the Litigation (*Veridian Credit Union v. Eddie Bauer LLC*, No.
6 2:17-cv-00356-JLR (W.D. Wash.));

7 b. the full name of the objector and the full name, address, email address, and
8 telephone number of the person acting on its behalf;

9 c. an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Settlement
10 Class Member;

11 d. whether the objection applies only to the objector, a specific subset of the
12 Settlement Class, or the entire Settlement Class;

13 e. all grounds for the objection stated, with specificity, accompanied by any legal
14 support for the objection;

15 f. the identity of all counsel who represent the objector, including any former or
16 current counsel who may be entitled to compensation for any reason related to the objection
17 to the Settlement, Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses, or the
18 application for a Service Award;

19 g. the identity of all representatives (including counsel representing the objector)
20 who will appear at the Final Approval Hearing;

21 h. the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action
22 settlement within the five years preceding the date that the objector files the objection, the
23 caption of each case in which the objector has made such objection, and a copy of any orders
24 related to or ruling upon the objector's prior such objections that were issued by the trial and
25 appellate courts in each listed case;

26 i. the number of times in which the objector's counsel and/or counsel's law firm
27 have objected to a class action settlement within the five years preceding the date that the

1 objector files the objection, the caption of each case in which counsel or the firm has made
2 such objection, and a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon the counsel's or the firm's
3 prior such objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case;

4 j. if the objector is represented by an attorney who intends to seek fees and
5 expenses from anyone other than the objectors he or she represents, the objection should also
6 include: (i) a description of the attorney's legal background and prior experience in connection
7 with class action litigation; (ii) the amount of fees sought by the attorney for representing the
8 objector and the factual and legal justification for the fees being sought; (iii) a statement
9 regarding whether the fees being sought are calculated on the basis of a lodestar, contingency,
10 or other method; (iv) the number of hours already spent by the attorney and an estimate of the
11 hours to be spent in the future; and (v) the attorney's hourly rate;

12 k. any and all agreements that relate to the objection or the process of objecting,
13 whether written or verbal, between the objector or objector's counsel and any other person or
14 entity;

15 l. a description of all evidence to be presented at the Final Approval Hearing in
16 support of the objection, including a list of any witnesses, a summary of the expected
17 testimony from each witness, and a copy of any documents or other non-oral material to be
18 presented;

19 m. a statement identifying whether the objector intends to personally appear
20 and/or testify at the Final Approval Hearing; and

21 n. the objector's signature on the written objection (an attorney's signature is not
22 sufficient).

23 17. In addition, any Settlement Class Member that objects to the proposed Settlement must
24 make itself available to be deposed regarding the grounds for its objection and must provide, along
25 with its objection, the dates when the objector will be available to be deposed during the period from
26 when the objection is filed through the date **seven days** before the Final Approval Hearing.

1 admission, concession, or declaration by or against Eddie Bauer of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, or
2 liability; shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against any
3 Settlement Class Representative or any other Settlement Class Member that its claims lack merit or
4 that the relief requested is inappropriate, improper, and unavailable; and shall not constitute a waiver
5 by any party of any defense (including, without limitation, any defense to class certification) or claims
6 it may have in this Litigation or in any other lawsuit.

7 **Stay of Proceedings**

8 23. Except as necessary to effectuate this Order, this matter and any deadlines set by the
9 Court in this matter are stayed and suspended pending the Final Approval Hearing and issuance of
10 the Final Approval Order and Judgment, or until further order of this Court.

11 **Continuance of Final Approval Hearing**

12 24. The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the Final Approval Hearing and
13 related deadlines without further written notice to the Settlement Class. If the Court alters any of
14 those dates or times, the revised dates and times shall be posted on the website maintained by the
15 Settlement Administrator.

16 **Actions by Settlement Class Members**

17 25. The Court stays and enjoins, pending Final Approval of the Settlement, any actions,
18 lawsuits, or other proceedings brought by Settlement Class Members against Eddie Bauer in relation
19 to the Cyber Attack.

20 **Summary of Deadlines**

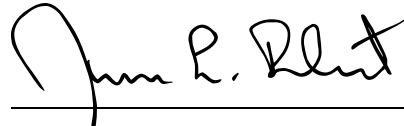
21 26. The Settlement, as preliminarily approved in this Order, shall be administered
22 according to its terms pending the Final Approval Hearing. Deadlines arising under the Settlement
23 and this Order include, but are not limited to, the following:

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- Notice Deadline: July 12, 2019;
 - 25 • Opt-Out Deadline: September 10, 2019;
 - 26 • Claims Deadline: October 10, 2019;
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- 1 • Application for Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses and Service Award (“Fee
- 2 Application”): September 20, 2019;
- 3 • Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement (“Final Approval Motion”):
- 4 September 20, 2019;
- 5 • Objection Deadline: October 4, 2019;
- 6 • Replies in Support of Final Approval and Fee Motion: October 18, 2019; and
- 7 • Final Approval Hearing: October 25, 2019.

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 Dated this 12th day of June, 2019.

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13 JAMES L. ROBART
14 United States District Judge
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