

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF KING

KARANBIR SINGH, HARPREET SINGH,
and NASTEHO OMAR,
Plaintiffs,

v.

IQ DATA INTERNATIONAL, INC., a
Washington for profit corporation,
Defendant.

NO. 20-2-07084-0 SEA

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Plaintiffs Karanbir Singh, Harpreet Singh, and Nasteho Omar moved for preliminary approval of a class action settlement with Defendant IQ Data International, Inc. The terms of the settlement are set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release attached as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of Blythe H. Chandler in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement. The Court has read and considered the Settlement Agreement, and proposed notices, and the briefing submitted in support of preliminary approval of the settlement and is fully advised.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Court preliminarily approves the Settlement Agreement and Release. ¹
2. The settlement appears to be the product of serious, informed, non-collusive negotiations, including three full-day mediations before mediators with substantial experience

¹ Unless otherwise noted, capitalized terms have the definitions given to them in the Settlement Agreement & Release.

1 with consumer class action cases. The settlement has no obvious deficiencies, does not
2 improperly grant preferential treatment to any class members, and falls within the range of
3 possible judicial approval. *See* William B. Rubenstein, *Newberg on Class Actions* § 13:10 (5th
4 ed. Dec. 2021 update).

5 3. The Court previously certified the Classes and appointed Karanbir Singh,
6 Harpreet Singh, and Nasteo Omar as Class Representatives and the Terrell Marshall Law Group
7 PLLC, and Leonard Law, PLLC, as Class Counsel.

8 4. The Court appoints Kroll Settlement Administration as the Class Administrator.
9 As provided for in the Settlement Agreement, the Class Administrator shall disseminate notice to
10 Class Members by mail, establish the Settlement Website and toll-free phone number, process
11 and report on exclusion requests, establish and maintain an account for deposit of the Settlement
12 Fund, mail Settlement Award checks to Class Members, and perform any additional duties that
13 are called for by the Settlement Agreement or ordered by the Court.

14 5. IQ Data shall provide an updated class list to Class Counsel within 10 days of the
15 date of this order for purposes of implementing the notice plan.

16 6. The Court approves the notice program outlined in the Settlement Agreement,
17 including the Postcard Notices and Settlement Website attached as exhibits to the Declaration of
18 Blythe H. Chandler. The notices provides all of the information Class Members need to evaluate
19 and respond to the settlement, including the nature of the litigation, the general terms of the
20 proposed settlement, their rights under the settlement, an explanation of how they can object to,
21 or exclude themselves from the settlement and how to file a claim form to receive a payment
22 from the FDCPA portion of the fund, the identity of Class Counsel and that Class Counsel will
23 request attorneys' fees from the Settlement Fund, and the date and time of the Final Approval
24 Hearing. The notice also direct Class Members to a website that will provide additional
25 information about the settlement, as well as a toll-free number that Class Members can call with
26 questions. Accordingly, the notice program complies with CR 23 and the requirements of due
27 process.

1 7. The Court also approves the parties’ plan for disseminating notice, which will
2 ensure that Class Members receive “the best notice practicable under the circumstances.” CR
3 23(c)(2). Issuance of notice substantially in the manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement
4 satisfies the requirements of due process and applicable state and federal law and constitutes due
5 and sufficient notice to all members of the Settlement Class.

6 8. Within 30 days of entry of this Order, the Class Administrator shall establish the
7 Settlement Website and send notice to all Class Members in accordance with the notice plan
8 described in Section VII.4 of the Settlement Agreement. The date the Settlement Administrator
9 distributes notice is the “Notice Date.”

10 9. FDCPA Class Members must submit claim forms either online or postmarked no
11 later than 60 days from the Notice Date. The Court may exercise its discretion to approve
12 otherwise valid but late filed claims received before the Final Approval Hearing.

13 10. Any Settlement Class Member may exclude himself or herself from the settlement
14 by sending a written request to the Class Administrator through the Settlement Website or by
15 mail postmarked no later than 60 days from the Notice Date. The exclusion request must be in
16 writing and include the name and address of the individual requesting exclusion. Following final
17 approval of the settlement and the occurrence of the Effective Date, each Settlement Class
18 Member who does not submit a timely, valid request for exclusion shall be bound by all terms of
19 the Settlement Agreement, including the release, and any final judgment entered by the Court in
20 this case.

21 11. Any Class Member may object to the settlement by filing with the Court a written
22 statement objecting to the settlement, along with any supporting documentation the Class
23 Member wishes the Court to consider, no later than 60 days from the Notice Date. For their
24 objection to be considered by the Court, the Class Member must not have excluded themselves
25 from the settlement.

26 12. IQ Data shall deposit the \$4,000,000 Settlement Fund amount with the Class
27 Administrator no later than 45 days from the date of this order.

1 13. Class Counsel shall file their motion for an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and
2 service award no later than 30 days from the Notice Date.

3 14. The Class Administrator shall provide the parties with a declaration of due
4 diligence and proof of mailing, including information as to any inability to deliver notice because
5 of invalid addresses, the number of claims, the number of requests for exclusion, and the number
6 of objections, report on completion of the notice plan no later than 5 judicial days from the Opt-
7 Out and Objection Deadline.

8 15. The Class Representatives shall file a motion for final approval of the settlement
9 and response to any objections no later than 9 judicial days before the Final Approval Hearing.

10 16. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held before this Court (Judge Tanya L. Thorp)
11 on March 1, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom at meeting ID # 882 9217 8438 Passcode: 779783 or
12 participants may attend in-person before the undersigned at W941, King County Superior Court,
13 516 3rd Avenue, Seattle, Washington, 98104. At the hearing, the Court will consider whether the
14 Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and should be approved by the Court. The Court
15 will also consider Class Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and costs and for service award to
16 the Class Representatives, and rule on any other matters that the Court deems appropriate.

17 17. Any interested person who has not excluded themselves from the Settlement
18 Class may appear at the final approval hearing to address whether the proposed settlement should
19 or should not be approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court will consider all properly
20 submitted objections. Any Settlement Class Member who does not appear individually or
21 through counsel and who does not challenge or comment upon the fairness and adequacy of the
22 Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and costs, or the Class
23 Representatives' request for service awards shall waive and forfeit any and all rights to appear
24 separately or object.

1 9030 35th Avenue, Suite 100
2 Seattle, Washington 98126
3 Telephone: (206) 486-1176
4 Facsimile: (206) 458-6028

5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

King County Superior Court
Judicial Electronic Signature Page

Case Number: 20-2-07084-0
Case Title: SINGH ET ANO VS RIDGEGATE ET AL
Document Title: ORDER RE ON PRELIM APPROVAL & HEARING DATE
Signed By: Tanya Thorp
Date: November 06, 2023



Judge: Tanya Thorp

This document is signed in accordance with the provisions in GR 30.

Certificate Hash: 4D07BB86DC71A3443DCA4BFF33DECF70A434C3DD
Certificate effective date: 5/9/2019 9:31:50 AM
Certificate expiry date: 5/9/2024 9:31:50 AM
Certificate Issued by: C=US, E=kcscefiling@kingcounty.gov, OU=KCDJA,
O=KCDJA, CN="Tanya Thorp:
OHNcrwvS5hGeC2b3AFk6yQ=="