IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2024-003537-CA-01

JABARI SELLERS and SIMEON

EVANS, themselves, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

CLASS ACTION

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

v.

BLEACHER REPORT, INC.,

Defendant.

PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND SUPPORTING MEMORANDUM

Plaintiffs Jabari Sellers and Simeon Evans ("Plaintiffs"), on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, respectfully request that the Court grant Preliminary Approval¹ of the proposed class action settlement reached between Plaintiffs and Defendant, Bleacher Report, Inc. ("Bleacher Report" or "Defendant").

I. <u>CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE PRECISE RELIEF REQUESTED</u>

Plaintiffs file this motion requesting for this Court to preliminarily approve a class action settlement, certify a settlement class, and direct that Notice as proposed be sent to the Settlement Class. Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter an order of Preliminary Approval including, in substantially the same form, as the content of the Agreed Preliminary Approval Order attached hereto as *Exhibit E* to the Settlement Agreement.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all capitalized terms herein shall have the same meaning as those defined in the Settlement Agreement, attached hereto as *Exhibit A*.

Plaintiffs' complaint alleges putative class claims that Defendant Bleacher Report, Inc. violated the Video Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2710 *et seq.* (the "VPPA") by disclosing their "personally identifiable information" (as defined by the VPPA) to Meta Platforms, Inc. ("Meta"), formerly known as Facebook, without permission via the Meta Pixel (the "Pixel"), a business advertising and analytical tool offered by Meta. More specifically, Plaintiffs alleged Bleacher Report voluntarily installed the Pixel on its websites and configured the Pixel to disclose to Meta the Facebook ID and the video name and content the Bleacher Report subscriber was requesting or obtaining. Defendant denies the allegations in the Complaint, but given the risks, uncertainties, and burdens of litigation, has agreed to settle the litigation according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement. As detailed below, the parties have reached a proposed class settlement, Defendant has agreed to establish a \$4,800,000 Settlement Fund, from which each Settlement Class Member will be entitled to file a claim for a *pro rata* cash payment.

Subject to the Court's approval, the Settlement Fund will also be used to pay: the courtapproved Incentive Awards in the amount of \$5,000.00 to each of the two Plaintiffs to compensate them for the time spent and risk incurred serving as the Class Representatives; Class Counsel's attorneys' fees of approximately one-third of the Settlement Fund; and the costs of Notice and Settlement Administration. The Parties have agreed to a direct Notice Program designed to afford Settlement Class members due process and advise them of the rights under the Settlement.

As explained below, the Settlement meets all requirements for Preliminary Approval. Therefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court preliminarily approve this Settlement; approve and appoint Kroll LLC as the Settlement Administrator; appoint Plaintiffs as the Class Representatives for the Settlement Class; appoint the firms and attorneys listed in the Settlement Agreement as Class Counsel; order that the proposed Notice be disseminated in the forms presented with this Motion; and schedule a Final Approval Hearing.

II. STATEMENT OF THE BASIS FOR THE REQUEST

The Settlement negotiated by Plaintiffs and Proposed Class Counsel represents substantial relief for the proposed Settlement Class. Pursuant to the Settlement, Defendant has agreed to establish a non-revisionary cash Settlement Fund of \$4,800,000, from which each Settlement Class Member will be entitled to file a claim for a *pro rata* cash payment. And equally important, Defendant has agreed to meaningful prospective relief as it will not knowingly resume operation of the Meta Pixel on any pages on Defendant's Website accessible in the United States that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the video content requested or obtained from that page, without VPPA-compliant consent for the disclosure of the video content viewed to Facebook unless and until the VPPA is amended, repealed, or otherwise invalidated (including by judicial decision).

The Settlement is the product of a thorough pre-filing investigation, efficiently prosecuted litigation, and extensive arm's-length negotiations between the Parties, including a mediation with Honorable Judge Freda L. Wolfson (Ret.) of Lowenstein Sandler. The Settlement provides fair, reasonable, and adequate relief to the Settlement Class in light of the relief it provides to the Plaintiffs and the Class and the risks of continued litigation, and its terms and Notice procedures readily satisfy Due Process and the procedural requirements of Rule 1.220, Fla. R. Civ. P.

Further, the Court need not evaluate the Settlement in a vacuum as this Settlement aligns and compares favorably with the VPPA settlements and other privacy settlements that came before it. *See, e.g., Lane v. Facebook, Inc.*, 2010 WL 9013059 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2010), *aff'd* 696 F.3d 811 (9th Cir. 2012) (approving settlement in VPPA case that only provided *cy pres* relief with no monetary relief to Settlement Class Members); *In re: Vizio, Inc., Consumer Privacy Litig.*, 2019 WL 12966638, at *4 (C.D. Cal. July 31, 2019) (approving settlement in VPPA case that provided each claimant with an estimated \$16.50 at a claims rate of 4.1%); *In re Google LLC Street View Elec. Commc 'ns Litig.*, 2020 WL 1288377, at *11–14 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 18, 2020) (approving, over objections of class members and state attorney general, a settlement providing only *cy pres* relief for violations of Electronic Communications Privacy Act); *Adkins v. Facebook, Inc.*, No. 18-cv-05982-WHA (N.D. Cal. May 6, 2021) (dkts. 350, 369) (approving settlement for injunctive relief only, in class action arising out of Facebook data breach); *Waller et al. v. Times Publishing Co.*, No. 2023-027889-CA-01 (Fla. 17th Cir. Ct.) (approving settlement in VPPA case that provided for \$950,000 common fund).

The strength of the Settlement speaks for itself. Therefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court preliminarily approve the Settlement and direct Notice to be issued, thereby allowing Settlement Class members to evaluate the terms of the Settlement and request exclusion or submit to the Court any reason why any contend the Settlement is not fair or reasonable. The Court should also set the Final Approval Hearing date and time.

III. THE SETTLEMENT TERMS AND AGREEMENT

A. The Proposed Class

The Settlement Class is comprised of:

All Persons in the United States who from January 25, 2021 and through the date the settlement is preliminarily approved (the "Class Period") were Bleacher Report account holders.

The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) the Defendant, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendant, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendant; (3) any of the Released Parties;

(4) the immediate family of any such person(s); (5) any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiffs' Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

B. Terms of the Settlement

The Settlement requires Bleacher Report to make available a Settlement Fund pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement that will: (1) make available \$4,800,000.00 in cash for the purpose of payment to all Settlement Class Members a *pro rata* portion of the Settlement Fund who submit an Approved Claim; (2) pay the costs of the Class Notice and Administration, to be paid from the Settlement Fund; (3) pay attorneys' fees and costs of approximately one-third of the Fund, to be paid from the Fund; and (4) make payment of the Incentive Awards of \$5,000.00 to each of the two Plaintiffs, to be paid from the Fund. *See, generally*, **Exhibit A**. Defendant is not required to make available any amounts other than the Settlement Fund.

In addition to this payment, Class Counsel has secured an agreement from Bleacher Report that, although it continues to deny the allegations and does not admit liability, it will not knowingly resume operation of the Meta Pixel on any pages on Defendant's Website accessible in the United States that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the video content requested or obtained from that page, without VPPA-compliant consent for the disclosure of the video content viewed to Facebook unless and until the VPPA is amended, repealed, or otherwise invalidated (including by judicial decision).

III. MEMORANDUM OF LEGAL AUTHORITY

A. Certification of the Settlement Class for Settlement Purposes Is Warranted

To finalize the Settlement, the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure require that there be notice to the Settlement Class and this Court's final approval. Settlement "has special importance in class actions with their notable uncertainty, difficulties of proof, and length. Settlements of complex cases contribute greatly to the efficient utilization of scarce judicial resources, and achieve the speedy resolution of justice[.]" *Turner v. Gen. Elec. Co.*, No. 2:05-CV-186-FTM-99DNF, 2006 WL 2620275, at *2 (M.D. Fla. Sept. 13, 2006). For these reasons, "[p]ublic policy strongly favors the pretrial settlement of class action lawsuits." *In re U.S. Oil & Gas Litig.*, 967 F.2d 489, 493 (11th Cir.1992).²

"Approval of a class-action settlement is a two-step process." *Fresco v. Auto Data Direct, Inc.*, No. 03-cv-61063, 2007 WL 2330895, at *4 (S.D. Fla. May 14, 2007). Preliminary approval is the first step, requiring the Court to "make a preliminary determination on the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the settlement terms." *Id.* (citation omitted). In the second step, after notice to the class and opportunity for absent class members to object or otherwise be heard, the court considers whether to grant final approval of the settlement as fair and reasonable. *Id.*

The standard for preliminary approval of a class action settlement is not high. A settlement will be preliminarily approved if it falls "within the range of reasonableness." *In re Checking Account Overdraft Litig.*, 275 F.R.D. 654, 661 (S.D. Fla. 2011); *see also Mase v. Archive Am.*, 2015 Fla. Cir. LEXIS 52906, *5 (Fla. 11th Jud. Cir. March 17, 2015) (entering preliminary approval order where proposed settlement "falls within the range of possibly approvable settlements, appears to be fair, reasonable and adequate[.]"). "Preliminary approval is appropriate where the proposed settlement is the result of the parties' good faith negotiations, there are no obvious deficiencies, and the settlement falls within the range of reason." *In re Checking Account Overdraft Litig.*, 275 F.R.D. at 661. After the Court grants preliminary approval, the parties then notify members of the settlement class of the existence and basic terms of the proposed class action

² Florida Rule 1.220 is patterned after Federal Rule 23, consequently, Florida courts routinely look to federal case law interpreting Rule 23 for guidance in class actions. *See Leibell v. Miami-Dade Cnty.*, 84 So. 3d 1078, 1083 n.5 (Fla. 3d DCA 2012).

settlement, and are given the opportunity to opt-out (exclude themselves) from or object to the settlement. Once the class notice process has been completed, the Court proceeds to the final approval stage, where the Court must evaluate whether final approval is warranted. *Holt v. Hhh Motors*, 2015 Fla. Cir. LEXIS 48982, *2 (Fla. 4th Jud. Cir. April 15, 2015).

"In deciding whether to provisionally certify a settlement class, a court must consider the same factors that it would consider in connection with a proposed litigation class[,]" save manageability, "since the settlement, if approved, would obviate the need for a trial." *In re Checking Account Overdraft Litig.*, 275 F.R.D. at 659.

Rule 1.220 of the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure is substantially equivalent to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and similarly has four prerequisites to class certification:

- 1. The class must be so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable;
- 2. The claim of the representative party must raise questions of law or fact common to the questions of law or fact raised by the claim of each member of the class;
- 3. The claim of the representative parties must be typical of the claims of the class; and
- 4. The representative party must fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.

Courts commonly refer to these prerequisites as (1) numerosity; (2) commonality; (3) typicality; and (4) adequacy of representation. *See W.S. Badcock Corp. v. Myers*, 696 So. 2d 776, 779-80 (Fla. 1st DCA 1996), *superseded by statute as recognized in, Kasket v. Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp.*, 759 So. 2d 726 (Fla. 4th DCA 1999). In addition to each of Rule 1.220(a)'s prerequisites, Rule 1.220 also requires that one of the provisions of its subsection (b) be satisfied. Here, all of these requirements are met.

As to Rule 1.220(a), for purposes of certifying the Settlement Class pursuant to the Settlement, there are millions of Settlement Class members (numerosity), all of which have the same claim – that Defendant caused the disclosure of its subscribers' personally identifiable information to Facebook without permission in violation of the VPPA (commonality), Plaintiffs' claims are the same as the rest of the Settlement Class members' claims and Plaintiffs are not subject to any unique affirmative defenses (typicality), and Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have zealously litigated the claim, secured substantial relief, and have no interests antagonistic to the Settlement Class (adequacy). As to Rule 1.220(b)(3), pursuant to the terms of the Settlement, there are no individual issues precluding class treatment (predominance), and class treatment is the best method of adjudication, as seen in the fact that every Settlement Class member shall receive relief without the need for numerous (and duplicative) individual cases (superiority). *See Sosa v. Safeway Premium Fin. Co.*, 73 So. 3d 91, 106-07 (Fla. 2011) (outlining requirements for class certification). Thus, certification of the Settlement Class is warranted.

B. The Proposed Notice Is the Best Practicable Notice and Comports with Due Process Requirements

The notice requirements of Rule 1.220(c) are designed to provide sufficient due process to class members by sufficiently informing them of the pendency of the Action and providing an opportunity to be heard or opt out and must be the "best notice that is practicable under the circumstances." *Nelson v. Wakulla Cnty.*, 985 So. 2d 564, 576 (Fla. 1st DCA 2008). To satisfy such requirement, individual notice should be provided to class members who can be identified through reasonable effort. *See Cordell v. World Ins. Co.*, 355 So. 2d 479, 481 (Fla. 1st DCA 1978) (citing *Eisen v. Carlisle & Jacquelin*, 417 U.S. 156, 173-75 (1974)).

Here, the Parties agree to send direct, individual Notice to members of the Settlement Class. Individual, direct notice clearly comports with due process requirements. *See, e.g., Juris v. Inamed* Corp., 685 F.3d 1294, 1320 (11th Cir. 2012). Notice shall be sent by email to all Settlement Class Members for whom a valid email address is available in the form substantially similar to that attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit B. In the event transmission of email notice results in any "bounce-backs," the Settlement Administrator shall, where reasonable: (i) correct any issues that may have caused the "bounce-back" to occur and make a second attempt to re-send the email notice, and/or (ii) send Notice substantially in the form attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit C via First Class U.S. Mail. In the event there are Settlement Class Members for whom the Settlement Class List contains only telephone numbers (and not an email address or mailing address), the Settlement Administrator will run those telephone numbers through a reverse telephone search to locate associated names and mailing addresses and then use that information to send Notice substantially in the form attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit C via First Class U.S. Mail. In the event there are Settlement Class Members for whom the Settlement Class List contains only a username (and not an email address, mailing address or phone number), Defendant will send Notice via an in-app direct message through the Bleacher Report mobile application (hereinafter, "Defendant DM") substantially in the form attached to the Settlement Agreement as Exhibit G. Class members who receive a Defendant DM will receive a push notification to make them aware of the message. Seven days prior to the Claims Deadline, a reminder Notice will be sent.

Moreover, the Notice provides a clear explanation of the terms of the Settlement, the amount sought in attorneys' fees and incentive awards, informs class members of their right to object or to seek exclusion and the method by which to do so, and provides an opportunity to be heard at a Fairness Hearing to be scheduled after the Notice period and before Final Approval. *See, generally,* Settlement Agreement at Ex. A; *see also Nolan v. Integrated Real Estate Processing,*

LP, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 136890, at *20-21 (M.D. Fla. Sep. 9, 2009) (setting forth what should be included in notice of settlement).

Thus, the Notice provided to the Settlement Class Members constitutes the best notice practicable and comports with due process requirements.

C. The Terms of the Settlement are Fair and Reasonable

Preliminary approval of a class action settlement "is not binding, and it is granted unless a proposed settlement is obviously deficient." Smith v. Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co., 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 67832, *6 (S.D. Fla. June 15, 2010). "Preliminary approval is appropriate where the proposed settlement is the result of the parties' good faith negotiations, there are no obvious deficiencies, and the settlement falls within the range of reason." Id. at *7. These requirements are readily satisfied here, as demonstrated above in the Agreement and in the exhibits thereto. City of L.A. v. Bankrate, Inc., 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 115071, *14-15 (S.D. Fla. Aug. 24, 2016) (granting preliminary approval of proposed class action settlement where "the proposed settlement was made after mediation was conducted," "[t]he negotiations appear to have been made in good faith and there do not appear to be any obvious deficiencies," and the settlement amount "appears to be within the range of reasonableness"); Almanzar v. Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc., 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 178149, *5-6 (S.D. Fla. Oct. 15, 2015) (granting preliminary approval, finding that proposed class action settlement was based on "informed, good-faith, arms-length negotiations between the Parties and their capable and experienced counsel," and settlement was "within the range of reasonableness and possible judicial approval").

As will be set forth in greater detail in the Motion for Final Approval—and as demonstrated by the terms of the Agreement—all nine factors suggested by the Second District Court of Appeals to evaluate the fairness, reasonableness and adequacy of a settlement favor approval here. *Griffith* *v. Quality Distribution*, 307 So. 3d 791 (Fla. 2d DCA 2018). The relevant factors include (1) the complexity and duration of the litigation; (2) the reaction of the class to the settlement; (3) the stage of the proceedings; (4) the risk of establishing liability; (5) the risk of establishing damages; (6) the risk of maintaining a class action; (7) the ability of the defendant to withstand a greater judgment; (8) the reasonableness of the settlement in light of the best recovery; and (9) the range of reasonableness of the settlement in light of all the attendant risks of litigation. *Id. Griffith* notes that Florida courts have also applied the six factors described by the First District in *Nelson*, which similarly favor preliminary approval of the Settlement at hand.³ 985 So. 2d at 570. The Eleventh Circuit has also identified factors used by Florida courts to evaluate settlements, which again favor the settlement here. *Leverso v. Southtrust Bank*, 18 F.3d 1527, 1530 n. 6 (11th Cir. 1994).

Here, every Class Member who submits a valid claim form will receive a *pro rata* cash payment from the Settlement Fund, as described above, as well as the benefit of the injunctive relief negotiated for by Proposed Class Counsel.

The value achieved through the Settlement Agreement is guaranteed while chances of prevailing on the merits are far from certain. While Plaintiffs believe they would likely prevail on their claims, they are also aware that Defendant firmly denies all charges of wrongdoing or liability and the material allegations of the Complaint and intends to pursue several legal and factual defenses. If Defendant was successful on any one of these defenses, Plaintiffs and the Class Members risk receiving no relief whatsoever.

 $^{^{3}(1)}$ the likelihood of success at trial; (2) the range of possible recovery; (3) the point over or below the range of possible recovery at which a settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable; (4) the complexity, expense, and duration of the litigation; (5) the substance and amount of opposition to the settlement; and (6) the stage of the proceedings at which the settlement was achieved. *Griffith*, 307 So. 3d at 791 (citing *Nelson*, 985 So. 2d at 570).

Due at least in part to their cutting-edge nature and the rapidly evolving law, privacy cases—including Meta Pixel cases such as this one and similar tracking technologies—generally face substantial hurdles, even just to make it past the pleading stage. Class certification is another hurdle, which would be hotly contested, for which success is certainly not guaranteed. Moreover, it is likely that a win by either party would result in appeals, which would further increase costs and extend the time until Plaintiffs and Class Members could receive relief. Settlement allows the class to avoid the inherent risk, complexity, time and cost associated with continued litigation, and approval would allow the class to receive meaningful and valuable payments now, instead of years from now or never.

Further, there was no fraud or collusion in the settlement, which rather was entered into after arms-length negotiations and with the assistance of an experienced and well-respected mediator, this litigation is complex and expensive, Plaintiffs elicited extensive data demonstrating the contours of the Settlement Class and Defendant's practices and procedures, and the likelihood of success is uncertain. The Settlement Fund made available to the class here is more than reasonable, given the complexity of the litigation and the significant risks and barriers that loomed in the absence of settlement including, but not limited to, a motion for class certification, Defendant's assertion of various legal challenges, a motion for summary judgment, trial as well as appellate review following a final judgment. Plaintiffs and their coursel believe that the Settlement is an excellent and reasonable result for the Class in light of factors stated above, and anticipate that members of the Settlement Class will be satisfied with the result as well. In reality, the reaction of the Settlement Class can only be evaluated in considering Final Approval of the Settlement.

Taking these realities into account and recognizing the risks involved in any litigation, the tangible, immediate relief available to each Class Member represents a truly excellent result for the Class.⁴

For all these reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully submits that there are no obvious deficiencies to the Settlement precluding Preliminary Approval and that this Motion should be granted. For the convenience of the Court, Plaintiffs submit the following proposed schedule, which is also reflected in the Agreed Preliminary Approval Order submitted for the Court's consideration:

Event	Date	<u>Timeline</u>
Deadline for Completion of		30 days prior to Final Approval
Notice		Hearing
Deadline for filing Motion for		
Final Approval of the		14 days before the Final Approval
Settlement and Class		Hearing
Counsel's Fee Application		
and expenses, and for		
Incentive Awards		
Deadline for Responses to		14 days before the Final Approval
Objections		Hearing
Deadline for opting-out of the		30 days before the Final Approval
Settlement and for submission		Hearing
of Objections		
Final Approval Hearing		
Last day Class Claimants may		15 days after the Final Approval
submit a Claim Form		Hearing

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

⁴ Furthermore, as compared against other privacy cases, the Settlement provides an exceptional amount of monetary relief to Class Members. Privacy cases have frequently settled for very little monetary relief, if any. *See, e.g., Adkins v. Facebook, Inc.*, Case No. 18-cv-05982-WHA (N.D. Cal. May 6, 2021 and July 13, 2021) (dkts. 350, 369) (approving settlement for injunctive relief only, in class action arising out of Facebook data breach, and granting \$6.5 million in attorneys' fees and costs); *Carroll v. Crème de la Crème, Inc.*, No. 2017-CH-01624 (Ill. Cir. Ct. Cook Cnty. 2018) (providing each class member being eligible to enroll in credit and identity monitoring services free of charge without further monetary relief in BIPA case).

Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court preliminary approve the Settlement Agreement and proposed form and method of class notice, appoint Adam A. Schwartzbaum and Scott Edelsberg of Edelsberg Law, P.A., and Andrew J. Shamis and Edwin E. Elliott of Shamis & Gentile, P.A. as Class Counsel and Plaintiffs as the Class Representatives, and conditionally certify the Class for settlement purposes only.⁵

Dated: May 9, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

SHAMIS & GENTILE, P.A.

/s/ Edwin E. Elliott

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class

⁵ A proposed Preliminary Approval Order is submitted herewith.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9th day of May, 2024, I electronically filed the foregoing

with the Clerk of the Court which will send notice of electronic filing to all counsel of record.

<u>/s/ Edwin E. Elliott</u> Edwin E. Elliott

EXHIBIT A

CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Agreement ("Agreement" or "Settlement Agreement") is entered into by and among (i) Plaintiffs Jabari Sellers and Simeon Evans ("Plaintiffs"); (ii) the Settlement Class (as defined herein); and (iii) Defendant, Bleacher Report, Inc. ("Defendant"). The Plaintiffs and the Defendant are collectively referred to herein as the "Parties." This Agreement is intended by the Parties to fully, finally and forever resolve, discharge, and settle the Released Claims (as defined herein), upon and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and subject to the final approval of the Court.

RECITALS

1. This putative class action was originally filed on January 25, 2023, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California against Defendant alleging violations of the Video Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2710 *et seq.* (the "VPPA"). *Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc.*, No. 3:23-cv-00368, ECF No. 1 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 25, 2023). The material allegations of the complaint center on Defendant's alleged disclosure of personally identifiable information, as defined under the VPPA, to Meta Platforms, Inc. ("Meta"), formerly known as Facebook, without permission via the Meta Pixel, a business advertising and analytical tool offered by Meta.

On April 6, 2023, Defendant filed a motion to dismiss and/or strike under Rule 12(b)(6), arguing, *inter alia*, that Plaintiff failed to state a claim upon which relief could be granted. *Id.* at ECF No. 22. Plaintiff filed his opposition brief on May 17, 2023, (*id.* at ECF No. 44), and Defendant filed its reply brief on June 22, 2023 (*id.* at ECF No. 53).

3. On April 6, 2023, Defendant moved to stay discovery while the motion to dismiss was pending. *Id.* at ECF No. 25. Plaintiff filed his opposition brief on May 17, 2023 (*id.* at ECF No. 45), and Defendant filed its reply brief on June 22, 2023 (*id.* at ECF No. 56).

4. On July 25, 2023, the court heard oral argument on Defendant's motion to dismiss and/or strike and motion to stay discovery. *Id.* at ECF No. 61. On July 28, 2023, the court denied Defendant's motion to dismiss and/or strike and motion to stay discovery. *Id.* at ECF No. 62.

5. Defendant thereafter answered Plaintiff's complaint on August 29, 2023, by denying the allegations generally and raising fifteen (15) affirmative defenses. *Id.* at ECF No. 70.

6. Thereafter, the Parties engaged in written discovery, which included the exchange of initial disclosures pursuant to Rule 26(a)(1), requests for production and interrogatories, meet-and-confer conferences regarding the same, and the production of documents.

7. The Parties agreed to participate in a mediation before the Honorable Judge Freda L. Wolfson (Ret.) of Lowenstein Sandler, who is a former United States District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey and a neutral at Lowenstein Sandler. The Parties stipulated to stay the case and extend deadlines pending the mediation and the Court granted that stipulation on October 18, 2023. ECF No. 74.

8. As part of the mediation, and in order to competently assess their relative negotiating positions, the Parties exchanged information, including on issues such as the size and scope of the putative class, and certain facts related to the strength of Defendant's potential defenses. Given that the information exchanged was similar to the information that would have been provided in formal discovery related to the issues of class certification and summary judgment, the Parties had sufficient information to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the claims and defenses.

9. The mediation took place on January 17, 2023, and lasted the entire day. At the end of the mediation, the Parties reached an agreement in principle on all material terms of a class action settlement, contingent on drafting and court approval of a full suite of settlement documents.

10. On February 27, 2024, Plaintiff Sellers voluntarily dismissed the Federal Action against Defendant without prejudice. Later that day, Plaintiffs filed the instant Action in this Court.

11. At all times, Defendant has denied and continues to deny any wrongdoing whatsoever and has denied and continues to deny that it committed, or threatened or attempted to commit, any wrongful act or violation of law or duty alleged in the Action. Nonetheless, taking into account the uncertainty and risks inherent in any litigation, Defendant has concluded it is desirable and beneficial that the claim asserted in the Action be fully and finally settled and terminated in the manner and upon the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement is a compromise, and the Agreement, any related documents, and any negotiations resulting in it shall not be construed as or deemed to be evidence of or an admission or concession of liability or wrongdoing on the part of Defendant, or any of the Released Parties (defined below), with respect to any claim of any fault or liability or wrongdoing or damage whatsoever.

12. Plaintiffs believe that the claims asserted in the Action against Defendant have merit and that they would have prevailed at summary judgment and/or trial. Nonetheless, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel recognize that Defendant has raised factual and legal defenses that present a risk that Plaintiffs may not prevail or may be unable to collect a judgment. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel also recognize the expense and delay associated with continued prosecution

of the claims asserted in the Action against Defendant through class certification, summary judgment, trial, and any subsequent appeals. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have also taken into account the uncertain outcome and risks of litigation, especially in complex class actions, as well as the difficulties inherent in such litigation. Therefore, Plaintiffs believe it is desirable that the Released Claims be fully and finally compromised, settled, and resolved with prejudice. Based on their evaluation, Class Counsel have concluded that the terms and conditions of this Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, and that it is in the best interests of the Settlement Class to settle the claims raised in the Action pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and among Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class, and each of them, and Defendant, by and through its undersigned counsel that, subject to final approval of the Court after a hearing or hearings as provided for in this Settlement Agreement, in consideration of the benefits flowing to the Parties from the Agreement set forth herein, that the claims asserted in the Action and the Released Claims shall be finally and fully compromised, settled, and released, and the Action shall be dismissed with prejudice, upon and subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

<u>AGREEMENT</u>

1. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Settlement Agreement, the following terms have the meanings specified below:

1.1 "Action" means *Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc.*, Case No. 2024-003537-CA-01, pending in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County, Florida.

1.2 "Approved Claim" means a Claim Form submitted by a Settlement ClassMember that: (a) is submitted timely and in accordance with the directions on the Claim Form

and the provisions of the Settlement Agreement; (b) is fully and truthfully completed by a Settlement Class Member with all of the information requested in the Claim Form; (c) is signed by the Settlement Class Member, physically or electronically; and (d) is approved by the Settlement Administrator pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement. To receive a *pro rata* cash payment, each claimant must fill out an attestation that during the Class Period (1) they had a Bleacher Report account; (2) an active Facebook account; (3) accessed or viewed a video on BleacherReport.com and not through the Bleacher Report app; and (4) accessed or viewed a video on the Defendant's website (BleacherReport.com) from the same browser the individual accessed or has accessed Facebook.

1.3 "Claim Form" means the document substantially in the form attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u>, or as approved by the Court. The Claim Form, to be completed by Settlement Class Members who wish to file a Claim for a payment, shall be available in electronic and paper format in the manner described below.

1.4 "Claims Deadline" means the date by which all Claim Forms must be postmarked or received to be considered timely and shall be set as a date no sooner than forty-five (45) days after the Notice Date. The Claims Deadline shall be clearly set forth in the Preliminary Approval Order as well as in the Notice and the Claim Form.

1.5 "Class Counsel" means Adam Schwartzbaum and Scott Edelsberg of EdelsbergLaw, P.A., and Andrew J. Shamis and Edwin E. Elliott of Shamis & Gentile, P.A.

1.6 "Class Representative" means the named Plaintiffs in the Action.

1.7 "Court" means the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court for Miami-Dade County,Florida.

1.8 "Defendant" means Bleacher Report, Inc.

1.9 "Defendant's Counsel" means David Yohai of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP.

1.10 "Defendant's Website" means www.BleacherReport.com.

1.11 "Effective Date" means the date ten (10) days after which all of the events and conditions specified in Paragraph 9.1 have been met and have occurred.

1.12 "Escrow Account" means the separate, interest-bearing escrow account to be established by the Settlement Administrator under terms acceptable to all Parties at a depository institution insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or a federally insured credit union insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. Defendant shall cause the Settlement Fund to be deposited by into the Escrow Account in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and the money in the Escrow Account shall be invested in the following types of accounts and/or instruments and no other: (i) demand deposit accounts and/or (ii) time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, in either case with maturities of forty-five (45) days or less. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Escrow Account shall be paid from the Settlement Fund. The Escrow Account shall be maintained by the Settlement Administrator.

1.13 "Federal Action" means *Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc.*, No. 3:23-cv-00368, which was pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California and was voluntarily dismissed without prejudice on February 27, 2024.

1.14 "Fee Award" means the amount of attorneys' fees and reimbursement of expenses awarded by the Court to Class Counsel, which will be paid out of the Settlement Fund.

1.15 "Final" means one business day following the latest of the following events: (i) the date upon which the time expires for filing or noticing any appeal of the Court's Final Judgment approving the Settlement Agreement; (ii) if there is an appeal or appeals, the date of completion, in a manner that finally affirms and leaves in place the Final Judgment without any

material modification of all proceedings arising out of the appeal or appeals (including, but not limited to, the expiration of all deadlines for motions for reconsideration or petitions for review and/or *certiorari*, all proceedings ordered on remand, and all proceedings arising out of any subsequent appeal or appeals following decisions on remand); or (iii) the date of final dismissal of any appeal or the final dismissal of any proceeding on *certiorari*.

1.16 "Final Approval Hearing" means the hearing before the Court where the Parties will request the Final Judgment to be entered by the Court approving the Settlement Agreement, the Fee Award, and the incentive award to the Class Representative.

1.17 "Final Judgment" means the Final Judgment and Order to be entered by the Court approving the Agreement after the Final Approval Hearing.

1.18 "Notice" means the notice of this proposed Class Action Settlement Agreement and Final Approval Hearing, which is to be sent to the Settlement Class substantially in the manner set forth in this Agreement, is consistent with the requirements of Due Process, Rule 1.220, Fla. R. Civ. P., and is substantially in the form of Exhibits B, C, D, and G hereto.

1.19 "Notice Date" means the date by which the Notice set forth in Paragraph 4.1 is complete, which shall be no later than thirty (30) days after Preliminary Approval.

1.20 "Objection/Exclusion Deadline" means the date by which a written objection to this Settlement Agreement or a request for exclusion submitted by a Person within the Settlement Class must be made, which shall be designated as a date no later than thirty (30) days after the Notice Date and no sooner than fourteen (14) days after papers supporting the Fee Award are filed with the Court and posted to the settlement website listed in Paragraph 4.1(d), or such other date as ordered by the Court.

1.21 "**Person**" shall mean, without limitation, any individual, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, association, joint stock company, estate, legal representative, trust, unincorporated association, government or any political subdivision or agency thereof, and any business or legal entity and their spouses, heirs, predecessors, successors, representatives, or assigns. "Person" is not intended to include any governmental agencies or governmental actors, including, without limitation, any state Attorney General office.

1.22 "Plaintiffs" means Jabari Sellers and Simeon Evans.

1.23 "**Preliminary Approval**" means the Court's certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, preliminary approval of this Settlement Agreement, and approval of the form and manner of the Notice.

1.24 "**Preliminary Approval Order**" means the order preliminarily approving the Settlement Agreement, certifying the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, and directing notice thereof to the Settlement Class, which will be agreed upon by the Parties and submitted to the Court in conjunction with Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary approval of the Agreement.

1.25 "Released Claims" means any and all actual, potential, filed, known or unknown, fixed or contingent, claimed or unclaimed, suspected or unsuspected, claims, demands, liabilities, rights, causes of action, contracts or agreements, extra contractual claims, damages, punitive, exemplary or multiplied damages, expenses, costs, attorneys' fees and or obligations (including "Unknown Claims," as defined below), whether in law or in equity, accrued or unaccrued, direct, individual or representative, of every nature and description whatsoever, whether based on the VPPA or other state, federal, local, statutory or common law or any other law, rule or regulation, against the Released Parties, or any of them, arising out of any facts, transactions, events, matters, occurrences, acts, disclosures, statements, representations, omissions or failures

to act regarding any alleged disclosure of the Settlement Class Members' personally identifiable information and/or video viewing behavior to any third party by any means, including all claims that were brought or could have been brought in the Action relating to the disclosure of such information belonging to any and all Releasing Parties. Nothing herein is intended to release any claims any governmental agency or governmental actor has against Defendant.

1.26 "**Released Parties**" means Defendant Bleacher Report, Inc., as well as any and all of its respective present or past or future heirs, executors, estates, administrators, predecessors, successors, assigns, parent companies, subsidiaries, licensors, licensees, associates, affiliates, employers, employees, agents, consultants, independent contractors, insurers, directors, managing directors, officers, partners, principals, members, attorneys, accountants, financial and other advisors, underwriters, shareholders, lenders, auditors, investment advisors, legal representatives, successors in interest, assigns and companies, firms, trusts, and corporations.

1.27 "**Releasing Parties**" means Plaintiffs, those Settlement Class Members who do not timely opt out of the Settlement Class, and all of their respective present or past or future heirs, executors, estates, administrators, predecessors, successors, assigns, parent companies, subsidiaries, associates, affiliates, employers, employees, agents, consultants, independent contractors, insurers, directors, managing directors, officers, partners, principals, members, attorneys, accountants, financial and other advisors, underwriters, shareholders, lenders, auditors, investment advisors, legal representatives, successors in interest, assigns and companies, firms, trusts, and corporations.

1.28 "Settlement Administration Expenses" means the expenses incurred by the Settlement Administrator in providing Notice, processing claims, responding to inquiries from members of the Settlement Class, mailing checks for Approved Claims, and related services.

1.29 "Settlement Administrator" means Kroll LLC or such other administration company that has been selected by the Parties and approved by the Court to oversee the distribution of Notice, as well as the processing and payment of Approved Claims to the Settlement Class as set forth in this Agreement.

1.30 "Settlement Benefit" means the Settlement Fund (\$4,800,000 USD), which totals four million eight hundred thousand dollars.

1.31 "Settlement Class" means all Persons in the United States who from January 25,
2021 and through the date the settlement is preliminarily approved (the "Class Period") were
Bleacher Report account holders.

1.32 "Settlement Class Member" means a Person who falls within the definition of the Settlement Class as set forth above and who has not submitted a valid request for exclusion.

1.33 "Settlement Fund" means the non-reversionary cash fund that shall be established by or on behalf of Defendant in the total amount of four million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$4,800,000.00 USD) to be deposited into the Escrow Account, according to the schedule set forth herein, plus all interest earned thereon. From the Settlement Fund, the Settlement Administrator shall pay all Approved Claims made by Settlement Class Members, Settlement Administration Expenses, any incentive award to the Class Representatives, and any Fee Award to Class Counsel. The Settlement Fund shall be kept in the Escrow Account with permissions granted to the Settlement Administrator to access said funds until such time as the above-listed payments are made. The Settlement Fund includes all interest that shall accrue on the sums deposited in the Escrow Account. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for all tax filings with respect to any earnings on the Settlement Fund and the payment of all taxes that may be due on such earnings. The Settlement Fund represents the total extent of Defendant's

monetary obligations under this Agreement. In no event shall Defendant's total monetary obligation with respect to this Agreement exceed four million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$4,800,000.00 USD), plus the interest earned on such sum. Defendant does not make and has not made any representations regarding the taxability of the Settlement Fund or of any payments made to any party pursuant to this Agreement, including payments to Settlement Class Members, Class Representatives, Class Counsel, or the Settlement Administrator from the Settlement Fund. Class Counsel shall provide the Settlement Administrator with a completed Form W-9. The Settlement Administrator shall be responsible for issuing all required tax documents and performing all tax related reporting to taxing authorities in connection with such payments.

1.34 "Unknown Claims" means claims that could have been raised in the Action and that any or all of the Releasing Parties do not know or suspect to exist, which, if known by him or her, might affect his or her agreement to release the Released Parties or the Released Claims or might affect his or her decision to agree, object or not to object to the Settlement. Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Parties shall be deemed to have, and shall have, expressly waived and relinquished, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions, rights and benefits of § 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Parties also shall be deemed to have, and shall have, waived any and all provisions, rights and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law, or the law of any jurisdiction outside of the United States, which is similar, comparable or equivalent to § 1542 of the California Civil Code. The Releasing Parties acknowledge that they may discover facts in addition to or different from those that they now know or believe to be true with respect to the subject matter of this release, but that it is their intention to finally and forever settle and release the Released Claims, notwithstanding any Unknown Claims they may have, as that term is defined in this Paragraph.

2. SETTLEMENT RELIEF.

2.1 Payments to Settlement Class Members.

(a) Defendant shall pay or cause to be paid into the Escrow Account the amount of the Settlement Fund (\$4,800,000.00 USD), as specified in section 1.33 of this Agreement, within thirty (30) days after Preliminary Approval.

(b) Settlement Class Members shall have until the Claims Deadline to submit an Approved Claim. Each Settlement Class Member with an Approved Claim shall be entitled to a *pro rata* portion of the Settlement Fund by electronic payment method approved by the Settlement Administrator or check after deducting the Settlement Administration Expenses, any Fee Award, and any incentive award, provided that they satisfy the criteria for the cash payment portion set out in the definition of Approved Claim.

(c) The Settlement Administrator shall pay from the Settlement Fund all Approved Claims by (i) electronic payment method approved by the Settlement Administrator or (ii) check with said checks being sent via first class U.S. mail to the Settlement Class Members who submitted such Approved Claims. Payments to all Settlement Class Members with Approved Claims shall be made within ninety (90) days after the Effective Date.

(d) All cash payments issued to Settlement Class Members via check will state on the face of the check that it will expire and become null and void unless cashed within one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of issuance. To the extent that any checks issued to a Settlement Class Member are not cashed within one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of issuance, such uncashed check funds shall be redistributed on a *pro rata* basis (after first

deducting any necessary settlement administration expenses from such uncashed check funds) to all Settlement Class Members who cashed checks during the initial distribution, but only to the extent each Settlement Class Member would receive at least \$10.00 in any such secondary distribution and if otherwise feasible. To the extent each Settlement Class Member would receive less than \$10.00 in any such secondary distribution or if a secondary distribution would be otherwise infeasible (as determined by the Settlement Administrator or by mutual agreement of the Parties), any uncashed check funds shall, be returned to the Settlement Administrator to be distributed in equal amounts to a *cy pres* non-profit organization recommended by Class Counsel and approved by the Court.

(e) Upon payment of the Settlement Fund into the Escrow Account, all risk of loss with respect to the cash portion of the Settlement shall pass to the Escrow Account, and any and all remaining interest or right of Defendant in or to the Escrow Account, if any, shall be extinguished.

2.2 Declaratory and Injunctive Relief.

(a) Recognition of Remedial Measures. Defendant has removed the Meta Pixel that was embedded by Defendant in Defendant's Website from pages accessible in the United States that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the video content requested or obtained from that page. This provision does not prohibit the Defendant from possessing "personally identifiable information" (as that term is defined in the VPPA) that is generated from a source other than the Meta Pixel.

(b) **Prospective Relief.** Defendant will not knowingly resume operation of the Meta Pixel on any pages on Defendant's Website accessible in the United States that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the video content requested or

obtained from that page, unless and until the VPPA is amended, repealed, or otherwise invalidated (including by judicial decision), or without VPPA-compliant consent for the disclosure of the video content viewed to Facebook. Nothing herein shall prohibit the use of the Meta Pixel where the disclosure of information to Facebook does not identify specific video materials that a user has requested or obtained.

(c) Warranties and Representations. Defendant warrants and represents that the following statement is true:

i. Defendant has removed the Meta Pixel that was embedded by Defendant in Defendant's Website from pages accessible in the United States that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the specific video requested or obtained from that page.

3. RELEASE.

3.1 The obligations incurred pursuant to this Settlement Agreement shall be a full and final disposition of the claims asserted in the Action and any and all Released Claims, as against all Released Parties.

3.2 Upon the Effective Date, the Releasing Parties, and each of them, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Final Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all Released Claims against the Released Parties, and each of them. Further, upon the Effective Date, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, each Settlement Class Member, shall, either directly, indirectly, representatively, or in any capacity, be permanently barred and enjoined from filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating (as a class member or otherwise) in any lawsuit, action, or other proceeding in any

jurisdiction (other than participation in the Settlement as provided herein) against any Released Party based on the Released Claims.

4. NOTICE TO THE CLASS.

4.1 The Notice Plan shall consist of the following:

(a) Settlement Class List. No later than fourteen (14) days after Preliminary Approval, Defendant shall produce an electronic list from its records that includes the names, email addresses, telephone numbers, and/or usernames associated with their Bleacher Report account, to the extent available, belonging to Persons within the Settlement Class. Class Counsel's assent to this Agreement shall constitute consent on behalf of the Settlement Class to disclose this information, consistent with the written consent provisions of the VPPA. This electronic document shall be called the "Settlement Class List," and shall be provided to the Settlement Administrator with a copy to Class Counsel. Class Counsel and the Settlement Administrator shall not use the Settlement Class List, or any information contained within it, for any other purposes other than administering the settlement, and shall take reasonable measures to protect the information from any third-party disclosure.

(b) *Direct Notice*. In the event that the Court preliminarily approves the Settlement, no later than the Notice Date, the Settlement Administrator shall send Notice via email substantially in the form attached as <u>Exhibit B</u>, along with an electronic link to the Claim Form, to all Settlement Class Members for whom a valid email address is available in the Settlement Class List. In the event transmission of email notice results in any "bounce-backs," the Settlement Administrator shall, where reasonable: (i) correct any issues that may have caused the "bounce-back" to occur and make a second attempt to re-send the email notice, and/or (ii) to the extent a mailing address is available, send Notice substantially in the form attached as <u>Exhibit C</u> via First Class U.S. Mail. In the event there are Settlement Class Members for whom the Settlement Class List contains only telephone numbers (and not an email address or mailing address), Kroll will run those telephone numbers through a reverse telephone search to locate associated names and mailing addresses and then use that information to send Notice substantially in the form attached as <u>Exhibit C</u> via First Class U.S. Mail. In the event there are Settlement Class Members for whom the Settlement Class List contains only a username (and not an email address, mailing address or phone number), Defendant will send Notice via an in-app direct message through the Bleacher Report mobile application (hereinafter, "Defendant DM") substantially in the form attached as <u>Exhibit G</u>. Class members who receive a Defendant DM will receive a push notification to make them aware of the message.

(c) *Reminder Notice*. Seven (7) days prior to the Claims Deadline, the Settlement Administrator shall again send Notice via email substantially in the form attached as <u>Exhibit B</u> (with minor, non-material modifications to indicate that it is a reminder email rather than an initial notice), along with an electronic link to the Claim Form, to all Settlement Class Members for whom a valid email address is available in the Settlement Class List. Seven (7) days prior to the Claims Deadline, Defendant shall also again send Notice via a Defendant DM substantially in the form attached as <u>Exhibit G</u> (with minor, non-material modifications to indicate that it is a reminder rather than an initial notice), along with an electronic link to the Claim Form, to all Settlement Class List. Seven (7) and the form attached as <u>Exhibit G</u> (with minor, non-material modifications to indicate that it is a reminder rather than an initial notice), along with an electronic link to the Claim Form, to all Settlement Class Members for whom a valid username is available in the Settlement Class List.

(d) Settlement Website. Within fourteen (14) days from entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, Notice shall be provided on a website which shall be administered and maintained by the Settlement Administrator and shall include the ability to file Claim Forms

on-line. The Notice provided on the Settlement Website shall be substantially in the form of Exhibit D hereto.

(e) *Contact from Class Counsel.* Class Counsel, in their capacity as counsel to Settlement Class Members, may from time-to-time contact Settlement Class Members to provide information about the Settlement Agreement and to answer any questions Settlement Class Members may have about the Settlement Agreement. The Defendant retains the right to communicate with and respond to inquiries from Settlement Class Members orally and/or in writing within the normal course of business, and the Defendant will instruct its employees and agents to direct inquiries about the Settlement to the Claims Administrator and Settlement Website.

4.2 The Notice shall advise the Settlement Class of their rights, including the right to be excluded from, comment upon, and/or object to the Settlement Agreement or any of its terms. The Notice shall specify that any objection to the Settlement Agreement, and any papers submitted in support of said objection, shall be considered by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing only if, on or before the Objection/Exclusion Deadline approved by the Court and specified in the Notice, the Person making the objection files notice of an intention to do so and at the same time (a) files copies of such papers he or she proposes to be submitted at the Final Approval Hearing with the Clerk of the Court and (b) sends copies of such papers by mail, hand, or overnight delivery service to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel.

4.3 Any Settlement Class Member who intends to object to this Agreement must present the objection in writing, which must be personally signed by the objector, and must include: (1) the objector's name, address, and telephone number; (2) an explanation of the basis upon which the objector claims to be a Settlement Class Member, including information

sufficient to identify her current Facebook page or a screenshot showing that she was a Facebook member during the class period; (3) all grounds for the objection, including all citations to legal authority and evidence supporting the objection; (4) the name and contact information of any and all attorneys representing, advising, or in any way assisting the objector in connection with the preparation or submission of the objection or who may benefit from the pursuit of the objection (the "Objecting Attorneys"); and (5) a statement indicating whether the objector intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing (either personally or through counsel who properly files an appearance with the Court in accordance with the Local Rules). No other person may sign on behalf of the objector, including an objector's attorney.

4.4 If a Settlement Class Member or any of the Objecting Attorneys has objected to any class action settlement where the objector or the Objecting Attorneys asked for or received any payment in exchange for dismissal of the objection, or any related appeal, without any modification to the settlement, then the objection must include a statement identifying each such case by full case caption and amount of payment received. Any challenge to the Settlement Agreement, the Final Order, or the Final Judgment shall be pursuant to appeal under the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure and not through a collateral attack.

4.5 A Settlement Class Member may request to be excluded from the Settlement Class by sending a written request postmarked on or before the Objection/Exclusion Deadline approved by the Court and specified in the Notice. To exercise the right to be excluded, a Person in the Settlement Class must timely send a written request for exclusion to the Settlement Administrator as specified in the Notice, providing his/her name, address, and telephone number, a signature, the name and number of the case, and a statement that he or she wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class for purposes of this Settlement. A request to be excluded that

does not include all of this information, or that is sent to an address other than that designated in the Notice, or that is not postmarked within the time specified, shall be invalid, and the Person(s) serving such a request shall be a member(s) of the Settlement Class and shall be bound as a Settlement Class Member by this Agreement, if approved. Any member of the Settlement Class who validly elects to be excluded from this Agreement shall not: (i) be bound by any orders or the Final Judgment; (ii) be entitled to relief under this Settlement Agreement; (iii) gain any rights by virtue of this Agreement; or (iv) be entitled to object to any aspect of this Agreement. The request for exclusion must be personally signed by the Person requesting exclusion. No other person may sign on behalf of the Person seeking exclusion, including the Person's attorney. Socalled "mass" or "class" opt-outs shall not be allowed. To be valid, a request for exclusion must be postmarked or received by the date specified in the Notice.

4.6 The Final Approval Hearing shall be no earlier than thirty (30) days after the Notice Date.

4.7 Any Settlement Class Member who does not, using the procedures set forth in this Agreement and the Notice, either seek exclusion from the Settlement Class or timely file a valid Claim Form shall not be entitled to receive any payment or benefits pursuant to this Agreement, but will otherwise be bound by all of the terms of this Agreement, including the terms of the Final Judgment to be entered in the Action and the Releases provided for in the Agreement, and will be barred from bringing any action against any of the Released Parties concerning the Released Claims.

5. SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION.

5.1 The Settlement Administrator shall, under the supervision of the Court, administer the relief provided by this Settlement Agreement by processing Claim Forms in a rational, responsive, cost effective, and timely manner. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain

reasonably detailed records of its activities under this Agreement. The Settlement Administrator shall maintain all such records as are required by applicable law in accordance with its normal business practices and such records will be made available to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel upon request. The Settlement Administrator shall also provide reports and other information to the Court as the Court may require. The Settlement Administrator shall provide Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel with information concerning Notice, administration, and implementation of the Settlement Agreement. Should the Court request, the Parties shall submit a timely report to the Court summarizing the work performed by the Settlement Administrator, including a report of all amounts from the Settlement Fund paid to Settlement Class Members on account of Approved Claims. Without limiting the foregoing, the Settlement Administrator shall:

(a) Forward to Defendant's Counsel, with copies to Class Counsel, all original documents and other materials received in connection with the administration of the Settlement, and all copies thereof, within thirty (30) days after the date on which all Claim Forms have been finally approved or disallowed in accordance with the terms of this Agreement;

(b) Receive requests to be excluded from the Settlement Class and other requests and promptly provide to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel copies thereof. If the Settlement Administrator receives any exclusion forms or other requests after the deadline for the submission of such forms and requests, the Settlement Administrator shall promptly provide copies thereof to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel;

(c) Provide weekly reports to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel, including without limitation, reports regarding the number of Claim Forms received, the number approved by the Settlement Administrator, and the categorization and description of Claim Forms rejected, in whole or in part, by the Settlement Administrator; and

(d) Make available for inspection by Class Counsel or Defendant's Counsel the Claim Forms received by the Settlement Administrator at any time upon reasonable notice.

5.2 The Settlement Administrator shall be obliged to employ reasonable procedures to screen claims for abuse or fraud and deny Claim Forms where there is evidence of abuse or fraud. The Settlement Administrator will reject any claim that does not comply in any material respect with the instructions on the Claim Form or the terms of Paragraphs 1.2 and/or 1.3, above, or is submitted after the Claims Deadline. Subject to practical limitations to be determined by the Settlement Administrator in its sole discretion, each claimant who submits an invalid Claim Form to the Settlement Administrator shall be given a notice of the Claim Form's deficiency and an opportunity to cure the deficiency within twenty-one (21) days of the date of the notice. The Settlement Administrator may contact any Person who has submitted a Claim Form to obtain additional information necessary to verify the Claim Form.

5.3 Defendant's Counsel and Class Counsel shall have the right to challenge the acceptance or rejection of a Claim Form submitted by Settlement Class Members and to obtain and review supporting documentation relating to such Claim Form. The Settlement Administrator shall follow any agreed decisions of Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel as to the validity of any disputed submitted Claim Form. To the extent Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel are not able to agree on the disposition of a challenge, the disputed claim shall be submitted to the Honorable Freda L. Wolfson of Lowenstein Sandler for binding determination.

5.4 In the exercise of its duties outlined in this Agreement, the Settlement Administrator shall have the right to reasonably request additional information from the Parties or any Settlement Class Member.

6. TERMINATION OF SETTLEMENT.

6.1 Subject to Paragraphs 9.1-9.3 below, Defendant or the Class Representatives on behalf of the Settlement Class, shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by providing written notice of the election to do so ("Termination Notice") to all other Parties hereto within twenty-one (21) days of any of the following events: (i) the Court's refusal to grant Preliminary Approval of this Agreement in any material respect; (ii) the Court's refusal to grant final approval of this Agreement in any material respect; (iii) the Court's refusal to enter the Final Judgment in connection with the class action settlement in any material respect; (iv) the date upon which the Final Judgment is modified or reversed in any material respect by the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court; (v) the date upon which an Alternative Judgment, as defined in Paragraph 9.1(d) of this Agreement, is modified or reversed in any material respect by the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

6.2 Subject to Paragraphs 9.1-9.3 below, Defendant shall have the right, but not the obligation, in its sole discretion, to terminate this Agreement by providing written notice to Class Counsel within twenty-five (25) days of the following event: more than 500 members of the Settlement Class in total have timely and validly opted out of and/or objected to the Agreement, (ii) the Class Representative and his agents or any other individuals operating at his direction or in coordination with him, or Class Counsel, file or threaten to file arbitrations or additional lawsuits against the Released Parties related to the Released Claims at any time before the Settlement to file arbitrations or additional lawsuits against the Released relations or additional lawsuits against the Released Parties related to the Released Parties Released Parties Released Parties Released Parties Released P

6.3 The Parties agree that the Court's failure to approve, in whole or in part, the attorneys' fees payment to Class Counsel and/or the incentive award set forth in Paragraph 8

below shall not prevent the Agreement from becoming effective, nor shall it be grounds for termination. The procedures for any application for approval of attorneys' fees, expenses, or Incentive Awards are to be considered by the Court separately from the Court's consideration of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Settlement.

7. PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER AND FINAL APPROVAL ORDER.

7.1 Promptly after the execution of this Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel shall submit this Agreement together with its Exhibits to the Court and shall move the Court for Preliminary Approval of the settlement set forth in this Agreement; certification of the Settlement Class for settlement purposes only; appointment of Class Counsel and the Class Representatives; and entry of a Preliminary Approval Order, which order shall set a Final Approval Hearing date and approve the Notice and Claim Form for dissemination substantially in the form of Exhibits A, B, C, D, and G hereto. Defendant shall have no obligation to make separate filings in support of the Motion for Preliminary Approval. The Preliminary Approval Order, which shall be substantially similar to Exhibit E, shall also authorize the Parties, without further approval from the Court, to agree to and adopt such amendments, modifications and expansions of the Settlement Agreement and its implementing documents (including all exhibits to this Agreement) so long as they are consistent in all material respects with the terms of the Settlement Agreement and to not limit or impair the rights of the Settlement Class.

7.2 Defendant's agreement as to certification of the Settlement Class is solely for purposes of effectuating the Settlement and no other purpose. Defendant retains all of its objections, arguments, and defenses with respect to class certification and any other issue, and reserves all rights to contest class certification and any other issue if the Settlement set out in this Agreement does not result in entry of the Final Approval Order and Final Judgment, if the Court's approval is reversed or vacated on appeal, if this Settlement is terminated as provided

herein, or if the Settlement set forth in this Settlement otherwise fails to become effective. The Parties acknowledge that there has been no stipulation to any classes or certification of any classes for any purpose other than effectuating the Settlement, and that if the Settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement is not finally approved, if the Court's approval is reversed or vacated on appeal, if this Settlement Agreement is terminated as provided herein, or if the Settlement set forth in this Settlement Agreement otherwise fails to become effective, this agreement as to certification of the Settlement Class becomes null and void ab initio, and this Settlement Agreement or any other settlement-related statement may not be cited regarding certification of the Class, or in support of an argument for certifying any class for any purpose related to the Actions or any other proceeding.

7.3 At the time of the submission of this Agreement to the Court as described above, Class Counsel shall request that, after Notice is given, the Court hold a Final Approval Hearing and approve the settlement of the Actions as set forth herein.

7.4 Not later than fourteen (14) after the Final Approval Hearing, Plaintiffs shall move the Court for an entry of Final Judgment in a form substantially similar to <u>Exhibit F</u>, which will (among other things):

(a) find that the Court has personal jurisdiction over all Settlement ClassMembers and that the Court has subject matter jurisdiction to approve the Agreement, including all exhibits thereto;

(b) approve the Settlement Agreement and the proposed settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to, and in the best interests of, the Settlement Class Members; direct the Parties and their counsel to implement and consummate the Agreement according to its terms and provisions; and declare the Agreement to be binding on, and have *res judicata* and

preclusive effect in all pending and future lawsuits or other proceedings maintained by or on behalf of Plaintiffs and Releasing Parties;

(c) find that the Notice implemented pursuant to the Agreement (1) constitutes the best practicable notice under the circumstances; (2) constitutes notice that is reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise the Settlement Class of the pendency of the Action, their right to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Agreement, and to appear at the Final Approval Hearing; (3) is reasonable and constitutes due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice; and (4) meets all applicable requirements of applicable rules of civil procedure, the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution, and the rules of the Court;

(d) find that the Class Representatives and Class Counsel adequately representthe Settlement Class for purposes of entering into and implementing the Agreement;

(e) dismiss the remaining action (including all individual claims and Settlement Class Claims presented thereby) on the merits and with prejudice, without fees or costs to any party except as provided in the Settlement Agreement;

(f) incorporate the Release set forth above, make the Release effective as of the date of the Effective Date, and forever discharge the Released Parties as set forth herein;

(g) permanently bar and enjoin all Settlement Class Members who have not been properly excluded from the respective Settlement Class from filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating (as class members or otherwise) in, any lawsuit or other action in any jurisdiction based on the Released Claims;

(h) without affecting the finality of the Final Judgment for purposes of appeal, retain jurisdiction as to all matters relating to administration, consummation, enforcement, and

interpretation of the Settlement Agreement and the Final Judgment, and for any other necessary purpose; and

(i) incorporate any other provisions, as the Court deems necessary and just.

8. CLASS COUNSEL'S ATTORNEYS' FEES AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES; INCENTIVE AWARD.

8.1 Defendant agrees that Class Counsel shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs out of the Settlement Fund in an amount determined by the Court as the Fee Award. Counsel will limit its petition for attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses to no more than one-third (33.33%) of the Settlement Fund (i.e., \$1,600,000.00) and Defendant agrees to not object to or otherwise challenge, directly or indirectly, Class Counsel's petition for reasonable attorneys' fees and for reimbursement of costs and expenses if limited to this amount. Payment of the Fee Award shall be made from the Settlement Fund and should the Court award less than the amount sought by Class Counsel, the difference in the amount sought and the amount ultimately awarded pursuant to this Paragraph shall remain in the Settlement Fund for distribution to eligible Settlement Class Members.

8.2 The Fee Award shall be payable within five (5) business days after the Settlement becomes Final.

8.3 Class Counsel intends to file a motion for Court approval of incentive awards for the Class Representatives, to be paid from the Settlement Fund, in addition to any funds the Class Representative stands to otherwise receive from the Settlement. With no consideration having been given or received for this limitation, the Class Representatives will seek no more than \$5,000 each as an incentive award. Should the Court award less than this amount, the difference in the amount sought and the amount ultimately awarded pursuant to this Paragraph shall remain in the Settlement Fund for distribution to eligible Settlement Class Members. Such

awards shall be paid from the Settlement Fund (in the form of a check to the Class Representatives that is sent care of Class Counsel), within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date.

9. CONDITIONS OF SETTLEMENT, EFFECT OF DISAPPROVAL, CANCELLATION OR TERMINATION.

9.1 The Effective Date of this Settlement Agreement shall not occur unless and until each of the following events occurs and shall be the date upon which the last (in time) of the following events occurs:

(a) The Parties and their counsel have executed this Agreement;

(b) The Court has entered the Preliminary Approval Order;

(c) The Court has entered an order finally approving the Agreement,

following Notice to the Settlement Class and a Final Approval Hearing, and has entered the Final Judgment, or a judgment consistent with this Agreement in all material respects; and

(d) The Final Judgment has become Final, as defined above, or, in the event that the Court enters an order and final judgment in a form other than that provided above ("Alternative Judgment") and that has the consent of the Parties, such Alternative Judgment becomes Final.

9.2 If some or all of the conditions specified in Paragraph 9.1 are not met, or in the event that this Agreement is not approved by the Court, or the settlement set forth in this Agreement is terminated or fails to become effective in accordance with its terms, then this Settlement Agreement shall be canceled and terminated subject to Paragraph 6.1 unless Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel mutually agree in writing to proceed with this Agreement. If any Party is in material breach of the terms hereof, and fails to cure such material breach within

thirty (30) days of notice, any other Party, provided that it is in substantial compliance with the terms of this Agreement, may terminate this Agreement on notice to all of the Settling Parties.

9.3 If this Agreement is terminated or fails to become effective for the reasons set forth in Paragraphs 6.1 and 9.1–9.2 above, the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the Actions as of the date of the signing of this Agreement. In such event, any Final Judgment or other order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of this Agreement shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*, and the Parties shall be returned to the *status quo ante* with respect to the Actions as if this Agreement had never been entered into. In such event, the Defendant shall not be obligated to make any payments or provide any other monetary or non-monetary relief to Plaintiffs or the Settlement Class Members, any attorneys' fees or expenses to Class Counsel, or any incentive awards, and the Settlement Fund shall be returned to Defendant.

10. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

10.1 The Parties agree that Defendant need not answer the Complaint and that the Parties will not serve any further discovery on each other unless and until the Settlement Agreement is cancelled and terminated under Sections 6 and 9.

10.2 The Parties (a) acknowledge that it is their intent to consummate this Settlement Agreement; and (b) agree, subject to their fiduciary and other legal obligations, to cooperate to the extent reasonably necessary to effectuate and implement all terms and conditions of this Agreement, to exercise their reasonable best efforts to accomplish the foregoing terms and conditions of this Agreement, to secure final approval, and to defend the Final Judgment through any and all appeals. Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel agree to cooperate with one another in seeking Court approval of the Settlement Agreement, entry of the Preliminary Approval Order, and the Final Judgment, and promptly to agree upon and execute all such other

10.3 The Parties intend this Settlement Agreement to be a final and complete resolution of all disputes between them with respect to the Released Claims by Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class and each or any of them, on the one hand, against the Released Parties, and each or any of the Released Parties, on the other hand. Accordingly, the Parties agree not to assert in any forum that the Action were brought by Plaintiffs or defended by Defendant, or each or any of them, in bad faith or on a frivolous basis.

10.4 The Parties have relied upon the advice and representation of counsel, selected by them, concerning their respective legal liability for the claims hereby released. The Parties have read and understand fully the above and foregoing agreement and have been fully advised as to the legal effect thereof by counsel of their own selection and intend to be legally bound by the same.

10.5 Whether or not the Effective Date occurs or the Settlement Agreement is terminated, neither this Agreement nor the settlement contained herein, nor any act performed or document executed pursuant to or in furtherance of this Agreement or the settlement:

(a) is, may be deemed, or shall be used, offered or received against the Released Parties, or each or any of them, as an admission, concession or evidence of, the validity of any Released Claims, the truth of any fact alleged by the Plaintiffs, the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Action, the violation of any law or statute, the reasonableness of the settlement amount or the Fee Award, or of any alleged wrongdoing, liability, negligence, or fault of the Released Parties, or any of them;

(b) is, may be deemed, or shall be used, offered or received againstDefendant, as an admission, concession or evidence of any fault, misrepresentation or omission

with respect to any statement or written document approved or made by the Released Parties, or any of them;

(c) is, may be deemed, or shall be used, offered or received against the Released Parties, or each or any of them, as an admission or concession with respect to any liability, negligence, fault or wrongdoing as against any Released Parties, in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding in any court, administrative agency or other tribunal. However, the settlement, this Agreement, and any acts performed and/or documents executed in furtherance of or pursuant to this Agreement and/or Settlement may be used in any proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Agreement. Further, if this Settlement Agreement is approved by the Court, any Party or any of the Released Parties may file this Agreement and/or the Final Judgment in any action that may be brought against such Party or Parties in order to support a defense or counterclaim based on principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense, claim, or counterclaim;

(d) is, may be deemed, or shall be construed against Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class, the Releasing Parties, or each or any of them, or against the Released Parties, or each or any of them, as an admission or concession that the consideration to be given hereunder represents an amount equal to, less than or greater than that amount that could have or would have been recovered after trial; and

(e) is, may be deemed, or shall be construed as or received in evidence as an admission or concession against Plaintiffs, the Settlement Class, the Releasing Parties, or each and any of them, or against the Released Parties, or each or any of them, that any of Plaintiffs'

claims are with or without merit or that damages recoverable in the Action would have exceeded or would have been less than any particular amount.

10.6 The headings used herein are used for the purpose of convenience only and are not meant to have legal effect.

10.7 The waiver by one Party of any breach of this Agreement by any other Party shall not be deemed as a waiver of any other prior or subsequent breaches of this Agreement.

10.8 All of the Exhibits to this Agreement are material and integral parts thereof and are fully incorporated herein by this reference.

10.9 This Agreement and its Exhibits set forth the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the matters set forth herein, and supersede all prior negotiations, agreements, arrangements and undertakings with respect to the matters set forth herein. No representations, warranties or inducements have been made to any Party concerning this Settlement Agreement or its Exhibits other than the representations, warranties and covenants contained and memorialized in such documents. This Agreement may be amended or modified only by a written instrument signed by or on behalf of all Parties or their respective successors-in-interest.

10.10 Except as otherwise provided herein, each Party shall bear its own costs and expenses.

10.11 Plaintiffs represent and warrant that they have not assigned any claim or right or interest therein as against the Released Parties to any other Person or Party and that they are fully entitled to release the same.

10.12 Each counsel or other Person executing this Settlement Agreement, any of itsExhibits, or any related settlement documents on behalf of any Party hereto, hereby warrants and

represents that such Person has the full authority to do so and has the authority to take appropriate action required or permitted to be taken pursuant to the Agreement to effectuate its terms. Class Counsel in particular warrants that they are authorized to execute this Settlement Agreement on behalf of Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class (subject to final approval by the Court after notice to all Settlement Class Members), and that all actions necessary for the execution of this Settlement Agreement have been taken.

10.13 This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts. Signature by digital means, facsimile, or in PDF format will constitute sufficient execution of this Agreement. All executed counterparts and each of them shall be deemed to be one and the same instrument. A complete set of original executed counterparts shall be filed with the Court if the Court so requests.

10.14 This Settlement Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the successors and assigns of the Parties hereto and the Released Parties.

10.15 The Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to implementation and enforcement of the terms of this Agreement, and all Parties hereto submit to the jurisdiction of the Court for purposes of implementing and enforcing the settlement embodied in this Agreement.

10.16 This Settlement Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

10.17 This Agreement is deemed to have been prepared by counsel for all Parties, as a result of arm's-length negotiations among the Parties. Because all Parties have contributed substantially and materially to the preparation of this Agreement, it shall not be construed more strictly against one Party than another.

10.18 Where this Agreement requires notice to the Parties, such notice shall be sent to the undersigned counsel: David Yohai of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP for Defendant and Adam Schwartzbaum of Edelsberg Law, P.A. for Plaintiffs and Settlement Class Members.

IT IS SO AGREED TO BY THE PARTIES:

Dated:	Apr 29, 2024	JABARI SELLERS
		By: Jabari Sellers, individually and as representative of the Class
Dated:	Apr 29, 2024	SIMEON EVANS By:
		Simeon Evans, individually and as representative of the Class
Dated:	Apr 29, 2024	BLEACHER REPORT, INC.
		By:
		Name:Kevin Glidewell
		Title: SVP, Legal

IT IS SO STIPULATED BY COUNSEL:

Dated: Apr 29, 2024

EDELSBERG LAW, P.A.

<u>Adam Schwartzbaum</u>

By: /s/ Adam Schwartzbaum (Apr 29, 20) Adam Schwartzbaum Dated: Apr 29, 2024

SHAMIS & GENTILE, P.A.

By: /s/ Andrew Shamis

Andrew Shamis

Class Counsel

Dated: Apr 29, 2024

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP

By: /s/ David Yohai (Apr 29, 2024 14:41 EDT)

Attorney for Defendant

SCHEDULE C	OF EXHIBITS
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Exhibit	Name of Document
A	Settlement Claim Form
В	Email Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement
С	U.S. Mail Notice
D	Settlement Website Notice
E	Proposed Preliminary Approval Order
F	Proposed Final Approval Order
G	In-App Direct Message Notice

EXHIBIT A

Jabari Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc.

Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Miami-Dade County, Florida Case No.

Settlement Claim Form

If you are a Settlement Class Member and wis	h to receive a payment, your completed
Claim Form must be postmarked on or before [], or submitted online on
or before [].

Please read the full notice of this settlement (available at www.[__].com) carefully before filling out this Claim Form.

To be eligible to receive any benefits from the settlement obtained in this class action lawsuit, you must submit this completed Claim Form online or by mail:

ONLINE: Submit this Claim Form.

MAIL: [ADDRESS]

PART ONE: CLAIMANT INFORMATION

Provide your name and contact information below. It is your responsibility to notify the Settlement Administrator of any changes to your contact information after the submission of your Claim Form.

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME
STREI	ET ADDRESS
СІТҮ	STATE ZIP CODE
FMAI	L ADDRESS

If your Bleacher Report account is not associated with a mailing address, email address, or phone number, please provide your Bleacher Report username:

BLEACHER REPORT USERNAME

PART TWO: SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To qualify for a cash payment, you must have, between January 25, 2021 and [Preliminary Approval Date]: (1) had a Bleacher Report account; (2) had an active Facebook account; (3) accessed or viewed a video on BleacherReport.com and not through the Bleacher Report app; and (4) accessed or viewed a video on BleacherReport.com from the same browser you accessed or have accessed Facebook.

<u>POTENTIAL CASH PAYMENT:</u> You may be entitled to receive a cash payment. The cash will be sent in the form of a check, unless otherwise indicated. If you would like payment in a different form, please select from the options below:

Check	
Venmo	Venmo Username:
PayPal	PayPal Email:

PART THREE: ATTESTATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that between January 25, 2021 through [Preliminary Approval Date]: (1) had a Bleacher Report account; (2) had an active Facebook account; (3) accessed or viewed a video on BleacherReport.com and not through the Bleacher Report app; and (4) accessed or viewed a video on BleacherReport.com from the same browser you accessed or have accessed Facebook. I further attest that all of the information on this Claim Form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that my Claim Form may be subject to audit, verification, and Court review.

SIGNATURE DATE Please keep a copy of your Claim Form for your records.

EXHIBIT B

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT Jabari Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc.

Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court of Miami-Dade County, Florida Case No.

Our Records Indicate You Have Created an Account with BleacherReport.com and May Be Entitled to a Payment from a Class Action Settlement.

A court authorized this notice. You are <u>not</u> being sued. This is <u>not</u> a solicitation from a lawyer.

This notice is to inform you that a settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit claiming that Defendant, Bleacher Report, Inc., disclosed personally identifiable information ("PII") of its account holders to Facebook via the Meta Pixel without consent in violation of the Video Privacy Protection Act (the "VPPA"). The VPPA defines PII to include information which identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service provider. Defendant denies that it violated any law, but has agreed to the settlement to avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with continuing the case.

<u>Am I a Class Member?</u> Our records indicate you may be a Class Member. Class Members are all persons in the United States who, between January 25, 2021 and [Preliminary Approval Date], were Bleacher Report account holders.

What Can I Get? If approved by the Court, Defendant will establish a Settlement Fund of \$4,800,000.00 to pay all valid claims submitted by the Settlement Class, together with notice and administration expenses, attorneys' fees and costs, and an incentive award. If you are a Settlement Class Member who had a Facebook account, and who accessed a video through the BleacherReport.com website from the same browser where you accessed your Facebook account, you may submit a claim to receive a *pro rata* share of the Settlement Fund. The Settlement also requires Defendant to have suspended operation of the Meta Pixel on any pages on its website that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the video content viewed, unless and until the VPPA is amended, repealed, or otherwise invalidated (including by judicial decision on the use of website pixel technology by the United States Supreme Court, any federal court of appeals, a U.S. federal district court in Florida, or a Florida state court of general jurisdiction), or without VPPA-compliant consent for the disclosure of the video content viewed to Facebook.

How Do I Get a Payment? You must submit a timely and complete Claim Form **no later than** [claims deadline]. You can file a claim by clicking [here.] Your payment will come by check unless you elect to receive payment electronically by PayPal or Venmo.

<u>What are My Other Options?</u> You may exclude yourself from the Class by sending a letter to the settlement administrator no later than [**objection/exclusion deadline**]. If you exclude yourself, you cannot get a settlement payment, but you keep any rights you may have to sue the Defendant over the legal issues in the lawsuit. You and/or your lawyer have the right to appear before the Court and/or object to the proposed settlement. Your written objection must be filed no later than

[**objection/exclusion deadline**]. Specific instructions about how to object to, or exclude yourself from, the Settlement are available at www.[___].com. If you file a claim or do nothing, and the Court approves the Settlement, you will be bound by all of the Court's orders and judgments. In addition, your claims relating to the alleged disclosure of information to Facebook in this case against the Defendant will be released.

<u>Who Represents Me?</u> The Court has appointed lawyers from the law firms of Edelsberg Law, P.A. and Shamis & Gentile, P.A. to represent you. These attorneys are called Class Counsel. You will not be charged for these lawyers, they will be paid from the settlement. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer in this case, you may hire one at your expense.

When Will the Court Consider the Proposed Settlement? The Court will hold the Final Approval Hearing at [a/p].m. on [Month 00], 2024 in Courtroom at the At that hearing, the Court will: hear any objections concerning the fairness of the settlement; determine the fairness of the settlement; decide whether to approve Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and costs; and decide whether to award the Class Representatives \$5,000 each from the Settlement Fund for their service in helping to bring and settle this case. Defendant has agreed to pay Class Counsel reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount to be determined by the Court. Class Counsel is entitled to seek no more than one third of the Settlement Benefit, but the Court may award less than this amount.

How Do I Get More Information? For more information, including the full Notice, Claim Form and Settlement Agreement go to www.[__].com, contact the settlement administrator at 1-[__]-[___] or Bleacher Report Settlement Administrator, [address], or call Class Counsel at

EXHIBIT C

A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit claiming that Defendant, Bleacher Report, Inc., disclosed personally identifiable information ("PII") of its account holders to Facebook via the Meta Pixel without consent in violation of the Video Privacy Protection Act (the "VPPA"). The VPPA defines PII to include information which identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service provider.

Defendant denies that it violated any law, but has agreed to the settlement to avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with continuing the case.

<u>Am I a Class Member?</u> Our records indicate you may be a Class Member. Class Members are all persons in the United States who, between January 25, 2021 and [Preliminary Approval Date], were Bleacher Report account holders.

What Can I Get? If approved by the Court, Defendant will establish a Settlement Fund of \$4,800,000.00 to pay all valid claims submitted by the Settlement Class, together with notice and administration expenses, attorneys' fees and costs, and an incentive award. If you are are a Settlement Class Member who had a Facebook account, and who accessed a video through the BleacherReport.com website from the same browser where you accessed your Facebook account, you may submit a claim to receive a *pro rata* share of the Settlement Fund. The Settlement also requires Defendant to have suspended operation of the Meta Pixel on any pages on its website that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the video content viewed, unless and until the VPPA is amended, repealed, or otherwise invalidated (including by judicial decision on the use of website pixel technology by the United States Supreme Court, any federal court of appeals, a U.S. federal district court in Florida, or a Florida state court of general jurisdiction), or without VPPA-compliant consent for the disclosure of the video content viewed to Facebook.

How Do I Get a Payment? You must submit a timely and complete Claim Form **no later than [claims deadline**]. You may submit a Claim Form either electronically on the Settlement Website by visiting [insert hyperlink], or by printing and mailing in a paper Claim Form, copies of which are available for download at the Settlement Website. Your payment will come by check unless you elect to receive payment electronically by PayPal or Venmo.

<u>What are My Other Options?</u> You may exclude yourself from the Class by sending a letter to the settlement administrator no later than **[objection/exclusion deadline]**. If you exclude yourself, you cannot get a settlement payment, but you keep any rights you may have to sue the Defendant over the legal issues in the lawsuit. You and/or your lawyer have the right to appear before the Court and/or object to the proposed settlement. Your written objection must be filed no later than **[objection/exclusion deadline]**. Specific instructions about how to object to, or exclude yourself from, the Settlement are available at [www.**[**].com]. If you file a claim or do nothing, and the Court approves the Settlement, you will be bound by all of the Court's orders and judgments. In addition, your claims relating to the alleged disclosure of information to Facebook in this case against the Defendant will be released.

<u>Who Represents Me?</u> The Court has appointed lawyers from the law firms of Edelsberg Law, P.A. and Shamis & Gentile, P.A. to represent you. These attorneys are called Class Counsel. You will not be charged for these lawyers, they will be paid from the settlement. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer in this case, you may hire one at your expense.

When Will the Court Consider the Proposed Settlement? The Court will hold the Final Approval Hearing at [a/p].m. on [Month 00], 2024 in Courtroom _____ at _____. At that hearing, the Court will: hear any objections concerning the fairness of the settlement; determine the fairness of the settlement; decide whether to approve Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and costs; and decide whether to award the Class Representatives \$5,000 each from the Settlement Fund for their service in helping to bring and settle this case. Defendant has agreed to pay Class Counsel reasonable attorneys' fees in an amount to be determined by the Court. Class Counsel is entitled to seek no more than one third of the Settlement Benefit, but the Court may award less than this amount.

How Do I Get More Information? For more information, including the full Notice, Claim Form and Settlement Agreement go to www.[__].com, contact the settlement administrator at 1-[___]-[___] or Bleacher Report Settlement Administrator, [address], or call Class Counsel at

EXHIBIT D

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY Jabari Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc. Case No. 2024-003537-CA-01

Our Records Indicate You Have Created an Account with *BleacherReport*.com and May Be Entitled to a Payment from a Class Action Settlement.

A court authorized this notice. You are <u>not</u> being sued. This is <u>not</u> a solicitation from a lawyer.

- A settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit against Bleacher Report, Inc. The class action lawsuit accuses Bleacher Report of disclosing personally identifiable information ("PII") of account holders to Facebook via the Meta Pixel without consent in violation of the Video Privacy Protection Act (the "VPPA"). The VPPA defines PII to include information which identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service provider. Defendant denies that it violated any law, but has agreed to the settlement to avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with continuing the case.
- You are included if you are a person in the United States who, between January 25, 2021 and [Preliminary Approval Date], was a Bleacher Report account holder.
- Persons included in the Settlement will be eligible to receive a *pro rata* (meaning equal) portion of the Settlement Fund if they had a Facebook account and accessed a video through the BleacherReport.com website from the same browser where they accessed their Facebook account. The Settlement also requires Defendant to have suspended operation of the Meta Pixel on any pages on its website that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the video content viewed, unless and until the VPPA is amended, repealed, or otherwise invalidated (including by judicial decision on the use of website pixel technology by the United States Supreme Court, any federal jurisdiction), or without VPPA-compliant consent for the disclosure of the video content viewed to Facebook.

•	Read this notice carefully.	Your legal rights are affe	ected whether you act, or don't act.
	2	0 0	<i>,</i>

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT			
SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM BY [<mark>DATE</mark>]	This is the only way to receive a payment.		
EXCLUDE YOURSELF BY [DATE]	You will receive no benefits, but you will retain any rights you currently have to sue the Defendant about the claims in this case.		
OBJECT BY [DATE]	Write to the Court explaining why you don't like the Settlement.		

GO TO THE HEARING BY [DATE]	Ask to speak in Court about the fairness of the Settlement.
DO NOTHING	You won't get a share of the Settlement benefits and will give up your rights to sue the Defendant about the claims in this case.

Your rights and options—and the deadlines to exercise them—are explained in this Notice.

BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why was this Notice issued?

A Court authorized this notice because you have a right to know about a proposed Settlement of this class action lawsuit and about all of your options, before the Court decides whether to give final approval to the Settlement. This Notice explains the lawsuit, the Settlement, and your legal rights.

2. What is a class action?

In a class action, one or more people called the class representative sue on behalf of a group or a "class" of people who have similar claims. In a class action, the court resolves the issues for all class members, except for those who exclude themselves from the Class.

3. What is this lawsuit about?

This lawsuit claims that Defendant violated the Video Privacy Protection Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2710, *et seq.* ("VPPA") by disclosing personally identifiable information ("PII") to Facebook via the Meta Pixel without consent. The VPPA defines PII to include information that identifies a person as having requested or obtained specific video materials or services from a video tape service provider. The Defendant denies that it violated any law. The Court has not determined who is right. Rather, the Parties have agreed to settle the lawsuit to avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with ongoing litigation.

4. Why is there a Settlement?

The Court has not decided whether the Plaintiffs or the Defendant should win this case. Instead, both sides agreed to a Settlement. That way, they avoid the uncertainties and expenses associated with ongoing litigation, and Class Members will get compensation sooner rather than, if at all, after the completion of a trial.

WHO'S INCLUDED IN THE SETTLEMENT?

5. How do I know if I am in the Settlement Class?

The **Settlement Class** is defined as: all persons in the United States who from January 25, 2021 and through the date the settlement is preliminarily approved (the "Class Period") were Bleacher Report account holders.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS

6. What does the Settlement provide?

Monetary Relief: Defendant has created a Settlement Fund totaling \$4,800,000. Class Member payments, and the cost to administer the Settlement, the cost to inform people about the Settlement, attorneys' fees, and an award to the Class Representatives will also come out of this fund (*see* Question 13).

Prospective Changes: In addition to this monetary relief, the Settlement also requires Defendant to have suspended operation of the Meta Pixel on any pages on its website that both include video content and have a URL that substantially identifies the video content viewed, unless and until the VPPA is amended, repealed, or otherwise invalidated (including by judicial decision on the use of website pixel technology by the United States Supreme Court, any federal court of appeals, a U.S. federal district court in Florida, or a Florida state court of general jurisdiction), or without VPPA-compliant consent for the disclosure of the video content viewed to Facebook.

A detailed description of the settlement benefits can be found in the <u>Settlement Agreement</u>. [insert hyperlink]

7. How much will my payment be?

If you are member of the Settlement Class and you had a Facebook account and accessed a video through the BleacherReport.com website from the same browser where you accessed your Facebook account, you may submit a Claim Form to receive a portion of the Settlement Fund. The amount of this payment will depend on how many of the Class Members file valid claims. Each Class Member who files a valid claim will receive a proportionate share of the Settlement Fund. You can contact Class Counsel at _______to inquire as to the number of claims filed.

8. When will I get my payment?

The hearing to consider the fairness of the settlement is scheduled for [Final Approval Hearing Date]. If the Court approves the settlement, eligible Class Members whose claims were approved by the Settlement Administrator will receive their payment 90 days after the Settlement has been finally approved and/or any appeals process is complete. The payment will be made in the form of a check, unless you elect to receive payment by PayPal or Venmo, and all checks will expire and become void 180 days after they are issued.

HOW TO GET BENEFITS

9. How do I get a payment?

If you are a Class Member and you want to get a payment, you <u>must</u> complete and submit a Claim Form by [Claims Deadline]. Claim Forms can be found and submitted by clicking <u>here</u> [hyperlink], or by printing and mailing a paper Claim Form, copies of which are available for download <u>here</u> [hyperlink].

We also encourage you to submit your claim on-line. Not only is it easier and more secure, but it is completely free and takes only minutes!

REMAINING IN THE SETTLEMENT

10. What am I giving up if I stay in the Class?

If the Settlement becomes final, you will give up your right to sue Defendant for the claims this Settlement resolve. The Settlement Agreement describes the specific claims you are giving up against the Defendant. You will be "releasing" the Defendant and certain of its affiliates described in Paragraph 1.25 of the Settlement Agreement. Unless you exclude yourself (*see* Question 14), you are "releasing" the claims, regardless of whether you submit a claim or not. The Settlement Agreement is available through the "court documents" link on the website.

The Settlement Agreement describes the released claims with specific descriptions, so read it carefully. If you have any questions you can talk to the lawyers listed in Question 12 for free or you can, of course, talk to your own lawyer if you have questions about what this means.

11. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing, you won't get any benefits from this Settlement. But, unless you exclude yourself, you won't be able to start a lawsuit or be part of any other lawsuit against the Defendant for the claims being resolved by this Settlement.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

12. Do I have a lawyer in the case?

The Court has appointed lawyers from the law firms of Edelsberg Law, P.A. and Shamis & Gentile, P.A. to represent you. These attorneys are called Class Counsel. They believe, after conducting an extensive investigation, that the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class. You will not be charged for these lawyers. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer in this case, you may hire one at your expense.

13. How will the lawyers be paid?

Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses will be paid from the Settlement Fund in an amount determined and awarded by the Court. Class Counsel is entitled to seek no more than one third of the Settlement Fund for these items, subject to Court approval. As approved by the Court, the Class Representatives will each be paid an Incentive Award from the Settlement Fund for helping to bring and settle the case. The Class Representatives will seek no more than \$5,000 each as an incentive award, but the Court may award less than this amount.

EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT

14. How do I get out of the Settlement?

To exclude yourself from the Settlement, you must mail or otherwise deliver a letter (or request for exclusion) stating that <u>you want to be excluded</u> from the *Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc.*, Case No. 2024-003537-CA-01 settlement. Your letter or request for exclusion must also include your name, your address, your telephone number, your signature, the name and number of this case, and a statement that you wish to be excluded. You must mail or deliver your exclusion request no later than **[objection/exclusion deadline]** to:

Bleacher Report Settlement [0000 Street] [City, ST 00000]

15. If I don't exclude myself, can I sue the Defendant for the same thing later?

No. Unless you exclude yourself, you give up any right to sue the Defendant for the claims being resolved by this Settlement.

16. If I exclude myself, can I get anything from this Settlement?

No. If you exclude yourself, do not submit a Claim Form to ask for benefits.

OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

17. How do I object to the Settlement?

If you're a Class Member, you can object to the Settlement if you don't like any part of it. You can give reasons why you think the Court should not approve it. The Court will consider your views. To object, you must file with the Court a letter or brief stating that you object to the Settlement in *Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc.* and identify all your reasons for your objections (including citations and supporting evidence) and attach any materials you rely on for your objections. Your letter or brief must also include your name, an explanation of the basis upon which you claim to be a Settlement Class Member, the name and contact information of any and all attorneys representing, advising, or in any way assisting you with your objection, have ever objected to any class action settlement where you or the objecting attorney has asked for or received payment in exchange for dismissal of the objection (or any related appeal) without modification to the settlement, you must also mail or deliver a copy of your letter or brief to Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel listed below.

Class Counsel will file with the Court and post on this website its request for attorneys' fees by **[two weeks prior to objection deadline]**.

If you want to appear and speak at the Final Approval Hearing to object to the Settlement, with or without a lawyer (explained below in answer to Question Number 21), you must say

so in your letter or brief. File the objection with the Court and mail a copy to these two different places postmarked no later than **[objection deadline].**

Court	Class Counsel	Defendant's
		Counsel
	Adam Schwartzbaum	Aaron Weiss
	Edelsberg Law, P.A.	David Karp
	20900 NE 30 th Ave	Carlton Fields, P.A.
	Aventura, FL 33180	700 N.W. 1st Ave
		Suite 1200
		Miami, FL 33136

18. What's the difference between objecting and excluding myself from the Settlement?

Objecting simply means telling the Court that you don't like something about the Settlement. You can object only if you stay in the Class. Excluding yourself from the Class is telling the Court that you don't want to be part of the Class. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object because the case no longer affects you.

THE COURT'S FINAL APPROVAL HEARING

19. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold the Final Approval Hearing at **[time]** on **[Month 00]**, 2024 in Courtroom ______at _____.

The purpose of the hearing will be for the Court to determine whether to approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Class; to consider the Class Counsel's request for attorneys' fees and expenses; and to consider the request for an incentive award to the Class Representatives. At that hearing, the Court will be available to hear any objections and arguments concerning the fairness of the Settlement.

The hearing may be postponed to a different date or time without notice, so it is a good idea to check www.[].com] or call ______ If, however, you timely objected to the Settlement and advised the Court that you intend to appear and speak at the Final Approval Hearing, you will receive notice of any change in the date of such Final Approval Hearing.

20. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. Class Counsel will answer any questions the Court may have. But, you are welcome to come at your own expense. If you send an objection or comment, you don't have to come to Court to talk about it. As long as you filed and mailed your written objection on time, the Court will consider it. You may also pay another lawyer to attend, but it's not required.

21. May I speak at the hearing?

Yes. You may ask the Court for permission to speak at the Fairness Hearing. To do so, you must include in your letter or brief objecting to the settlement a statement saying that it is your "Notice of Intent to Appear in *Sellers v. Bleacher Report, Inc.*, Case No. 2024-003537-CA-01." It must include your name, address, telephone number and signature as well as the name and address of your lawyer, if one is appearing for you. Your objection and notice of intent to appear must be filed with the Court and postmarked no later than **[objection deadline]**, and be sent to the addresses listed in Question 17.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

22. Where do I get more information?

This Notice summarizes the Settlement. More details are in the Settlement Agreement. You can get a copy of the Settlement Agreement at <u>www.[...].com</u>. You may also write with questions to Bleacher Report Settlement, P.O. Box 0000, City, ST 00000. You can call the Settlement Administrator at 1-800-000-0000 or Class Counsel at ______, if you have any questions. Before doing so, however, please read this full Notice carefully. You may also find additional information elsewhere on the case website.

EXHIBIT E

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2024-003537-CA-01

JABARI SELLERS and SIMEON EVANS, themselves, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BLEACHER REPORT, INC.,

Defendant.

UNOPPOSED ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, CERTIFYING SETTLEMENT CLASS, APPOINTING CLASS REPRESENTATIVES, APPOINTING CLASS COUNSEL, AND <u>APPROVING NOTICE PLAN</u>

Plaintiffs, Jabari Sellers and Simeon Evans, themselves, and Defendant Bleacher Report, Inc. have agreed to settle this Action pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in an executed Settlement Agreement and Release. The Parties reached the Settlement through arm's-length negotiations with the help of experienced mediator, Honorable Freda L. Wolfson (Ret.) of Lowenstein Sandler LLP. Under the Settlement, subject to the terms and conditions therein and subject to Court approval, Plaintiffs and the proposed Settlement Class will fully, finally, and forever resolve, discharge, and release their claims. The Settlement has been filed with the Court, and Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have filed an Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Settlement. Upon considering the Motion, the Settlement and all exhibits thereto, the record in these proceedings, the representations and recommendations of counsel, and the requirements of law, the Court finds that: (1) this Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the Parties to this Action; (2) the proposed Settlement Class meets the requirements of Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 and should be certified for settlement purposes only; (3) the persons and entities identified below should be appointed Class Representatives and Class Counsel; (4) the Settlement is the result of informed, good-faith, arm's-length negotiations between the Parties and their capable and experienced counsel, and is not the result of collusion; (5) the Settlement is within the range of reasonableness and should be preliminarily approved; (6) the proposed Notice program and proposed forms of Notice satisfy Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 and constitutional due process requirements, and are reasonably calculated under the circumstances to apprise the Settlement Class of the pendency of the Action, class certification, the terms of the Settlement, Class Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees and expenses ("Fee Application") and request for Incentive Awards for Plaintiffs, and their rights to opt-out of the Settlement Class or object to the Settlement, Class Counsel's Fee Application, and/or the request for Incentive Awards for Plaintiffs; (7) good cause exists to schedule and conduct a Final Approval Hearing, to assist the Court in determining whether to grant Final Approval of the Settlement and enter the Final Approval Order, and whether to grant Class Counsel's Fee Application and request for Incentive Awards for Plaintiffs; and (8) the other related matters pertinent to the Preliminary Approval of the Settlement should also be approved.

Based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUGED as follows:

1. As used in this Preliminary Approval Order, unless otherwise noted, capitalized terms shall have the definitions and meanings accorded to them in the Settlement.

2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Parties to this proceeding pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 and Fla. Stat. § 26.012(2).

3. Venue is proper in this Court.

Provisional Class Certification and Appointment of Class Representatives and Class Counsel

4. It is well established that "[a] class may be certified solely for purposes of settlement [if] a settlement is reached before a litigated determination of the class certification issue." *Borcea v. Carnival Corp.*, 238 F.R.D. 664, 671 (S.D. Fla. 2006) (internal quotation marks omitted). In deciding whether to provisionally certify a settlement class, a court must consider the same factors that it would consider in connection with a proposed litigation class – i.e., all Rule 23(a) factors¹ and at least one subsection of Rule 23(b) must be satisfied – except that the Court need not consider the manageability of a potential trial, since the settlement, if approved, would obviate the need for a trial. *Id.; Amchem Products, Inc. v. Windsor*, 521 U.S. 591, 620 (1997).

5. The Court finds, for settlement purposes that the Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 facts are present and that certification for the proposed Settlement Class is appropriate under Rule 1.220. The Court therefore provisional certifies the following Settlement Class:

All Persons in the United States who from January 25, 2021 and through the date the settlement is preliminarily approved (the "Class Period") were Bleacher Report account holders.

The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) Defendant, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendant, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendant; (3) any of the Released Parties; (4) the immediate family of any such person(s); any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiffs' Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

¹ Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 is patterned after Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; consequently, Florida courts consider case law interpreting Rule 23 as persuasive. *Broin v. Philip Morris Co.*, 641 So.2d 888, n.1 (Fla. 3d DCA 1994) (collecting cases).

6. Specifically, the Court finds, for settlement purposes and conditioned on final certification of the proposed class and on the entry of the Final Approval Order, that the Settlement Class satisfies the following factors of Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220:

a. <u>Numerosity</u>: In the Action, approximately 2,690,000 individuals are members of the proposed Settlement Class. The proposed Settlement Class is thus so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.

b. <u>Commonality</u>: "[C]ommonality requires the plaintiff to demonstrate that the class members 'have suffered the same injury." And the plaintiff's common contention "must be of such a nature that it is capable of classwide resolution – which means that determination of its truth or falsity will resolve an issue that is central to the validity of each one of the claims in one stroke. *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes*, 131 S. Ct. 2541, 2551 (2011) (citation omitted). Here, the commonality requirement is satisfied. Multiple questions of law and fact centering on Defendant's class-wide practices are common to the Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class, are alleged to have injured all members of the Settlement Class in the same way, and would generate common answers central to the viability of the claims were this case to proceed to trial.

c. <u>Typicality</u>: The Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the Settlement Class because they concern the same alleged Defendant's practices, arise from the same legal theories, and allege the same types of harm and entitlement to relief. Rule 23(a)(3) is therefore satisfied. *See Kornberg v. Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc.*, 741 F.2d 1332, 1337 (11th Cir. 1984) (typicality satisfied where claims "arise from the same event or pattern or practice and are based on the same legal theory"); *Murray v. Auslander*, 244 F.3d 807, 811 (11th Cir. 2001) (named plaintiffs are typical of the class where they "possess the same interest and suffer the same injury as the class members").

d. <u>Adequacy</u>: Adequacy under Rule 1.220 relates to: (1) whether the proposed class representative has interests antagonistic to the class; and (2) whether the proposed class counsel has the competence to undertake the litigation at issue. *See Fabricant v. Sears Roebuck*, 202 F.R.D. 310, 314 (S.D. Fla. 2001). Here, adequacy is satisfied because there are no conflicts of interest between the Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class, and Plaintiffs have retained competent counsel to represent them and the Settlement Class. Class Counsel regularly engage in consumer privacy class litigation, complex litigation, and other litigation similar to this Action, and have dedicated substantial resources to the prosecution of the Action. Moreover, the Plaintiffs and Class Counsel have vigorously and competently represented the Settlement Class in the Action. *See Lyons v. Georgia-Pacific Corp. Salaried Employees Rel. Plan*, 221 F.3d 1235, 1253 (11th Cir. 2000).

e. <u>Predominance and Superiority</u>: Rule 1.220 is satisfied because the common legal and alleged factual issues here predominate over individualized issues, and resolution of the common issues for the members of the Settlement Class in a single, coordinated proceeding is superior to thousands of individual lawsuits addressing the same legal and factual issues. With respect to predominance, Rule 23(b)(3) requires that "[c]ommon issues of fact and law . . . ha[ve] a direct impact on every class member's effort to establish liability that is more substantial than the impact of individualized issues in resolving the claim or claims of each class member." *Sacred Heart Health Sys., Inc. v. Humana Military Healthcare Servs., Inc.*, 601 F.3d 1159, 1170 (11th Cir. 2010) (internal quotation marks omitted). Here, common questions present a significant aspect of the case and can be resolved for all members of the Settlement Class in a single adjudication. In a liability determination, those common issues would predominate over any issues that are unique to individual members of the Settlement Class. Moreover, each member of the Settlement

Class has claims that arise from the same or similar alleged Defendant's practices as well as the same legal theories.

7. The Court appoints Plaintiffs Jabari Sellers and Simeon Evans as the Class Representatives.

8. The Court appoints the following attorneys and firms as Class Counsel: Adam A. Schwartzbaum and Scott Edelsberg of Edelsberg Law, P.A. and Andrew J. Shamis and Edwin E. Elliott of Shamis & Gentile, P.A.

9. The Court recognizes that Defendant reserves all of their defenses and objections against and rights to oppose any request for class certification in the event that the proposed Settlement does not become Final for any reason. Defendant also reserves its defenses to the merits of the claims asserted in the event the Settlement does not become Final for any reason.

Preliminary Approval of the Settlement

10. At the preliminary approval stage, the Court's task is to evaluate whether the Settlement is within the "range of reasonableness." 4 *Newberg on Class Actions* § 11.26. "Preliminary approval is appropriate where the proposed settlement is the result of the parties' good faith negotiations, there are no obvious deficiencies and the settlement falls within the range of reason." *Smith v. Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.*, 2010 WL 2401149, at *2 (S.D. Fla. Jun. 15, 2010). Settlement negotiations that involve arm's length, informed bargaining with the aid of experienced counsel support a preliminary finding of fairness. *See Manual for Complex Litigation*, Third, § 30.42 (West 1995) ("A presumption of fairness, adequacy, and reasonableness may attach to a class settlement reached in arm's-length negotiations between experienced, capable counsel after meaningful discovery.") (internal quotation marks omitted).

11. The Court preliminarily approves the Settlement, together with all exhibits thereto, as fair, reasonable, and adequate. The Court finds that the Settlement was reached in the absence of collusion, is the product of informed, good-faith, arm's-length negotiations between the Parties and their capable and experienced counsel. The Court further finds that the Settlement, including the exhibits thereto, is within the range of reasonableness and possible judicial approval, such that: (a) a presumption of fairness is appropriate for the purposes of preliminary settlement approval; and (b) it is appropriate to effectuate notice to the Settlement Class, as set forth below and in the Settlement, and schedule a Final Approval Hearing to assist the Court in determining whether to grant Final Approval to the Settlement and enter a Final Approval Order.

Approval of Class Notice and the Claims Process

12. The Court approves the form and content of the Class notices, substantially in the forms attached to the Settlement, as well as the Claim Form attached thereto. The Court further finds that the Class Notice program is reasonably calculated under the circumstances to inform the Settlement Class of the pendency of the Action, certification of a Settlement Class, the terms of the Settlement, Class Counsel's attorneys' fees application and the request for Incentive Award for Plaintiffs, and their rights to opt-out of the Settlement Class or object to the Settlement. The Class notices and Class Notice program constitute sufficient notice to all persons entitled to notice. The Class notices and Class Notice program satisfy all applicable requirements of law, including, but not limited to, Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220 and the Constitutional requirement of Due Process.

13. Kroll LLC shall serve as the Settlement Administrator.

14. The Settlement Administrator shall implement the Class Notice program, as set forth below and in the Settlement, using the Class notices substantially in the forms attached to the Settlement and approved by this Preliminary Approval Order. Notice shall be provided to the members of the Settlement Class pursuant to the Class Notice program, as specified in the Settlement and approved by this Preliminary Approval Order. The Class Notice program shall include, to the extent necessary, e-mail and mail Notice, and the Long-Form Notice, as set forth in the Settlement and below.

<u>Notice</u>

15. The Settlement Administrator shall administer Notice as set forth in the Settlement. The Notice shall be completed no later than 30 days prior to the Final Approval Hearing.

Settlement Website

16. The Settlement Administrator shall establish a Settlement Website as a means for Settlement Class members to obtain notice of, and information about, the Settlement. The Settlement Website shall be established as soon as practicable following Preliminary Approval, but no later than before commencement of the Class Notice program. The Settlement Website shall include to the Settlement, the Long-Form Notice, the Preliminary Approval Order, and other such documents as Class Counsel and counsel for Defendant agree to include. These documents shall remain on the Settlement Website until at least 60 days following the Claim Deadline.

17. The Settlement Administrator is directed to perform all substantive responsibilities with respect to effectuating the Class Notice program, as set forth in the Settlement.

Final Approval Hearing, Opt-Outs, and Objections

18. A Final Approval Hearing shall be held before this Court on _____, 2024 at ______
a.m./p.m. to determine whether to grant Final Approval to the Settlement and to enter a Final Approval Order, and whether Class Counsel's Fee Application and request for Incentive Awards for the Class Representatives should be granted.

19. Any person within the Settlement Class who wishes to be excluded from the Settlement Class may exercise their right to opt-out of the Settlement Class by following the opt-out procedures set forth in the Settlement and in the Notices at any time during the Opt-Out Period. To be valid and timely, opt-out requests must be received by all those listed in the Long Form Notice on or before the last day of the Opt-out Period, which is 30 days before the Final Approval Hearing ("Opt-Out Deadline"), and mailed to the addresses indicated in the Long Form Notice.

20. Any Settlement Class Member may object to the Settlement, Class Counsel's Fee Application, or the request for Incentive Awards for Plaintiffs. Any such objections must be mailed to the Clerk of the Court, Class Counsel, and Defendant's Counsel, at the addresses indicated in the Long Form Notice. For an objection to be considered by the Court, the objection must be postmarked no later than 30 days before the Final Approval Hearing, as set forth in the Notice. To be valid, an objection must include the following information:

- a. the name and number of the Action;
- b. the objector's full name, address, and telephone number;

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

d. all grounds for the objection, accompanied by any legal support for the objection known to the objector or her counsel;

e. the number of times in which the objector has objected to a class action settlement within the five years preceding the date that the objector files the objection, the caption of each case in which the objector has made such an objection, and a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon the objector's prior such objections that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case; f. the identity of all counsel who represent the objector, including any former or current counsel who may be entitled to compensation for any reason related to the objection to the Settlement or Fee Application;

g. a copy of any orders related to or ruling upon counsel's or the counsel's law firm's prior objections made by individuals or organizations represented by that were issued by the trial and appellate courts in each listed case in which the objector's counsel and/or counsel's law firm have objected to a class action settlement within the preceding five years the objector's counsel;

h. any and all agreements that relate to the objection or the process of objecting whether written or oral—between objector or objector's counsel and any other person or entity;

i. the identity of all counsel (if any) representing the objector who will appear at the Final Approval Hearing;

j. a statement confirming whether the objector intends to personally appear and/or testify at the Final Approval Hearing;

k. the objector's signature (an attorney's signature is not sufficient).

Further Papers in Support of Settlement and Attorney's Fee Application

21. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel shall file their Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, Fee Application and request for Incentive Awards for Plaintiffs, no later than ______, 2024, which is 14 days before the Final Approval Hearing.

22. Plaintiffs and Class Counsel shall file their responses to timely filed objections to the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, the Fee Application and/or request Incentive Awards for Plaintiffs no later than ______, 2024, which is 14 days before the Final Approval Hearing.

23. If the Settlement is not finally approved by the Court, or for any reason the Parties fail to obtain a Final Approval Order as contemplated in the Settlement, or the Settlement is terminated pursuant to its terms for any reason, then the following shall apply:

a. the Settlement shall be null and void, including any provisions related to the award of attorneys' fees and costs, shall have no further force and effect with respect to any party in this Action, and may not be referred to or used as evidence or for any other purpose whatsoever in the Action or any other action or proceeding;

b. All orders and findings entered in connection with the Settlement, including this Order, shall become null and void and have no further force and effect, shall not be used or referred to for any purpose whatsoever, and shall not be admissible or discoverable in any other proceeding;

c. All negotiations, proceedings, documents prepared, and statements made in connection therewith shall be without prejudice to any person or party hereto, shall not be deemed or construed to be an admission by any party of any act, matter, or proposition, and shall not be used in any manner of or for any purpose in any subsequent proceeding in this Action or in any other action in any court or other proceeding;

d. Nothing in this Preliminary Approval Order is, or may be construed as, any admission or concession by or against Defendant or Plaintiffs on any point of fact or law; and

e. Neither the Settlement terms nor any publicly disseminated information regarding the Settlement, including, without limitation, the Class Notice, court filings, orders and public statements, may be used as evidence. In addition, neither the fact of, nor any documents relating to, either Party's withdrawal from the Settlement, any failure of the Court to approve the Settlement and/or any objections or interventions may be used as evidence.

Stay/Bar of Other Proceedings

24. All proceedings in the Action are stayed until further order of the Court, except as may be necessary to implement the terms of the Settlement. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, Plaintiffs, all persons in the Settlement Class, and persons purporting to act on their behalf are enjoined from commencing or prosecuting (either directly, representatively or in any other capacity) against any of the Released Parties any action or proceeding in any court, arbitration forum or tribunal asserting any of the Released Claims.

25. Based on the foregoing, the Court sets the following schedule for the Final Approval Hearing and the actions which must take place before and after it:

Event	Date	<u>Timeline</u>
Deadline for Completion of Notice		30 days prior to Final
		Approval Hearing
Deadline for filing Motion for Final		14 days before the Final
Approval of the Settlement and Class		Approval Hearing
Counsel's Fee Application and		
expenses, and for Incentive Awards		
Deadline for Responses to Objections		14 days before the Final
		Approval Hearing
Deadline for opting-out of the		30 days before the Final
Settlement and for submission of		Approval Hearing
Objections		
Final Approval Hearing		
Last day Class Claimants may submit a		15 days after the Final
Claim Form		Approval Hearing

DONE and **ORDERED** at Miami, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2024.

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Copies furnished to: Counsel of Record

EXHIBIT F

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2024-003537-CA-01

JABARI SELLERS and SIMEON EVANS, themselves, and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BLEACHER REPORT, INC.,

Defendant.

UNOPPOSED ORDER GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL TO CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER OF DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE

On ______, 2024, the Court granted preliminary approval to the proposed class action settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Release between Plaintiffs Jabari Sellers and Simeon Evans, on behalf of themselves and all members of the Settlement Class, and Defendant Bleacher Report, Inc. ("Defendant") (collectively, the "Parties"). The Court also provisionally certified the Settlement Class for settlement purposes, approved the procedure for giving Class Notice to the members of the Settlement Class, and set a Final Approval Hearing to take place on ______, 2024 at ______ a.m./p.m.

On ______, 2024 at ______ a.m./p.m., the Court held a duly noticed Final Approval Hearing to consider: (1) whether the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement are fair, reasonable, and adequate; (2) whether a judgment should be entered dismissing the Plaintiffs' Complaint on the merits and with prejudice in favor of Defendant and against all persons or entities who are Settlement Class Members herein who have not requested exclusion from the

Settlement Class; and (3) whether and in what amount to award counsel for the Settlement Class as Attorneys' Fees and Expenses and whether and in what amount to award Incentive Awards to Plaintiffs.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

I. JURISDICTION OF THE COURT

1. The Court has personal jurisdiction over the parties and the Settlement Class Members, venue is proper, and the Court has subject matter jurisdiction to approve the Agreement, including all exhibits thereto, and to enter this Final Approval Order. Without in any way affecting the finality of this Final Approval Order, this Court hereby retains jurisdiction as to all matters relating to administration, consummation, enforcement, and interpretation of the Settlement Agreement and of this Final Approval Order, and for any other necessary purpose.

2. The Settlement Agreement was negotiated at arm's length by experienced counsel who were fully informed of the facts and circumstances of this litigation (the "Action") and of the strengths and weaknesses of their respective positions. The Settlement Agreement was reached after the Parties had engaged in a mediation and extensive settlement discussions and after the exchange of information, including information about the size and scope of the Settlement Class. Counsel for the Parties were therefore well positioned to evaluate the benefits of the Settlement Agreement, taking into account the expense, risk, and uncertainty of protracted litigation.

3. The Court finds that the prerequisites for a class action under Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220 have been satisfied for settlement purposes for each Settlement Class Member 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) the claims of Plaintiffs are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class they seek to represent; (d)

Plaintiffs have and will continue to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Settlement Class for purposes of entering into the Settlement Agreement; (e) the questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting any individual Settlement Class Member; (f) the Settlement Class is ascertainable; and (g) a class action is superior to the other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy.

II. CERTIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT CLASS

4. Pursuant to Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, this Court hereby finally certifies the Settlement Class, as identified in the Settlement Agreement: "All Persons in the United States who from January 25, 2021 and through the date the settlement is preliminarily approved (the "Class Period") were Bleacher Report account holders. The Settlement Class excludes the following: (1) the trial judge presiding over this case; (2) Defendant, as well as any parent, subsidiary, affiliate, or control person of Defendant, and the officers, directors, agents, servants, or employees of Defendant; (3) any of the Released Parties; (4) the immediate family of any such person(s); (5) any Settlement Class Member who has timely opted out of this proceeding; and (6) Plaintiffs' Counsel, their employees, and their immediate family.

III. APPOINTMENT OF CLASS REPRESENTATIVE AND CLASS COUNSEL

5. The Court finally appoints Adam A. Schwartzbaum and Scott Edelsberg of Edelsberg Law, P.A. and Andrew J. Shamis and Edwin E. Elliott of Shamis & Gentile, P.A as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class.

6. The Court finally designates Plaintiffs as the Class Representatives.

IV. NOTICE AND CLAIMS PROCESS

7. The Court makes the following findings on notice to the Settlement Class:

(a) The Court finds that the distribution of the Class Notice, as provided for in the Settlement Agreement, (i) constituted the best practicable notice under the circumstances to Settlement Class Members, (ii) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of, among other things, the pendency of the Action, the nature and terms of the proposed Settlement, their right to object or to exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement, and their right to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, (iii) was reasonable and constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to be provided with notice, and (iv) complied fully with the requirements of Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, the United States Constitution, the Rules of this Court, and any other applicable law.

(b) The Court finds that the Class Notice and methodology set forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Preliminary Approval Order, and this Final Approval Order (i) constitute the most effective and practicable notice of the Final Approval Order, the relief available to Settlement Class Members pursuant to the Final Approval Order, and applicable time periods; (ii) constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice for all other purposes to all Settlement Class Members; and (iii) comply fully with the requirements of Fla. R. Civ. P. 1.220, the United States Constitution, the Rules of this Court, and any other applicable laws.

V. FINAL APPROVAL OF THE CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

8. The Settlement Agreement is finally approved in all respects as fair, reasonable and adequate. The terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement, including all Exhibits thereto, have been entered into in good faith and are hereby fully and finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate as to, and in the best interests of, each of the Parties and the Settlement Class Members.

VI. ADMINISTRATION OF THE SETTLEMENT

9. The Parties are hereby directed to implement the Settlement Agreement according to its terms and provisions. The Administrator is directed to provide Claim Settlement Payments to those Settlement Class Members who submit valid, timely, and complete Claims.

10. The Court hereby approves Class Counsel's request for attorney fees, costs, and expenses, and awards Class Counsel \$1,600,000.00 as reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, inclusive of the award of reasonable costs incurred in this Action. The Court finds that the requested fees are reasonable under the percentage of the fund for the reasons set forth herein. The award of attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel shall be paid from the Settlement Fund within the time period and manner set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

11. The Court hereby awards Class Counsel for their time incurred and expenses advanced. The Court has concluded that: (a) Class Counsel achieved a favorable result for the Class by obtaining Defendant's agreement to make significant funds available to Settlement Class Members, subject to submission of valid claims by eligible Settlement Class Members; (b) Class Counsel devoted substantial effort to pre- and post-filing investigation, legal analysis, and litigation; (c) Class Counsel prosecuted the Settlement Class's claims on a contingent fee basis, investing significant time and accumulating costs with no guarantee that they would receive compensation for their services or recover their expenses; (d) Class Counsel employed their knowledge of and experience with class action litigation in achieving a valuable settlement for the Settlement Class, in spite of Defendant's possible legal defenses and its experienced and capable counsel; (e) Class Counsel have standard contingent fee agreements with Plaintiffs, who have reviewed the Settlement Agreement and been informed of Class Counsel's fee request and have approved; and (f) the Notice informed Settlement Class Members of the amount and nature of Class Counsel's fee and cost request under the Settlement Agreement, Class Counsel filed and

posted their Petition in time for Settlement Class Members to make a meaningful decision whether to object to the Class Counsel's fee request, and no Settlement Class Member(s) objected.

12. The Court awards Service Award in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Plaintiffs payable pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

VII. RELEASE OF CLAIMS

13. Upon entry of this Final Approval Order, all members of the Class who did not validly and timely submit Requests for Exclusion in the manner provided in the Agreement shall, by operation of this Final Approval Order, have fully, finally and forever released, relinquished and discharged Defendant and the Released Parties from the Released Claims as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

14. Furthermore, all members of the Class who did not validly and timely submit Requests for Exclusion in the manner provided in the Agreement are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from filing, commencing, prosecuting, maintaining, intervening in, participating in, conducting or continuing, either directly or in any other capacity, either individually or as a class, any action or proceeding in any court, agency, arbitration, tribunal or jurisdiction, asserting any claims released pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, or seeking an award of fees and costs of any kind or nature whatsoever and pursuant to any authority or theory whatsoever, relating to or arising from the Action or that could have been brought in the Action and/or as a result of or in addition to those provided by the Settlement Agreement.

15. The terms of the Settlement Agreement and of this Final Approval Order, including all Exhibits thereto, shall be forever binding on, and shall have *res judicata* and preclusive effect in, all pending and future lawsuits maintained by Plaintiffs and all other Settlement Class Members, as well as their heirs, executors and administrators, successors, and assigns.

16. The Releases, which are set forth in the Settlement Agreement and which are also set forth below, are expressly incorporated herein in all respects and are effective as of the date of this Final Approval Order; and the Released Parties (as that term is defined below and in the Settlement Agreement) are fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged by the Releasing Parties (as that term is defined below and in the Settlement Agreement) from all Released Claims (as that term is defined below and in the Settlement Agreement).

(a) The Settlement Agreement and Releases do not affect the rights of Settlement Class Members who timely and properly submit a Request for Exclusion from the Settlement in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Agreement.

(b) The administration and consummation of the Settlement as embodied in the Settlement Agreement shall be under the authority of the Court. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to protect, preserve, and implement the Settlement Agreement, including, but not limited to, enforcement of the Releases. The Court expressly retains jurisdiction in order to enter such further orders as may be necessary or appropriate in administering and implementing the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

(c) The Settlement Agreement shall be the exclusive remedy for any and all Settlement Class Members, except those who have properly requested exclusion (opted out), and the Released Parties shall not be subject to liability or expense for any of the Released Claims to any Settlement Class Member(s).

(d) The Releases shall not preclude any action to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement, including participation in any of the processes detailed therein. The Releases set forth herein and in the Settlement Agreement are not intended to include the release of any rights or duties of the Settling Parties arising out of the Settlement Agreement, including the express warranties and covenants contained therein.

17. Plaintiffs and all Settlement Class Members who did not timely exclude themselves from the Settlement Class are, from this day forward, hereby permanently barred and enjoined from directly or indirectly, representatively, or in any capacity: (i) asserting any Released Claims in any action or proceeding; (ii) filing, commencing, prosecuting, intervening in, or participating in (as class members or otherwise), any lawsuit, action, or other proceeding in any jurisdiction, against any Released Party based on or relating to any the Released Claims or the facts and circumstances relating thereto; or (iii) organizing any Settlement Class Members into a separate class for purposes of pursuing as a purported class action any lawsuit (including by seeking to amend a pending complaint to include class allegations, or seeking class certification in a pending action) based on or relating to any of the Released Claims.

VIII. NO ADMISSION OF LIABILITY

18. Neither the Settlement Agreement, nor any of its terms and provisions, nor any of the negotiations or proceedings connected with it, nor any of the documents or statements referred to therein, nor this Final Approval Order, nor any of its terms and provisions, shall be:

(a) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party as evidence of, or construed as or deemed to be evidence of, any presumption, concession, or admission by Defendant of the truth of the facts alleged by any person, the validity of any claim that has been or could have been asserted in the Action or in any other litigation or judicial or administrative proceeding, the deficiency of any defense that has been or could have been asserted in the Action or in any litigation, or of any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing by Defendant or any Released Party; (b) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission of any fault or violation of any law by Defendant or any Released Party; or

(c) offered by any person or received against Defendant or any Released Party as evidence of a presumption, concession, or admission with respect to any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing in any civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding.

IX. OTHER PROVISIONS

19. This Final Approval Order and the Settlement Agreement (including the Exhibits thereto) may be filed in any action against or by any Released Party (as that term is defined herein and the Settlement Agreement) to support a defense of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim.

20. Without further order of the Court, the Settling Parties may agree to reasonably necessary extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

21. In the event that the Effective Date does not occur, this Final Approval Order shall automatically be rendered null and void and shall be vacated and, in such event, all orders entered and released delivered in connection herewith shall be null and void. In the event that the Effective Date does not occur, the Settlement Agreement shall become null and void and be of no further force and effect, neither the Settlement Agreement nor the Court's Orders, including this Order, shall be used or referred to for any purpose whatsoever, and the Parties shall retain, without prejudice, any and all objections, arguments, and defenses with respect to class certification, including the right to argue that no class should be certified for any purpose, and with respect to the merits of any claims, defenses, or allegations in this Action.

22. This Action, including all individual claims and class claims presented herein, is hereby dismissed on the merits and with prejudice against Plaintiff and all other Settlement Class Members, without fees or costs to any party except as otherwise provided herein. Finding that there is no just reason for delay, the Court orders that this Final Approval Order shall constitute a final judgment.

DONE and **ORDERED** in Miami, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2024.

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

Copies furnished to: Counsel of Record

EXHIBIT G

The in-app direct message through the Bleacher Report mobile application, which can be no greater than 174 characters, will state:

If you had a Bleacher Report account and watched videos since January 2021, you may qualify for a class action settlement which is subject to court approval. Learn more <u>here</u>.

The word "here" in the in-app direct message will be a hyperlink to the Settlement Website.

Clean -- Sellers v. Bleacher Report Settlement A greement_WEIL_99699256_1

Final Audit Report

2024-04-30

	Created:	2024-04-29
	By:	Stephanie Ramos (stephanie@edelsberglaw.com)
	Status:	Signed
	Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAArsie2lybJeEd9nfJRcz8YETqmLck461Z
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"Clean -- Sellers v. Bleacher Report Settlement Agreement_WEI L_99699256_1" History

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Ø ₀	Signer bari.sellers@icloud.com entered name at signing as Jabari Sellers 2024-04-30 - 0:09:41 AM GMT
Ø ₀	Document e-signed by Jabari Sellers (bari.sellers@icloud.com) Signature Date: 2024-04-30 - 0:09:43 AM GMT - Time Source: server
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