

Judge Approves \$85M ‘Zoombombing’ Settlement

By Meghann M. Cuniff

A federal judge in San Francisco has approved an \$85 million settlement with injunctive relief in a class action over so-called Zoombombings.

The order from U.S. District Judge Laurel Beeler in the Northern District of California follows preliminary approval last July in a case that included claims of invasion of privacy and negligence.

The class has about 150 million members. Those who are Zoom subscribers will get \$25 or 15 percent of the subscription cost, whichever is greater, and non-subscribing Zoom users will get \$15.

The attorney fees and expenses will be about \$21.4 million.

Beeler held a fairness hearing on Thursday and issued a 22-page order that called the settlement “fair, adequate, and reasonable.”

The case is a combination of 14 class-action complaints filed in the Northern District between March and May 2020. Tina Wolfson of Ahdoot & Wolfson and Mark Molumphy of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy served



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Zoom headquarters in Silicon Valley.

as interim co-lead counsel. Rachelle Byrde of Wolf Haldenstein, and Albert Chang of Bottini & Bottini, and Eric Gibbs of the Gibbs Law Group were appointed to the Plaintiffs’ Steering Committee.

JAMS Special Master Jay Gandhi, a retired U.S. magistrate judge from the Central District, mediated the case.

In a statement, Molumphy called the settlement “groundbreaking,” and said it will “provide a substantial cash recovery to Zoom users and implement privacy practices that,

going forward, will help ensure that users are safe and protected.”

Wolfson’s statement said, “In the age of corporate surveillance, this historic settlement recognizes that data is the new oil and compensates consumers for unwittingly providing data in exchange for a ‘free’ service. It also compensates those who paid for a product they did not receive and commits Zoom to changing its corporate behavior to better inform consumers about their privacy choices and provide stronger cybersecurity.”