

**IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS  
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT  
FOR WHITESIDE COUNTY, CHANCERY DIVISION**

**FILED**  
CIRCUIT COURT WHITESIDE COUNTY

JAY D. HEATH, BEVERLY G. STOLL,  
AMBER BOWER, and JOEL COURTNEY,  
individually and on behalf of all others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

STEEL RIVER SYSTEMS, LLC,

Defendant.

Case No. 2023-LA-000006

JAN 08 2024

*See R. Costello*  
CIRCUIT CLERK

**FINAL APPROVAL ORDER AND JUDGMENT**

This matter coming to be heard on Plaintiff's Unopposed Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Motion for Approval of Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Class Representative Incentive Award (the "Motions"), due and adequate notice having been given to the Settlement Class, and the Court having considered the papers filed and proceedings in this matter, and being fully advised in the premises, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED as follows:

1. Unless otherwise noted, all capitalized terms in this Final Approval Order and Judgment shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiffs Jay D. Heath, Beverly G. Stoll, Amber Bower and Joel Courtney ("Plaintiffs") and Steel River Systems, LLC ("Defendant" or "Steel River").

2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Litigation and personal jurisdiction over all Parties to the Litigation, including all Class Members.

3. The Court preliminarily approved the Settlement Agreement by Preliminary Approval Order dated August 25, 2023, and the Court finds that adequate notice was given to all members of the Settlement Class pursuant to the terms of the Preliminary Approval Order.

4. The Court has read and considered the papers filed in support of the Motion for Final Approval and Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Service Awards, including the Settlement Agreement and exhibits thereto and supporting declarations.

5. The Court held a Final Approval Hearing on \_\_\_\_\_, at which time the Parties and all other interested persons were afforded the opportunity to be heard in support of and in opposition to the Settlement.

6. Based on the papers filed with the Court and the presentations made to the Court by the Parties and other interested persons at the Final Approval Hearing, the Court now gives final approval to the Settlement and finds that the Settlement Agreement is fair, adequate, reasonable, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class. The complex legal and factual posture of the Litigation, and the fact that the Settlement Agreement is the result of arms-length negotiations, further support this finding.

7. Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-801 and 2-802, the Court finally certifies, for settlement purposes only, the following Settlement Class:

All persons residing in the United States whose personal information was exposed to unauthorized third parties during the Data Incident, which as described in the definition of Data Incident occurred on or about July 16, 2022, and who were sent notice of the Data Incident.

8. Excluded from the Settlement Class are (i) Steel River and its officers and directors; (ii) all Settlement Class Members who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class; (iii) the Judge assigned to evaluate the fairness of this settlement; (iv) the attorneys representing the Settling Parties in the Litigation; and (v) any other Person found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be guilty under criminal law of initiating, causing, aiding, or abetting the criminal activity occurrence of the Data Incident or who pleads *nolo contendere* to any such charge.

9. One individual(s) have made a timely or valid request for exclusion.<sup>1</sup>

10. For settlement purposes only, the Court confirms the appointment of Plaintiffs Jay D. Heath, Beverly G. Stoll, Amber Bower, Joel Courtney, and Eric Liberty as Class Representatives for the Settlement Class.

11. For settlement purposes only, the Court confirms the appointment of the following counsel as Class Counsel, and finds they are experienced in class litigation and have adequately represented the Settlement Class: Mason LLP and Cole & Van Note.

12. With respect to the Settlement Class, this Court finds, for settlement purposes only, that: (a) the Settlement Class defined above is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are questions of law or fact common to the Settlement Class, and those common questions predominate over any questions affecting only individual members; (c) the Class Representatives and Class Counsel have fairly and adequately protected, and will continue

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<sup>1</sup> A list of excluded individuals is attached as Exhibit A.

to fairly and adequately protect, the interests of the Settlement Class; and (d) certification of the Settlement Class is an appropriate method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

13. The Court has determined that the Notice given to the Settlement Class Members, in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order, fully and accurately informed Settlement Class Members of all material elements of the Settlement and constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and fully satisfied the requirements of 735 ILCS 5/2-803, applicable law, and the Due Process Clauses of the U.S. Constitution and Illinois Constitution.

14. The Court orders the Parties to the Settlement Agreement to perform their obligations thereunder. The terms of the Settlement Agreement shall be deemed incorporated herein as if explicitly set forth and shall have the full force of an order of this Court.

15. The Court dismisses the Litigation with prejudice and without costs (except as otherwise provided herein and in the Settlement Agreement) as to Plaintiffs' and all Class Members' claims against Defendant. The Court adjudges that the Released Claims and all of the claims described in the Settlement Agreement are released against the Releases.

16. The Court adjudges that the Plaintiffs and all members of the Settlement Class shall be deemed to have fully, finally, and forever released, relinquished, and discharged all Released Claims against the Releasees, as defined under the Settlement Agreement.

17. The Released Claims specifically extend to claims that Plaintiffs and Class Members do not know or suspect to exist in their favor at the time that the Settlement Agreement, and the releases contained therein, become effective.

18. The Court further adjudges that, upon entry of this Final Approval Order, the Settlement Agreement and the above-described release of the Released Claims will be binding on, and have *res judicata* preclusive effect in, all pending and future lawsuits or other proceedings maintained by or on behalf of Plaintiffs and all Class Members who did not validly and timely exclude themselves from the Settlement, and their respective affiliates, assigns, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and agents, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement. The Releasees may file the Settlement Agreement and/or this Final Approval Order and Judgment in any action or proceeding that may be brought against them 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 or counterclaim.

19. Plaintiffs and Class Members are permanently barred and enjoined from asserting, filing, commencing, prosecuting, pursuing, continuing, and/or seeking to reopen any of the Released Claims or any of the claims described in the Settlement Agreement against any of the Releasees.

20. The Court approves payment of attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel in the amount of \$123,750. This amount shall be paid by Defendant in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. The Court, having considered the materials submitted by Class Counsel in support of final approval of the Settlement and their request for attorneys' fees, costs and expenses and in response to any timely filed objections thereto, finds the award of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses appropriate and reasonable for the following reasons: First, the Court finds that the Settlement provides substantial benefits to the Settlement Class. Second, the Court finds the payment fair and reasonable in light of the substantial work performed by Class Counsel. Third,

the Court concludes that the Settlement was negotiated at arms-length without collusion, and that the negotiation of the attorneys' fees only followed agreement on the settlement benefits for the Class Members. Finally, the Court notes that the Notice Form specifically and clearly advised the Settlement Class that Class Counsel would seek an award in the amount sought.

21. The Court approves the requested Incentive Award in the amount of \$1,250 for each of the Class Representatives and specifically finds the amount to be reasonable in light of the services performed by Plaintiffs for the Settlement Class, including taking on the risks of litigation, and helping achieve the results to be made available to the Settlement Class. This amount shall be paid by Defendant in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

22. Neither this Final Approval Order and Judgment, nor the Settlement Agreement, nor the payment of any consideration in connection with the Settlement shall be construed or used as an admission or concession by or against Defendant or any of the Releasees of any fault, omission, liability, or wrongdoing, or of the validity of any of the Released Claims. This Final Approval Order and Judgment is not a finding of the validity or invalidity of any claims in this Litigation or a determination of any wrongdoing by Defendant or any of the Releasees. The final approval of the Settlement Agreement does not constitute any position, opinion, or determination of this Court, one way or another, as to the merits of the claims or defenses of Plaintiffs, the Class Members, or Defendant.

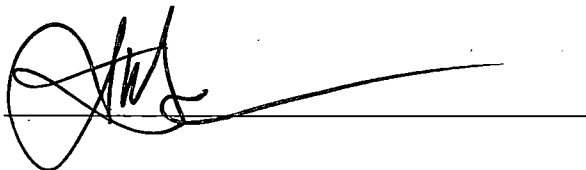
23. Any objections to the Settlement Agreement are overruled and denied in all respects. The Court finds that no reason exists for delay in entering this Final Approval Order and Judgment. Accordingly, the Clerk is hereby directed forthwith to enter this Final Approval Order and Judgment.

24. The Parties, without further approval from the Court, are hereby permitted to agree to and adopt such amendments, modifications and expansions of the Settlement Agreement and its implementing documents (including all exhibits to the Settlement Agreement) so long as they are consistent in all material respects with the Final Approval Order and Judgment and do not limit the rights of the Class Members.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

ENTERED:

1/8/24

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Hon. \_\_\_\_\_

**EXHIBIT A**

**1. Jack Wong**