

IN THE STATE COURT OF FULTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

THOMAS FUCHS and BROOKE FUCHS,
individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

**RÖDL MANAGEMENT, INC. d/b/a RÖDL
& PARTNER,**

Defendant.

Case No. 25EV012126

GRANTED

[PROPOSED] PRELIMINARY APPROVAL ORDER

Before the Court is Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (the “Motion”), the terms of which are set forth in a Settlement Agreement between Plaintiffs and Defendant Rödl Management, Inc. d/b/a/ Rödl & Partner. (“Rödl” or “Defendant”), with accompanying exhibits attached thereto (the “Settlement Agreement”).¹

Having fully considered the issue, the Court hereby **GRANTS** the Motion and **ORDERS** as follows:

1. **Class Certification for Settlement Purposes Only.** For settlement purposes only and pursuant to Georgia Code Section 9-11-23(b)(3) and (e), the Court provisionally certifies a Settlement Class in this matter defined as follows:

All persons Defendant identified as being among those individuals impacted by the Data Security Incident, including all who were sent a notice of the Data Security Incident.

2.
Settlement Agreement (“S.A.”) ¶ 1.31. Excluded from the Settlement Class are all persons who

¹ All defined terms in this Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (“Preliminary Approval Order”) have the same meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, unless otherwise indicated.

validly opt-out of this Settlement. The Settlement Class may include approximately 11,640 individuals (each, a “Settlement Class Member”). *Id.* ¶ 1.33.

The Court provisionally finds, for settlement purposes only, that: (a) the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all Settlement Class Members would be impracticable; (b) there are issues of law and fact common to the Settlement Class; (c) the claims of the Settlement Class Representatives are typical of and arise from the same operative facts and seek similar relief as the claims of the Settlement Class Members; (d) the Settlement Class Representatives and Settlement Class Counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Settlement Class as the Settlement Class Representatives have no interest antagonistic to or in conflict with the Settlement Class and has retained experienced and competent counsel to prosecute this matter on behalf of the Settlement Class; (e) questions of law or fact common to Settlement Class Members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members; and (f) a class action and class settlement is superior to other methods available for a fair and efficient resolution of this controversy.

3. **Settlement Class Representatives and Settlement Class Counsel.** The Court finds that Plaintiffs Thomas Fuchs and Brooke Fuchs should be appointed as the Settlement Class Representatives. The Court provisionally finds that the Settlement Class Representatives are similarly situated to absent Class Members and therefore typical of the Class and that they will be adequate Settlement Class Representatives. The Court finds that the following counsel are experienced and adequate counsel and are hereby provisionally designated as Settlement Class Counsel under Georgia Code Section 9-11- 23(a)(4): Casondra Turner and Milberg PLLC should be appointed as Settlement Class Counsel.

4. **Preliminary Settlement Approval.** Upon preliminary review, the Court finds the

Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate to warrant providing notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class and accordingly the Settlement is preliminarily approved. In making this determination, the Court has considered the monetary benefits provided to the Settlement Class through the Settlement, the specific risks faced by the Settlement Class in prevailing on their claims, the good faith, arms' length negotiations between the Parties and absence of evidence of collusion in the Settlement, the effectiveness of the proposed method for notifying and distributing relief to the Settlement Class, the proposed manner of allocating benefits to Settlement Class Members, and the equitable treatment of the Settlement Class Members under the Settlement.

5. **Jurisdiction.** The Court concludes that it has subject matter jurisdiction and personal jurisdiction over the Parties before it for the purposes of the Settlement. Additionally, venue is proper in this Court as a substantial portion of the acts and transactions complained of occurred in Fulton County and Defendant conducts substantial business throughout Fulton County.

6. **Final Approval Hearing.** A Final Approval Hearing shall be held on **TBD**, 2026, at [address/via zoom], where the Court will determine, among other things, whether: (a) this matter should be finally certified as a class action for settlement purposes pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-11- 23(b)(3) and (e); (b) the Settlement should be finally approved as fair, reasonable, and adequate pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-11- 23(e); (c) the action should be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (d) Settlement Class Members should be bound by the releases set forth in the Settlement Agreement; (e) the motion of Settlement Class Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses (the "Fee Request") should be approved; and (f) the motion of the Settlement Class Representatives for a Service Award (the "Service Award Request") should be approved. Plaintiffs' Motion for Service Award Request and Fee Request shall be filed with the Court at least 14 days prior to the Opt-Out and Objection

deadline. Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement shall be filed with the Court at least 30 Days prior to the Final Approval Hearing. By no later than 7 Days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, the Parties shall file responses, if any, to any objections, and any replies in support of final approval of the Settlement and/or the Service Award Request and Fee Request.

7. **Settlement Administrator.** The Court appoints Analytics LLC as the Settlement Administrator, with responsibility for class notice and settlement administration. The Settlement Administrator is directed to perform all tasks the Settlement Agreement requires. The Settlement Administrator's fees will be paid pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

8. **Notice.** The proposed notice program set forth in the Settlement Agreement and the Notices and Claim Form attached to the Settlement Agreement as **Exhibits A, B, and C** satisfy the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 9-11- 23(c)(2) and (e), provide the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and are hereby approved. Non-material modifications to these Exhibits consistent with this Order may be made by the Settlement Administrator in consultation and agreement with the Parties, and without further order of the Court.

9. **Findings Concerning Notice.** The Court finds that the form, content, and method of giving notice to the Settlement Class as described in the Settlement Agreement (including the exhibits thereto): (a) will constitute the best practicable notice to the Settlement Class; (b) are reasonably calculated to apprise Settlement Class Members of the pendency of the action, the terms of the proposed Settlement, and their rights under the proposed Settlement, including but not limited to their rights to object to or exclude themselves from the proposed Settlement and other rights under the terms of the Settlement Agreement; (c) are reasonable and constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all Class Members and other persons entitled to receive notice; and the Court concludes that the Notice Program meets all applicable requirements of law,

including Georgia Code Section 9-11- 23(c) and (e), and the Due Process Clause(s) of the United States Constitution. The Court further finds that the Notice is written in plain language, uses simple terminology, and is designed to be readily understandable by Class Members.

The Settlement Administrator is directed to carry out the Notice program in conformance with the Settlement Agreement.

10. **Exclusion from Class.** Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to be excluded from the Settlement must make the request in writing. To be considered valid, the request for exclusion must be to the Settlement Administrator at the address set forth in the Notice. To be effective, an Opt-Out Request must be postmarked no later than the final date of the Opt-Out Period, which is sixty (60) days after the Notice Deadline. For a Settlement Class Member's Opt-Out Request to be valid, it must (a) state his or her full name, address, and telephone number; (b) contain the Settlement Class Member's personal and original signature (or the original signature of a person previously authorized by law, such as a trustee, guardian, or person acting under a power of attorney to act on behalf of the Settlement Class Member with respect to a claim or right, such as those in the Lawsuit); and (c) clearly manifest the Settlement Class Member's intent to be excluded from the Settlement Class, to be excluded from the Settlement, not to participate in the Settlement, and/or to waive all rights to the benefits of the Settlement. The Settlement Administrator shall promptly inform Settlement Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel of any Opt-Out Requests.

11. If a Final Approval Order and Judgment is entered, all Persons falling within the definition of the Settlement Class who do not timely and validly request to be excluded from the Settlement Class shall be bound by the terms of this Settlement Agreement and the Final Approval Order and Judgment. All Persons who submit valid and timely requests to be excluded from the

Settlement Class shall not receive any cash benefits of and/or be bound by the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

12. **Objections and Appearances.** A Settlement Class Member (who does not submit a timely written request for exclusion) desiring to object to the Settlement Agreement may submit a timely written objection by filing the objection with the Clerk of the Court and mailed or hand delivered concurrently upon Settlement Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel at addresses set forth in the Notice no later than sixty (60) days after the Notice Deadline. The written objection must include: (i) the objecting Settlement Class Member's full name, current address, telephone number, and email address (if any); (ii) contain the objecting Settlement Class Member's original signature; (iii) set forth information identifying the objector as a Settlement Class Member, including proof that the objector is within the Settlement Class (*e.g.*, copy of the Notice or copy of original notice of the Data Security Incident); (iv) set forth a statement of all grounds for the objection, including any legal support for the objection that the objector believes applicable; (v) identify all counsel representing the objector; (vi) state whether the objector and/or his or her counsel will appear at the Final Approval Hearing, and; (vii) contain the signature of the objector's duly authorized attorney or other duly authorized representative (if any), along with documentation setting forth such representation.

13. An objector is not required to attend the Final Approval Hearing. If an objecting Settlement Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval Hearing, either with or without counsel, he or she must also file with the Court, and mail or hand-deliver to Settlement Class Counsel and Defendant's Counsel, a notice of appearance no later than sixty (60) Days after the Notice Deadline.

14. If the objecting Settlement Class Member intends to appear at the Final Approval

Hearing through counsel, the notice of appearance filed with the Court must also identify the attorney(s) representing the objector who will appear at the Final Approval Hearing and include each such attorney's name, address, phone number, email address, state bar(s) to which counsel is admitted, as well as associated state bar numbers, and a list identifying all objections such counsel has filed to class action settlements in the past three (3) years, the results of each objection, any court opinions ruling on the objections, and any sanctions issued by a court in connection with objections filed by such attorney.

15. If the objecting Settlement Class Member intends to request permission from the Court to call witnesses at the Final Approval Hearing, the objecting Settlement Class Member must provide a list of any such witnesses together with a brief summary of each witness's expected testimony at least thirty (30) Days before the Final Approval Hearing.

16. Any Settlement Class Member who does not file a timely and adequate objection in accordance with the above paragraph waives the right to object or to be heard at the Final Approval Hearing and shall be forever barred from making any objection to the Settlement and shall be bound by the terms of the Agreement and by all proceedings, orders, and judgments in the Action.

17. The provisions stated in the Settlement Agreement shall be the exclusive means for any challenge to the Settlement Agreement. any challenge to the Settlement Agreement, the Final Order and Judgment approving this Settlement Agreement, or the Judgment to be entered upon final approval shall be pursuant to appeal under the Georgia Rules of Appellate Procedure and not through a collateral attack. Any objecting Settlement Class Member who appeals final approval of the Settlement Agreement will be required to post an appeal bond.

18. **Claims Process.** Settlement Class Counsel and Defendant have created a

process for Settlement Class Members to claim benefits under the Settlement. The Court preliminarily approves this process and directs the Settlement Administrator to make the Claim Form or its substantial equivalent available to Settlement Class Members in the manner specified in the Notice.

19. The Settlement Administrator will be responsible for effectuating the claims process.

20. Settlement Class Members who qualify for and wish to submit a Claim Form shall do so in accordance with the requirement and procedures specified in the Notice and the Claim Form. If the Final Approval Order and Judgment is entered, all Settlement Class Members who qualify for any benefit under the Settlement but fail to submit a claim in accordance with the requirements and procedures specified in the Notice and the Claim Form shall be forever barred from receiving any such benefit, but will in all other respects be subject to and bound by the provisions in the Final Approval Order and Judgment, including the releases contained therein.

21. **Termination of Settlement.** This Preliminary Approval Order shall become null and void and shall be without prejudice to the rights of the Parties and of no force or effect if: (a) the Court does not enter this Preliminary Approval Order; (b) Settlement is not finally approved by the Court or is terminated in accordance with the Settlement Agreement; or (c) the Effective Date does not occur. In such event, (i) the Parties shall be restored to their respective positions in the Action prior to execution of the Settlement Agreement and shall jointly request all scheduled Action deadlines be reasonably extended by the Court to avoid prejudice to any Party or Party's counsel; (ii) the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement shall have no further force and effect with respect to the Parties and shall not be used in the Action or in any other proceeding for any purpose, and (iii) any judgment or order entered by the Court in accordance with the terms of

the Settlement Agreement shall be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*.

22. **Use of Order.** This Preliminary Approval shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against Defendant of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, liability, or the propriety of certifying any class in the Action. Nor shall this Preliminary Approval Order be (i) construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or against the Class Representatives or any other Settlement Class Member that his or her claims lack merit or that the relief requested is inappropriate, improper, unavailable, or (ii) as a waiver by any Party of any defense or claims they may have in this Action or in any other lawsuit.

23. **Continuance of Hearing.** The Court reserves the right to adjourn or continue the Final Approval Hearing and related deadlines without further written notice to the Settlement Class. If the Court alters any of those dates or times, the revised dates and times shall be posted on the Settlement Website maintained by the Settlement Administrator. The Court may approve the Settlement, with such modifications as may be agreed upon by the Parties, if appropriate, without further notice to the Settlement Class.

24. **Stay of Litigation.** All proceedings in the Action, other than those related to approval of the Settlement Agreement, are hereby stayed. Further, any actions brought by Settlement Class Members on a class or representative basis concerning the Released Claims are hereby enjoined and stayed pending the Final Approval Hearing and the order issuing therefrom.

25. **Schedule and Deadlines.** The Court orders the following schedule of dates for the specified actions/further proceedings:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Defendant Provides Class Member Information To Settlement Administrator	Within Seven (7) Days Of Entry Of Preliminary Approval Order

Deadline For Claims Administrator To Begin Sending Short Form Notice (By First Class USPS Mail)	Within Thirty (30) Days Of Entry Of Preliminary Approval Order (“Notice Deadline”)
Motion for Attorneys’ Fees, Costs, Expenses, and Service Award to Be Filed by Settlement Class Counsel	At Least Fourteen (14) Days Prior To Opt-Out/ Objection Dates
Opt-Out/Objection Date Deadlines	Sixty (60) Days After Notice Deadline
Claims Administrator Provides Parties With List Of Timely, Valid Opt-Outs/Objections	Fourteen (14) Days After Opt-Out/Objection Dates
Claims Deadline	Ninety (90) Days After Notice Deadline
Motion For Final Approval To Be Filed By Class Counsel	At Least Fourteen (14) Days Prior To Final Approval Hearing
Final Approval Hearing	[COURT TO ENTER DATE AND TIME] No Earlier Than 120 Days After Entry Of Preliminary Approval Order

IT IS SO ORDERED

4/3/2026

Dated

Judge,  Fulton County State Court