

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

TOMEKA BARROW, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:16-cv-03577-AT

**ORDER (1) CONDITIONALLY CERTIFYING A SETTLEMENT CLASS, (2)
PRELIMINARILY APPROVING CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT, (3) APPROVING
NOTICE PLAN AND (4) SETTING FINAL APPROVAL HEARING**

This matter came before the Court on Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and Certification of Settlement Class in the case entitled Tomeka Barrow, et al. v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Case No. 1:16-cv-03577-AT (the "Action"). The Action was brought by plaintiffs Tomeka Barrow and Anthony Diaz ("Plaintiffs"), on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, against defendants JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. ("JPMC" and together, with Plaintiffs, the "Parties"). Based on this Court's review of the Parties' Settlement Agreement and Release (the "Agreement"), Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Settlement, and the arguments of counsel, THE COURT HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Settlement Terms. Unless otherwise defined herein, all terms in this Order shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.
2. Jurisdiction. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action, the Parties, and all members of the Settlement Class.
3. Scope of Settlement. The Agreement resolves all claims alleged in the Second Amended Class Action Complaint filed in the Action on March 21, 2017. See Dkt. No. 19.
4. Preliminary Approval of Proposed Settlement. The Court has conducted a preliminary evaluation of the proposed settlement ("Settlement") as set forth in the Agreement. Based on this preliminary evaluation, the Court finds that: (a) the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate, and within the range of possible approval; (b) the Settlement has been negotiated in good faith at arm's length between experienced attorneys familiar with the legal and factual issues of this case; (c) with respect to the forms of notice of the material terms of the Settlement to persons in the Settlement Class for their consideration (Exs. A, B, C, D and E submitted with

Plaintiffs' Supplemental Briefing filed on March 15, 2018, which include modifications requested by the Court during a telephone hearing held on March 9, 2018), that notice provides due and sufficient notice to the Settlement Class and fully satisfies the requirements of due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23; and (d) with respect to the proposed notice plan, that the notice program constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances. Therefore, the Court grants preliminary approval of the Settlement.

5. Class Certification for Settlement Purposes Only. The Court, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, conditionally certifies, for purposes of this Settlement only, the following Settlement Class:

All persons in the United States to whom JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A., or any affiliate or agent acting on its behalf, made one or more telephone calls to a cellular telephone through the use of an automatic telephone dialing system or a prerecorded or artificial voice on or after April 20, 2012, through the date of preliminary approval, regarding a mortgage or home equity line of credit account and who, prior to being called, orally requested that they not be called. Excluded from the Settlement Class are all persons who timely and validly request exclusion from the Settlement Class.

6. In connection with this conditional certification, the Court makes the following preliminary findings:

- (a) The Settlement Class appears to be so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable;
- (b) There appear to be questions of law or fact common to the Settlement Class for purposes of determining whether the Settlement should be approved;
- (c) Plaintiffs' claims appear to be typical of the claims being resolved through the Settlement;
- (d) Plaintiffs appear to be capable of fairly and adequately protecting the interests of all members of the Settlement Class in connection with the Settlement;

(e) For purposes of determining whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate, common questions of law and fact appear to predominate over questions affecting only individual members of the Settlement Class. Accordingly, the Settlement Class appears to be sufficiently cohesive to warrant settlement by representation; and

(f) For purposes of the Settlement, certification of the Settlement Class appears to be superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient settlement of the claims of the Settlement Class.

7. Class Representative. The Court appoints the two named Plaintiffs to act as representatives of the Settlement Class pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

8. Class Counsel. The Court appoints Abbas Kazerounian and Jason A. Ibey of Kazerouni Law Group, APC and Joshua B. Swigart of Hyde & Swigart as Class Counsel pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

9. Final Approval Hearing. At 2:30 P.M. on November 1, 2018, in Courtroom 2308 of the Richard B. Russell Federal Building, United States Courthouse, 75 Ted Turner Drive, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303-3309, or at such other date and time later set by Court Order, this Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on the fairness, adequacy and reasonableness of the Agreement and to determine whether to: (a) finally approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate to the Settlement Class; (b) find that the Class Notice as given was the best notice practicable under the circumstances, is due and sufficient notice to the Settlement Class, and fully satisfies the requirements of due process and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23; (c) approve the plan of distribution of the Fund; (d) finally certify the Settlement Class; (e) confirm that Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class Members (except those who have timely and validly

requested to opt out of the Settlement Class) have released all Released Claims and are permanently barred and enjoined from asserting, commencing, prosecuting, or continuing any of the Released Claims against the Released Parties; and (f) dismiss the Action with prejudice, without costs to any Party, except as provided in this Agreement. At the Final Approval Hearing, the Court will also determine whether Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and expenses, and service awards to Plaintiffs, should be granted, and in what amount. No later than July 14, 2018, which is sixty (60) calendar days after the Notice Deadline, Plaintiffs must file papers in support of Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and expenses and the service awards to Plaintiffs. No later than October 18, 2018, which is fourteen (14) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, papers in support of final approval of the Settlement and response to any written objections must be filed. If a Settlement Class Member would like to speak at the Final Approval Hearing, he, she or it must file a notice with the Court providing name, address, telephone number and the signature of the Settlement Class Member no later than August 13, 2018, which is ninety (90) calendar days after the Notice Deadline.

10. Settlement Administrator. The Court hereby appoints Kurtzman Carson Consultants LLC as the Settlement Administrator.

11. Class Notice. The Court approves the proposed plan for giving notice to the Settlement Class directly (using e-mail and post cards), through a one-time publication in a print publication with nationwide circulation and through establishment of a Settlement Website, as more fully described in Plaintiffs' Motion and the Agreement ("Notice Plan"). The Notice Plan, in form, method and content, complies with the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and due process, and constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances. The Court hereby directs the Parties and the Settlement Administrator to

complete all aspects of the Notice Plan no later than May 15, 2018, which is sixty (60) calendar days after entry of this Order (“Notice Deadline”).

12. The Settlement Administrator will file with the Court by no later than October 18, 2018, which is fourteen (14) days prior to the Final Approval Hearing, proof that notice was provided in accordance with the Agreement and this Order.

13. Opt-Out and Objection Deadline. Persons in the Settlement Class who wish to either object to the Settlement or request exclusion from the Settlement Class must do so by August 13, 2018, which is ninety (90) calendar days after the Notice Deadline. Persons in the Settlement Class may not both object and opt-out. If a person both requests to opt-out and objects, the request to opt-out will control.

14. Exclusion from the Settlement Class. To request exclusion from the Settlement Class, a person in the Settlement Class must follow the directions in the Class Notice and send a compliant request to the Settlement Administrator at the address designated in the Class Notice by the Opt-Out and Objection Deadline. Exclusion requests must include: (a) the full name and address of the Settlement Class Member requesting exclusion; (b) any telephone numbers called by JPMC; (c) the following statement: “I/we request to be excluded from the settlement in the Barrow action” or a substantially similar statement that unambiguously communicates a desire to be excluded from the Settlement; and (d) for mailed opt-out requests, the Settlement Class Member’s signature, and for opt-out requests submitted via the Settlement Website, the Settlement Class Member’s electronic signature. Exclusion requests must be signed by the Settlement Class Member who is requesting exclusion. No request for exclusion will be valid unless timely submitted and all of the information described above is included. No Settlement Class Member, or any person acting on behalf of or in concert or participation with that

Settlement Class Member, may exclude any other Settlement Class Member from the Settlement Class.

15. The Settlement Administrator will retain a copy of all requests for exclusion. Not later than fourteen (14) days before the Final Approval Hearing, the Settlement Administrator will file, under seal, with the Court a declaration that lists all of the exclusion requests received.

16. If a timely and valid exclusion request is made by a person in the Settlement Class, then the Agreement and any determinations and judgments concerning the Settlement will not bind the excluded person. However, if a person in the Settlement Class submits both an exclusion request and a claim form, the claim form will control and the person will be considered a Settlement Class Member.

17. All Settlement Class Members who do not opt-out in accordance with the terms set forth herein will be bound by all determinations and judgments concerning the Settlement, whether favorable or unfavorable to the Settlement Class.

18. Objections to the Settlement. To object to the Settlement, Settlement Class Members must follow the directions below and in the Class Notice and file a written objection with the Court by the Opt-Out and Objection Deadline. Settlement Class Members also must mail the objection by the Opt-Out and Objection Deadline to each of the following: (a) Class Counsel – Abbas Kazerounian, Kazerouni Law Group, APC, 245 Fischer Avenue, Suite D1, Costa Mesa, CA 92626; and (b) JPMC’s Counsel – Julia B. Strickland and Arjun Rao, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, 2029 Century Park East, Los Angeles, California 90067. In connection with an objection, the Settlement Class Member must: (a) attach documents establishing, or provide information sufficient to allow the Parties to confirm, that the objector is a Settlement

Class Member; (b) include a statement of such Settlement Class Member's specific objections; and (c) state the grounds for objection, as well as identify any documents which such objector desires the Court to consider. The Court will not consider an objection unless the objection is filed with the Court, mailed to Class Counsel and JPMC's Counsel and includes all of the foregoing information.

19. Any Settlement Class Member who fails to timely comply with Paragraph 18 will not be permitted to object to the Settlement at the Final Approval Hearing, will be foreclosed from seeking any review of the Settlement by appeal or other means, will be deemed to have waived his, her or its objections, and will be forever barred from making any objections in the Action or any other related action or proceeding.

20. For any objection filed, the Clerk of the Court is ordered to redact any social security number, the street address and telephone number to protect the objector's privacy. The objector's name and city, state and zip code, as well as the objection, will not be redacted.

21. Stay of Other Proceedings. Pending the final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, all pre-trial proceedings and briefing schedules in the Action are stayed.

22. Pending the final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, Plaintiffs and all persons in the Settlement Class are hereby stayed and enjoined from commencing, pursuing, maintaining, enforcing or prosecuting, either directly or indirectly, any Released Claims in any judicial, administrative, arbitral or other forum, against any of the Released Parties. Such injunction will remain in force until the Court enters the Final Approval Order or until such time as the Parties notify the Court that the Settlement has been terminated. Nothing herein will prevent any person in the Settlement Class, or any person actually or

purportedly acting on behalf of any such person (s), from taking any actions to stay or dismiss any Released Claim(s). This injunction is necessary to protect and effectuate the Agreement, this Preliminary Approval Order, and the Court's flexibility and authority to effectuate the Agreement and to enter judgment when appropriate, and is ordered in aid of this Court's jurisdiction and to protect its judgments.

23. If for any reason whatsoever this Settlement is not finalized or the Settlement as detailed in the Agreement is not finally approved by the Court, the certification of the Settlement Class shall be void and the Parties and the Action will return to the status quo as it existed prior to the Agreement, and no doctrine of waiver, estoppel or preclusion will be asserted in any proceedings, in response to any motion seeking class certification or otherwise asserted at any other stage of the Action or in any other proceeding. No agreements, documents or statements made by or entered into by any Party in connection with the Settlement may be used by Plaintiffs, any person in the proposed Settlement Class, JPMC or any other person to establish liability, any defense and/or any of the elements of class certification, whether in the Action or in any other proceeding.

24. In the event that the Settlement is not approved, or is terminated, canceled or fails to become effective for any reason, the remaining Fund (including accrued interest), less expenses and taxes incurred or due and owing and payable from the Fund in accordance with this Agreement, shall be returned to JPMC within five (5) business days following the event triggering non-approval, termination, cancellation, or failure to become effective.

25. No Admission of Liability. The Agreement and any and all negotiations, documents, and discussions associated with it, will not be deemed or construed to be an admission or evidence of any violation of any statute, law, rule, regulation or principle of

common law or equity, or of any liability or wrongdoing by JPMC, or the truth of any of the claims. Evidence relating to the Agreement will not be discoverable or used, directly or indirectly, in any way, whether in the Action or in any other action or proceeding, except for purposes of demonstrating, describing, implementing or enforcing the terms and conditions of the Agreement, this Order and the Final Approval Order.

26. Reasonable Procedures to Effectuate the Settlement. Counsel are hereby authorized to use all reasonable procedures in connection with approval and administration of the Settlement that are not materially inconsistent with this Order or the Agreement, including making, without further approval of the Court, minor changes to the form or content of the Class Notice and Claim Form and other exhibits that they jointly agree are reasonable and necessary. The Court reserves the right to approve the Agreement with such modifications, if any, as may be agreed to by the Parties without further notice to persons in the Settlement Class.

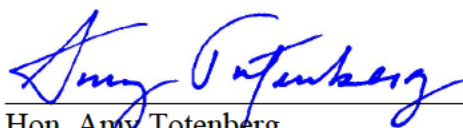
27. Schedule of Future Events. Accordingly, the following are the deadlines by which certain events must occur:

May 15, 2018 [60 days after the date of this Order]	Deadline for notice to be provided in accordance with the Agreement and this Order (Notice Deadline)
July 14, 2018 [60 days after the Notice Deadline]	Deadline for filing of Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Service Awards
August 13, 2018 [90 days after the Notice Deadline]	Deadline to file objections or submit requests for exclusion (Opt-Out and Objection Deadline)
August 13, 2018 [90 days after the Notice Deadline]	Deadline for Settlement Class Members to Submit a Claim Form (Claim Period)

<p>October 18, 2018 [14 Days Prior to Final Approval Hearing]</p>	<p>Deadline for Parties to file the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) List of persons who made timely and proper requests for exclusion (under seal);(2) Proof of Class Notice; and(3) Motion and memorandum in support of final approval, including responses to any objections.
<p>November 1, 2018 at 2:30 P.M. [No earlier than 195 days from the entry of this Order]</p>	<p>Final Approval Hearing</p>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 16, 2018



Hon. Amy Totenberg
United States District Judge