

HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

DAVID HANSON, individually and on  
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL  
and COSTCO WHOLESALE  
CORPORATION,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 16-cv-001661-RAJ

ORDER

**I. INTRODUCTION**

This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff David Hanson’s unopposed motion for preliminary approval of class certification and class action settlement. Dkt. # 34. For the reasons stated below, the Court **GRANTS** the Motion.

**II. BACKGROUND**

On October 24, 2016, Plaintiff filed this case alleging that Defendants MGM Resorts International (“MGM”) and Costco Wholesale Corporation (“Costco”) (collectively, “Defendants”), violated the Electronic Fund Transfers Act (“EFTA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1693, *et seq.*, and other state laws. Dkt. # 1. Defendant MGM is a hospitality and entertainment company that sells gift cards to consumers, which are redeemable at MGM’s casinos, resorts, and affiliates (“MGM Gift Cards”). *Id.* at ¶¶ 22-24. Costco is a

1 membership-based wholesale warehouse club where MGM Gift Cards are available for  
2 purchase. *Id.* at ¶ 26.

3 Costco displayed signs advertising MGM Gift Cards that also stated that an  
4 “[i]nactivity fee will apply.” *Id.* at ¶ 27. The MGM Gift Cards also indicate that a  
5 monthly inactivity fee would be assessed 18 months from a date specified on the cards, on  
6 cards showing no activity. In March of 2015, Plaintiff purchased 140 MGM Gift Cards at  
7 a Costco in Seattle, Washington. *Id.* at ¶¶ 10, 36. The terms printed on each MGM Gift  
8 Card state that a monthly inactivity fee would be assessed “18 months from March 2015  
9 on cards showing no activity,” and that \$2.50 monthly maintenance fee would be  
10 deducted from the card balance “after 18 months of no activity from the date printed on  
11 the front of the card.” *Id.* at ¶¶ 32, 33, 38, 39. However, Plaintiff alleges that he was  
12 assessed a monthly fee of \$2.50 beginning 12 months after his purchase. *Id.* at ¶ 40.

13 On October 24, 2016, Plaintiff filed this action against MGM and Costco on behalf  
14 of himself and similarly situated consumers who purchased MGM gift cards and incurred  
15 the same or similar inactivity fees. *Id.* at ¶ 41. Less than one month after Plaintiff filed  
16 his Complaint, Defendants represent that they fully refunded every MGM Gift Card on  
17 which an inactivity fee was prematurely assessed. Dkt. ## 16, 34. Defendants then filed a  
18 motion to dismiss, which was granted in part and denied in part. Dkt. ## 16, 28. Plaintiff  
19 alleges (1) a claim against MGM for breach of contract; (2) a claim against MGM and  
20 Costco for violation of the Electronic Funds Transfer Act (“EFTA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1693, *et*  
21 *seq.*; (3) a claim against Costco for violation of Washington’s Consumer Protection Act  
22 (“CPA”), RCW 19.86.010, *et seq.*; (4) a claim against MGM for breach of express  
23 warranty; and (5) a claim against Costco for breach of express warranty. Dkt. # 1.  
24 Hanson brings the first and fourth claims individually and on behalf of a nationwide class,  
25 the second individually and on behalf of a nationwide EFTA subclass, the third  
26 individually and on behalf of a nationwide Washington CPA class, and the fifth  
individually and on behalf of a nationwide Costco subclass. He seeks actual, declaratory,

1 and injunctive relief.

2 Following the ruling on Defendants' motion to dismiss, the parties reached a  
3 settlement agreement. Dkt. # 34. The proposed Settlement Agreement provides for a  
4 settlement class of all individuals in the United States who, from October 24, 2010 to the  
5 date of preliminary approval of the settlement, purchased an MGM Gift Card and were  
6 assessed an inactivity fee that was deducted from the balance of funds remaining on the  
7 Gift Card. Dkt. # 34 Ex. 1. Plaintiff represents that there are approximately 22,500  
8 settlement class members. Dkt. # 36. The Settlement Agreement also provides for a  
9 settlement fund in the amount of \$150,000.00 from which each class member that submits  
10 a valid claim form will receive a *pro rata* portion. Any attorneys' fees, costs, claims  
11 administration costs, and an incentive award will also be drawn from this settlement fund.  
12 *Id.* In exchange for a portion of the settlement fund, settlement class members agree to  
13 release Defendants from any and all claims relating in any way to the assessment of  
14 inactivity fees on class members' MGM Gift Cards. *Id.*

### 15 III. ANALYSIS

#### 16 A. Motion for Certification of the Class.

17 The parties' agreement to settle this matter is not itself a sufficient basis for  
18 approving the settlement. The settlement would require the Court to certify a class and  
19 dispose of the claims of its members. The Court has an independent obligation to protect  
20 class members. *Silber v. Mabon*, 957 F.2d 697, 701 (9th Cir. 1992). Even for a class  
21 certified solely for purposes of settlement, the Court must ensure that the class and its  
22 proposed representatives meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23  
23 ("Rule 23"). *Staton v. Boeing Co.*, 327 F.3d 938, 952 (9th Cir. 2003). In addition, the  
24  
25  
26

1 Court must ensure that the settlement is “fair, reasonable, and adequate.” Fed. R. Civ. P.  
2 23(e)(2).

3 Plaintiff proposes that the Court certify the class as follows:

4 All individuals in the United States who, from October 24, 2010  
5 to the date of preliminary approval of the settlement, purchased  
6 an MGM Gift Card and were assessed an inactivity fee that was  
7 deducted from the balance of funds remaining on the Gift Card.

8 Dkt. # 34 Ex. 1 at 8.

9 The court first considers whether the class Plaintiff hopes to certify satisfies the  
10 four prerequisites of Rule 23(a): numerosity, commonality, typicality, and adequacy of  
11 representation. The Court will then turn to whether the class satisfies one of the three sets  
12 of requirements of Rule 23(b). After that, the Court will address whether the settlement  
13 the parties have reached is, at least on a preliminary basis, fair, reasonable, and adequate.

14 1. Rule 23(a): Numerosity, Commonality, Adequacy, and Typicality.

15 The class Plaintiff hopes to certify satisfy the numerosity and commonality  
16 requirements of Rule 23(a). The parties submit that the approximate size of the proposed  
17 class is 22,500 individuals. Dkt. # 36. Joinder in this case would be impracticable. Fed.  
18 R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1). In addition, the Court finds that there is a common question for all  
19 class members: Did Defendants’ conduct in representing that inactivity fees will only  
20 apply after eighteen months of inactivity, and charging such fees after twelve months of  
21 inactivity, violate the EFTA and other state laws? Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2); *Mazza v. Am.*  
22 *Honda Motor Co., Inc.*, 666 F.3d 581, 589 (9th Cir. 2012) (commonality only requires a  
23 single significant question of law or fact).

24 While the numerosity and commonality requirements focus on the class, the  
25 typicality and adequacy requirements focus on the class representative. The representative  
26 must have “claims or defenses . . . [that] are typical of the claims or defenses of the class,”

1 and must “fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P.  
2 23(a)(3)-(4).

3 The requirement of typicality is also met. Plaintiff’s claims are identical to every  
4 other member of the proposed settlement class. Plaintiff, like the other class member, was  
5 allegedly prematurely charged inactivity fees on his MGM Gift Cards after twelve months  
6 of inactivity despite the representations on the cards themselves. *See Hanlon v. Chrysler*  
7 *Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1020 (9th Cir. 1998) (representative’s claims are typical “if they  
8 are reasonably coextensive with those of absent class members; they need not be  
substantially identical.”).

9 Questions of a class representative’s adequacy dovetail with questions of his  
10 counsel’s adequacy. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)(4) (“Class counsel must fairly and adequately  
11 represent the interests of the class.”). The court has no difficulty concluding that counsel  
12 has provided and will likely continue to provide adequate representation for the proposed  
13 class. Additionally, the claims and interests of Plaintiff are not in conflict with any  
14 interests of the proposed class. Plaintiff shares the same interest in securing relief for the  
15 claims at issue in this case, and there is no allegation or evidence of any conflict of  
16 interest. Plaintiff has also demonstrated his willingness to diligently prosecute this case  
17 and has actively participated in this litigation, assisting his counsel with requests for  
information and engaging with counsel regarding potential settlement. Dkt. # 35.

18 2. Rule 23(b)(3): Predominance and Superiority

19 1. *Predominance*

20 To meet the predominance requirement, common questions of law and fact must be  
21 “a significant aspect of the case . . . [that] can be resolved for all members of the class in a  
22 single adjudication.” *Mazza v. Am. Honda Motor Co., Inc.*, 666 F.3d 581, 589 (9th Cir.  
23 2012) (quoting *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1022). To make this determination, the Court must  
24  
25  
26

1 analyze the elements of the underlying cause of action. *Erica P. John Fund, Inc. v.*  
2 *Halliburton Co.*, 563 U.S. 804, 809 (2011).

3 While there are several different claims at issue in this matter, there are several  
4 common factual and legal questions shared by the class members that represent a significant  
5 aspect of this case. Such questions include: 1) whether members of the proposed class were  
6 charged inactivity fees on their MGM Gift Cards; 2) whether Defendants failed to comply  
7 with the relevant disclosure requirements; 3) whether Defendants led settlement class  
8 members to believe that an inactivity fee would not be assessed before a certain amount of  
9 time had passed; 4) whether Defendants' assessment of inactivity fees constituted a breach  
10 of its duties to the proposed class members; and 5) whether the class members are entitled  
11 to damages. All of these are common issues that can be resolved for all members of the  
12 potential class in a single adjudication.

13 Rule 23(b)(3) does not require that a class be devoid of all individualized inquiries  
14 in order to be certified, only that the common questions of law and fact be a "significant  
15 aspect of the case." *Mazza*, 666 F.3d at 589. Therefore, despite the possible individualized  
16 nature of damages calculations in this matter, the Court nevertheless finds that "[c]lasswide  
17 resolution of the common issues is superior to the filing of multiple and duplicative lawsuits  
18 and will result in the efficient and consistent resolution of overarching questions." *Helde v.*  
19 *Knight Transp., Inc.*, No. C12-0904RSL, 2013 WL 5588311, at \*5 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 9,  
20 2013); *see also Blackie v. Barrack*, 524 F.2d 891, 905 (9th Cir. 1975) ("The amount of  
21 damages is invariably an individual question and does not defeat class action treatment.").

## 22 2. Superiority

23 Finally, the Court considers whether the class is superior to individual suits.  
24 *Amchem*, 521 U.S. at 615. "A class action is the superior method for managing litigation if  
25 no realistic alternative exists." *Valentino v. Carter-Wallace, Inc.*, 97 F.3d 1227, 1234-35  
26 (9th Cir. 1996). This superiority inquiry requires a comparative evaluation of alternative

1 mechanisms of dispute resolution. *Hanlon*, 150 F.3d at 1023. Rule 23(b)(3) provides a  
2 non-exhaustive list of factors relevant to the superiority analysis. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).

3 Plaintiff represents that individual damages in this case would be small given that  
4 Defendants have already refunded the inactivity fees that were assessed, and that the  
5 availability of statutory damages would be uncertain because of that refund. Further,  
6 violations of the EFTA provide for up to \$1,000 in damages. 15 U.S.C. § 1693m. If the  
7 class members were forced to bring individual claims for relatively small amounts of  
8 damages, then many members would most likely refrain after realizing “the disparity  
9 between their litigation costs and what they hope to recover.” *Wiener v. Dannon Co.*, 255  
10 F.R.D. 658, 672 (C.D. Cal. 2009) (quoting *Local Joint Exec. Bd. of Culinary/Bartender*  
11 *Trust Fund v. Las Vegas Sands, Inc.*, 244 F.3d 1152, 1163 (9th Cir. 2001)). Accordingly,  
the superiority requirement of Rule 23(b)(3) is satisfied.

### 12 **B. Motion for Approval of Class Counsel**

13 In determining whether the proposed class counsel can fairly and adequately  
14 represent the interests of the proposed class, the Court must consider counsel’s: 1) work in  
15 identifying or investigating potential claims; 2) experience in handling class actions or  
16 other complex litigation and the type of claims asserted in this case; 3) knowledge of the  
17 applicable law; and 4) resources committed to representing the class. Fed. R. Civ. P.  
18 23(g)(1)(A)(i)-(iv). The Court reviewed Plaintiff’s counsel’s supporting documentation  
19 and assessed counsel’s representation of Plaintiff’s claims thus far, and finds that  
20 Plaintiff’s counsel has established that it can fairly and adequately represent the interests  
of the proposed class. Plaintiff’s Motion for Approval of Class Counsel is **GRANTED**.

### 21 **C. Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Settlement Agreement.**

22 The Court’s findings on the issue of whether the settlement is fair, reasonable, and  
23 adequate are necessarily preliminary.

24 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e) requires court approval of all class action  
25 settlements, which may be granted only after a fairness hearing and a determination that the  
26 settlement taken as a whole is fair, reasonable, and adequate. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2).

1 Courts have recognized that settlement class actions present unique due process concerns  
2 for absent class members, in part because of the risk of collusion between class counsel and  
3 the defendants. *In re Bluetooth Headset Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 654 F.3d 935, 946 (9th Cir.  
4 2011). To assess the fairness of a settlement, the Court considers the following factors:

5 “(1) the strength of the plaintiff’s case; (2) the risk, expense, complexity, and  
6 likely duration of further litigation; (3) the risk of maintaining class action  
7 status throughout the trial; (4) the amount offered in settlement; (5) the extent  
8 of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings; (6) the experience  
9 and view of counsel; (7) the presence of a governmental participant; and (8)  
10 the reaction of the class members of the proposed settlement.

11 *In re Online DVD-Rental Antitrust Litig.*, 779 F.3d 934, 944 (9th Cir. 2015) (quoting  
12 *Churchill Vill., L.L.C. v. Gen. Elec.*, 361 F.3d 566, 575 (9th Cir. 2004)). As there is no  
13 governmental participant and potential class members have not yet been informed of the  
14 proposed settlement, factors seven and eight will not be considered for the purposes of  
15 preliminary approval of this proposed settlement.

16 *1. Strength of case, risk of further litigation, and risk of maintaining class action*  
17 *status*

18 Plaintiff recognizes that further litigation presents risk as to class certification,  
19 findings of liability, and the difficulty of proving actual damages. Setting aside Plaintiff’s  
20 other state law claims, the EFTA provides for “any actual damage sustained by [the]  
21 consumer as a result” of noncompliance with the EFTA. 15 U.S.C. § 1693m(a)(1). As each  
22 class member would need to individually prove detrimental reliance on the inactivity fee  
23 disclosures in order to recover actual damages, Defendants would likely argue that Plaintiff  
24 cannot establish commonality, typicality, and predominance, should litigation proceed in  
25 this matter and Plaintiff moves for class certification. Plaintiff also acknowledges that he  
26 would most likely pursue statutory damages under the EFTA due to the difficulty in proving  
actual damages because of the alleged refund of inactivity fees. Further, due to the lack of  
legal precedent related to the EFTA, particularly with respect to gift cart inactivity fees, the  
outcome of Plaintiff’s case is questionable. *See Cody v. SoulCycle Inc.*, No.



1 CV156457MWFJEMX, 2017 WL 6550682, at \*3 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 3, 2017). Therefore, these  
2 factors weigh in favor of settlement approval.

3 *2. Amount offered in settlement*

4 The Settlement Agreement also provides for a settlement fund in the amount of  
5 \$150,000.00 from which each class member that submits a valid claim form will receive a  
6 *pro rata* portion. Any remaining amount will not revert to Defendants. Any attorneys'  
7 fees, costs, claims administration costs, and an incentive award will also be drawn from this  
8 settlement fund. *Id.* Class counsel has agreed to limit their request for attorneys' fees to no  
9 more than one-third of the Settlement Fund. The class representative will receive an  
10 incentive award in the amount of \$5,000. Plaintiff represents that the proposed class  
11 members were fully refunded for each inactivity fee charged, therefore, their only claim for  
12 relief would be statutory damages under the EFTA. Dkt. # 34 at 20. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C.  
13 § 1693m(a)(2)(B), the total recovery for the class cannot be more than the lesser of \$500,000  
14 or 1 per centum of the net worth of the defendant and there is no minimum recovery.  
15 Plaintiff argues that the \$150,000 settlement fund represents an "exceptional result"  
16 considering the prior refunds and the risks of continued litigation.

17 Class counsel contends that they "spent significant time, effort, and other resources  
18 investigating the case, identifying the claims asserted, prosecuting the case through all  
19 phases of litigation-including fully briefing Defendants' motion to dismiss – and  
20 ultimately negotiating a settlement" after "several rounds of arm's length negotiations.  
21 Dkt. # 35 at ¶¶ 7, 10. The Court will not assume that counsel intends to seek attorneys'  
22 fees in the full amount allowed under the settlement agreement, however, it is possible  
23 that counsel will seek the full award, or \$50,000. Subtracting the amount allotted for the  
24 class representative's incentive award, the remaining amount in the settlement fund would  
25 be \$95,000. Considering the potential difficulty in establishing actual damages in this  
26 case, the fact that the settlement fund represents one-third of the maximum statutory  
damages allowed under the EFTA, and that the statutory damages are purely at the

1 discretion of the Court, the amount offered in settlement weighs in favor of preliminary  
2 approval.

3 *3. Extent of discovery completed and the stage of proceedings*

4 Plaintiff contends that the amount of discovery completed and the stage of the  
5 proceedings demonstrate that the parties had enough information to make an informed  
6 decision about settlement. Prior to engaging in settlement negotiations, the parties represent  
7 that they had full understanding of their positions and views of the case, and were able  
8 assess the benefits of a potential settlement. The parties reached the proposed settlement  
9 after several rounds of arm's-length negotiations. Dkt. # 35 at ¶¶ 6, 7. The Court finds that  
10 this factor also weighs in favor of settlement approval.

11 *4. Experience and views of Class Counsel*

12 Class Counsel have extensive experience litigating class actions. Counsel believes  
13 that the settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in the best interests of the class.  
14 This settlement was reached after multiple communications and is a result of careful  
15 consideration and analysis. Dkt. # 35. This factor also weighs in favor of preliminary  
16 settlement approval.

17 **D. Attorneys' Fees and Incentive Award**

18 As noted above, Class Counsel has agreed to limit their request for attorneys' fees to  
19 no more than one-third of the Settlement Fund. The Ninth Circuit has established a  
20 benchmark award for attorney's fees of twenty-five percent of the common fund. *Torrise*  
21 *v. Tucson Elec. Power Co.*, 8 F.3d 1370, 1376 (9th Cir. 1993). "Selection of the benchmark  
22 or any other rate must be supported by findings that take into account all of the  
23 circumstances of the case." *Vizcaino v. Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, 1048 (9th Cir.  
24 2002). Such findings include: that counsel achieved exceptional results for the class, the  
25 case was extremely risky for counsel, and counsel's performance generated benefits beyond  
26 the cash settlement fund. *Id.* at 1048-1049. Plaintiff represents that Defendants' decision  
to refund inactivity fees was a direct result of counsel's efforts in this case and that the  
settlement fund represents a significant payment for each class member. Considering the

1 amount to be divided between 22,500 potential class members, the Court finds that the cash  
2 payment each participating member may receive is not necessarily “significant.” However,  
3 it is notable that Class Counsel’s actions resulted in full refunds for potential class members.  
4 The Court expects that counsel will provide detailed billing records when it files its motion  
5 for attorney’s fees and costs. Accordingly, the Court will reserve its ruling on attorney’s  
6 fees until it has reviewed Plaintiff’s motion for attorney’s fees to determine whether an  
7 upward departure to one-third of the common fund is warranted. For the purpose of this  
8 preliminary Order, the relevant provision in the proposed settlement agreement only secures  
9 the Plaintiff’s agreement not to seek fees in excess of one-third of the settlement fund.  
10 Dkt. # 34 Ex. 1.

11 Plaintiff also seeks an incentive award in the amount of \$5,000. To avoid the  
12 danger of named plaintiffs bringing class actions to increase their own monetary gain,  
13 courts generally preclude named plaintiffs from obtaining such a preferred position in the  
14 settlement. *Staton v. Boeing Co.*, 327 F.3d 938, 976 (9th Cir. 2003). With that in mind, the  
15 Ninth Circuit has approved incentive awards for named plaintiffs when the district court  
16 takes into consideration relevant factors, such as “the actions the plaintiff has taken to  
17 protect the interests of the class, the degree to which the class has benefitted from those  
18 actions, . . . the amount of time and effort the plaintiff expended in pursuing the litigation .  
19 . . and reasonable fears of workplace retaliation.” *Id.* at 977 (internal quotations omitted).  
20 Plaintiff has actively participated in this litigation and his efforts have required significant  
21 time commitments. His efforts led to refunds for potential class members as well as this  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

1 additional cash settlement. Dkt. # 35 at ¶ 9. For the purposes of this preliminary  
2 approval, the Court finds that an award of \$5,000 to Plaintiff is appropriate.

3 **E. Class Notice Package.**

4 For a class certified under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(1), “the court may  
5 direct appropriate notice to the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2)(A). The Court finds that  
6 the form of notice that counsel provided is reasonable.

7 **IV. CONCLUSION**

8 For the reasons stated above, the court **GRANTS** Plaintiff’s unopposed motion for  
9 preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement. Dkt. # 34. It is **ORDERED** that:

10 1. A hearing regarding final approval of the Settlement (“Final Approval  
11 Hearing”) will be held on **September 28, 2018 at 1:30p.m.** before the Honorable Richard  
12 A. Jones, to determine, among other things: (i) whether final approval of the Settlement  
13 Agreement should be granted and (ii) whether Class Counsel’s application for attorney’s  
14 fees and expenses and an incentive award to the Class Representative should be granted.  
15 **No later than October 15, 2018**, Plaintiff must file his papers in support of Class  
16 Counsel’s application for attorneys’ fees and expenses. **No later than September 14,**  
17 **2018**, Plaintiff must file his papers in support of final approval of the Settlement  
18 Agreement and in response to any objections.

19 2. The Court approves the Notice in the Settlement Agreement, including the  
20 manner and content of direct notice attached as Exhibits B–C to the Settlement Agreement  
21 (“Direct Notice”) and the creation of the Settlement Website, as more fully described in  
22 the Settlement Agreement and attached as Exhibit D thereto. The Court finds that this is  
23 the best practicable notice under the circumstances and is reasonably calculated, under all  
24 the circumstances, to apprise the Settlement Class of the pendency of this Litigation, the  
25 terms of the Settlement Agreement, and their right to object to the Settlement Agreement  
26 or exclude themselves from the Settlement Class. The Court further finds that Direct

1 Notice and the other forms of Notice in the Settlement Agreement are reasonable,  
2 constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons entitled to receive notice, and  
3 meet the requirements of due process and Rule 23. The Direct Notice shall be transmitted  
4 not less than thirty (30) days after the entry of this Order.

5 3. Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Heffler Claims Group is hereby  
6 appointed as Settlement Administrator and shall be required to perform all of the duties of  
7 the Settlement Administrator as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and this Order.

8 4. Any Settlement Class Member who wishes to be excluded from the  
9 Settlement Class must send a written request for exclusion to the Settlement  
10 Administrator, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to the address provided in the direct  
11 notice and Settlement Website (“Request for Exclusion”). To be valid, any request for  
12 exclusion must (i) be in writing; (ii) identify the case name “*Hanson v. MGM Resorts*  
13 *International, et al.*, Case No. 2:16-cv-01661 (W.D. Wash.),” (iii) state the name, address  
14 and telephone number of the Person in the Settlement Class seeking exclusion; (iv) be  
15 physically signed by the individual(s) seeking exclusion; and (v) be postmarked or  
16 received by the Settlement Administrator on or before the Objection/Exclusion Deadline.  
17 Each request for exclusion must also contain a statement to the effect that “I/We hereby  
18 request to be excluded from the proposed Settlement Class.” Mass or class opt outs shall  
19 not be allowed. If the proposed settlement is approved, any Settlement Class Member who  
20 has not submitted a timely and proper written Request for Exclusion from the Settlement  
21 Class shall be bound by all subsequent proceedings, orders, and judgments in this  
22 Litigation, even if he or she has pending, or subsequently initiates, litigation against  
23 Defendants relating to any of the Released Claims in the Settlement Agreement.

24 5. Any Settlement Class Member who has not filed a timely and proper written  
25 request for exclusion and who complies with the requirements of this Paragraph may  
26 comment in support of, or in opposition to, any aspect of the proposed Settlement either

1 on his or her own or through an attorney hired at his or her expense. Any papers submitted  
 2 in support of said objection shall be received by the Court at the Final Approval Hearing,  
 3 only if the Person making an objection files, on or before the Objection/Exclusion  
 4 Deadline approved by the Court and specified in the Notice, notice of his or her intention  
 5 to do so and at the same time (a) files copies of such papers he or she proposes to submit  
 6 at the Final Approval Hearing with the Clerk of the Court, (b) files copies of such papers  
 7 through the Court's CM/ECF system if the objection is from a Settlement Class Member  
 8 represented by counsel, who must also file an appearance, and (c) sends copies of such  
 9 papers via mail, hand, or overnight delivery service to both Class Counsel and Defense  
 10 Counsel at the following locations:

11 **Class Counsel**

12 Rafey S. Balabanian  
 13 Eve-Lynn Rapp  
 14 EDELSON PC  
 15 123 Townsend, Suite 100  
 16 San Francisco, California 94107  
 17 Telephone: (415) 212-9300  
 18 Facsimile: (415) 373-9435

11 **Defense Counsel**

12 Aravind Swaminathan  
 13 Charles Ha  
 14 ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE  
 15 LLP  
 16 701 5th Avenue, Suite 5600  
 17 Seattle, WA 98104-7097  
 18 Telephone: (206) 839-4300  
 19 Facsimile: (206) 839-4301

17 6. Any Settlement Class Member who intends to intervene and object to this  
 18 Settlement must present the objection in writing, which must be personally signed by the  
 19 objector and must include: (i) the Settlement Class Member's full name and current  
 20 address, (ii) a statement that he or she purchased a MGM Gift Card and were assessed an  
 21 inactivity fee that was deducted from the balance of funds remaining on the Gift Card, (iii)  
 22 the specific grounds for the objection, (iv) all documents or writings that the Settlement  
 23 Class Member desires the Court to consider, (v) the name and contact information of any  
 24 and all attorneys representing, advising, or in any way assisting the objector in connection  
 25 with the preparation or submission of the objection or who may profit from the pursuit of  
 26

1 the objection; and (vi) a statement indicating whether the objector intends to appear at the  
2 Final Approval Hearing (either personally or through counsel, who must file an  
3 appearance). All written objections must be filed and postmarked, emailed, or submitted  
4 to the Settlement Website no later than the Objection/Exclusion Deadline.

5 7. Any Settlement Class Member who fails to timely file a written objection  
6 with the Court and notice of his or her intent to appear at the Final Approval Hearing in  
7 accordance with the terms of this Order and as detailed in the Notice, and at the same time  
8 provide copies to designated counsel for the Parties, shall not be permitted to object to the  
9 Settlement Agreement at the Final Approval Hearing, and shall be foreclosed from  
10 seeking any review of the Settlement Agreement by appeal or other means and shall be  
11 deemed to have waived his or her objections and be forever barred from making any such  
12 objections in this Litigation or any other action or proceeding.

13 8. If the Settlement is finally approved, all Settlement Class Members who  
14 have not filed a timely and proper request for exclusion shall release the Released Parties  
15 from all Released Claims, as described in Section 3 of the Settlement Agreement.

16 9. This Order shall become null and void, and shall be without prejudice to the  
17 rights of the Parties, all of whom shall be restored to their respective positions in the  
18 Litigation as of the date of the signing the Settlement Agreement, if (i) the proposed  
19 Settlement is not finally approved by the Court, or does not become effective in  
20 accordance with the Settlement Agreement's Effective Date (as defined in the Settlement  
21 Agreement), pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement; or (ii) the Settlement  
22 Agreement is terminated pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement for any  
23 reason. In such event, the certification of the Settlement Class and any Final Judgment or  
24 other order entered by the Court in the Litigation in accordance with the terms of the  
25 Settlement Agreement shall be deemed vacated, *nunc pro tunc* and without prejudice to  
26 Defendants' right to contest class certification, and the Parties shall be returned to the

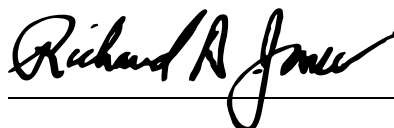
1 *status quo ante* with respect to the Litigation as if the Settlement Agreement had never  
2 been entered into.

3 10. This Order shall be of no force and effect if the Settlement does not become  
4 final and shall not be construed or used as an admission, concession, or declaration by or  
5 against Defendants of any fault, wrongdoing, breach, or liability, or by or against Plaintiff  
6 or the Settlement Class Members that their claims lack merit or that the relief requested in  
7 the class complaint in this Litigation is inappropriate, improper, or unavailable, or as a  
8 waiver by any party of any defenses they may have.

9 11. The Court authorizes the Parties to take all necessary and appropriate steps  
10 to implement the Settlement Agreement.

11 12. The Court authorizes the Parties to take all necessary and appropriate steps  
12 to implement the Settlement Agreement.

13  
14 Dated this 31st day of July, 2018.

15  
16  
17 

18  
19 The Honorable Richard A. Jones  
20 United States District Judge