

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re PAYMENT CARD INTERCHANGE	:	MDL No. 1720(BMC)(JAM)
FEE AND MERCHANT DISCOUNT	:	
ANTITRUST LITIGATION	:	Civil No. 05-5075(BMC)(JAM)
	:	
	:	RULE 23(b)(3) CLASS COUNSEL'S
This Document Relates To:	:	MONTHLY REPORT REGARDING THIRD-
	:	PARTY ENTITIES
ALL ACTIONS.	:	
	:	
	X	

I. INTRODUCTION

This is the thirty-fourth monthly report regarding third-party claims filers following the Court's request.

Rule 23(b)(3) Class Counsel ("Class Counsel") and Epiq continue to receive communications regarding third parties. Calls received via the toll-free number are tracked and reported to Class Counsel from Epiq. Class Counsel also directly receives calls and emails regarding third parties that are followed up on immediately. Additionally, Class Counsel regularly searches online using various keywords to monitor new entrants. Epiq received 17 new contacts regarding third parties since the last report. Epiq also forwards to Class Counsel certain specific issues which are discussed below.

Now that the claims-filing deadline has passed, there have been fewer issues related to the solicitation of class members for filing. Monthly reports will continue.

II. STATUS OF PREVIOUS ORDERS TO SHOW CAUSE

A. Pacific Travel & Services LLC

Epiq alerted Class Counsel to a concerning issue related to Pacific Travel & Services LLC ("Pacific Travel"), a company that appeared to be signing up merchants for claims filing and demanding pre-payment for services based on purported expected settlement benefits that were not true. Pursuant to the Court's July 22, 2025 Minute Entry, Class Counsel filed a report on August 15, 2025 regarding continued efforts to communicate with Pacific Travel. ECF 9646. On August 18, 2025, the Court entered a text-entry Order directing Epiq to attempt to contact the approximately 80 class members who signed up for claims-filing services with Pacific Travel and determine whether such claims can be filed. On the same day, Class Counsel met with Epiq to discuss the Court's Order and Epiq began work on the project immediately.

Epiq has made progress in its efforts to contact class members who signed up for claims-filing services with Pacific Travel. The following chart details Epiq's efforts as of August 24, 2026 to contact affected merchants. Current counts:

Merchants with Phone Number	70
Unable to Reach	43
Left Voicemail	21
Spoke with Owner/Employee	6
Merchants with Email	39
Merchants with Mailing Address	73
Merchants without Contact Information	3
Merchants with Registrations in Process	33

Class Counsel directed Epiq to provide a mailing in English and Vietnamese to all Pacific Travel merchants with mailing addresses. In response to the Court's October 10, 2025 text-entry Order, Epiq conducted additional outreach, sending the message again. That outreach was completed on October 16 (emails) and October 17 (paper).

That message is reproduced below:

ACTION REQUESTED – Payment Card Settlement: File a Claim

Dear Business Owner,

This letter relates to a claim that was recently filed for [BUSINESS NAME] by a company called Pacific Travel & Services LLC. Pacific Travel and Services is a company that contacted businesses and asked for advanced payment for its services. Following an order from the Court, the claims that were filed by Pacific Travel and Services have been withdrawn.

You do not have to pay for services to file a claim. As the Court-appointed Class Administrator, we help business owners file claims for free. If you are the owner or employee of [BUSINESS NAME] (Tax Identification Number ending in XXXXX), and you want to file a claim, please email us at info@paymentcardsettlement.com or call 1-800-625-6440.

For more information about the Settlement, visit www.PaymentCardSettlement.com or call 1-800-625-6440. The website is available in eight languages, including Vietnamese. If you need assistance in another language, our call center can help you.

If you have more questions and want to talk with a lawyer about this letter or your options, please let us know by emailing info@paymentcardsettlement.com. We will connect you with the lawyers appointed to represent you in the case.

As reported in the October 10, 2025 Status Report, Class Counsel and Epiq held a call with a person who had worked with Mr. Nguyen to sign up class members. ECF 9676. She stated that she had provided Mr. Nguyen with \$19,000 that had been at least a large portion of money that was to

have been her percentage. *Id.* at 3. She claimed she had additional funds she wished to return as well. *Id.* There was a brief discussion regarding how to determine which class members were owed refunds. *Id.* The person later wrote to Epiq stating that she was under a doctor's care and also studying for a major examination, but that she would get back to Epiq. *Id.* at 3-4. The person reengaged with Epiq and spoke to representatives there on October 15, 2025. ECF 9679 at 3. There have been additional calls since then as reported to the Court on October 24 and November 7, 2025. *See* ECFs 9679, 9687.

Pursuant to the Court's order regarding third-party filer Pacific Travel, Epiq continued to reach out regarding the remaining merchants on whose behalf Pacific Travel attempted to file claims. Since the last report, a merchant reached out to Epiq with questions regarding his claim that Epiq was able to answer. Additionally, Epiq was contacted by the person that had previously worked with Mr. Nguyen. She reported that she "repaid \$4,963" to a class member who had been signed-up.

She sent an email expressing concerns regarding the funds she says Mr. Nguyen retained and asked whether another letter to the Attorney General would be possible or helpful. Based on the lack of communication from the U.S. Attorneys' Office, it is unknown whether an additional letter would be of any benefit. Class Counsel has attempted to call and email another person who worked with Pacific Travel. A translator was used to ensure the email was in English and Vietnamese. To date, despite several follow ups, this person has not responded. Attempts to reach them continue. Multiple emails have been sent, including most recently on August 25, 2026.

Class Counsel has also continued efforts to reach Mr. Nguyen, again via email most recently on August 25, 2026. He has also received courtesy copies of all filings that mention Pacific Travel.

Epiq has continued to reach out to the remaining merchants on whose behalf Pacific Travel attempted to file claims.

Finally, as of August 25, 2026, Class Counsel received no response to its letters to the U.S. Attorney in New Jersey.

It has been a year since issues with Pacific Travel have been pending before the Court. At this time, Class Counsel does not expect there to be any resolution and plans to discontinue the monthly reporting on this issue, unless new information comes to light.

III. OTHER MATTERS

A. Betz & Baril, PLLC and ClickFunds, LLC

On May 21, 2026, the Respondents filed a Notice of Motion for Limited Reconsideration and Limited Clarification of the May 7, 2026 Memorandum Decision and Order (“Motion”). ECF 9867. On June 4, 2026, Class Counsel’s response was filed. ECF 9878. The Court denied the Motion on June 9, 2026. ECF 9883.

On June 24, 2026, Class Counsel updated the Court with additional issues regarding Respondents’ failure to comply with the Court’s orders and that same day the Court directed Respondent’s to respond by June 30, 2026. ECFs 9900, 9901; 6/24 text-entry Order. On June 30, 2026 Respondents’ response was filed. ECF 9908. The issues raised in those letters have now been resolved. On June 4, 2026, the Respondents filed a notice of appeal with the Second Circuit. ECF 9880. That appeal was not perfected and the Second Circuit has indicated that it will be dismissed, although the order has not yet issued. Beginning mid-June, Betz & Baril began emailing clients who had signed up for claims-filing services. Those merchants were given a month to decide whether to continue with Betz & Baril or to cancel their contract and have their claims administratively filed by Epiq at no cost.

As of August 24, 2026, Betz & Baril transferred a total of 984 unique merchants to Epiq (to date). Status details are below. The vast majority are approved, of which 665 have filed a claim.

Authorization Status	TINs
Approved	928
Deficient	11
Conflict	41
Withdrawn	4

There are 41 Tax Identification Numbers (“TINs”) in conflict, most of which now consist of the owner being in conflict with another TPF although a few are in conflict with other owner-

employees. Conflict notices have been sent for all TINs with instructions on how to resolve the conflict.

Regarding the four withdrawn TINs, three were in conflict and the transferred owner decided to withdraw. Epiq has reached out to all three to confirm the action or correct it based on their response. One was withdrawn by Epiq because it belongs to a payment facilitator. A notice was sent to them explaining the issue and allowing them 30 days to register their actual TIN.

The few deficient TINs have received a defect notice describing what they need to submit to show proof of authority. Betz & Baril was also deficient for these TINs. As such, Epiq will still require documentation that demonstrates the registrants' right to pursue the claim.

B. Reconciliation Reports

Third-party filing companies are required to provide Epiq reconciliation reports after receiving and then sending out settlement funds. This report is due to Epiq 90 days after receipt of funds. For the most part Epiq has received timely reports. Three third parties were late responding and Class Counsel reached out to those entities. All of the third parties contacted have since submitted the required reports.

C. Complaints From Class Members Regarding Third-Party Filing Companies Being Non-Responsive

Epiq has flagged an issue for Class Counsel that appears to be a growing concern. A number of class members in the past month have called the toll-free hotline or emailed the administrator to complain that they have had difficulty getting responses from third-party filing companies that the class members contracted with for claims-filing services. According to Epiq, there have been numerous new complaints about a lack of responsiveness. Epiq has been reaching out to various third parties to remind them of their responsibilities and has also provided class members with contact information, where available. In the current reporting period, Epiq reached out to six companies regarding a claimed lack of responsiveness. All six responded either to Epiq or the Class member. Epiq will continue to follow its process detailed below.

The following details Epiq's current process when they receive a class member complaint regarding responsiveness. For the initial complaint, Epiq provides the third-party contact information found in their records to the class member and asks the class member to try again.

If they contact Epiq again saying that they are still unable to get a response from the third-party, Epiq sends an email, including the class member as a recipient, requesting that the third-party reach out to the class member and confirm their contact information in Epiq's records. The email also includes a deadline to reply, generally 48 hours. Currently, there are no known issues that have reached this stage in the process.

D. Outreach to Third Parties by Epiq

As Class Counsel previously reported, since August 18, 2023, Epiq has been performing specific outreach efforts to known third-party claims filers.

As of August 24, 2026, 698 third-party claim filers have registered 10 or more merchant TINs. This count increased by one since the last month's report because one registrant updated their relationship type to reflect that they are a third-party filer and not an owner-employee.

The third parties' total representation consists of 1,001,031 TINs, which is the same as last month's report. Note that this count includes every instance of a third-party claims filer registering a merchant TIN. If two third-party claims filers register a single TIN, and that TIN goes into the Research Request Process, the TIN is then counted twice.

IV. CONCLUSION

Class Counsel will continue to apprise the Court regarding issues with third-party claims filers via monthly reports and will bring urgent matters to the Court's attention via letter. The next monthly report will be filed on September 25, 2026.

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