In re Quality Systems, Inc. Securities Litigation

COURT:United States District Court for the Central District of CaliforniaCASE NUMBER:SACV13-01818CASE LEADERS:Gerald H. Silk, Avi Josefson

This is a securities fraud class action on behalf of purchasers of Quality Systems, Inc. ("QSI" or the "Company") common stock during the period from May 26, 2011 through July 25, 2012, inclusive (the "Class Period"), alleging claims pursuant to Sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 against QSI; the Company's founder and Chairman, Sheldon Razin; its Chief Executive Officer, Steven T. Plochocki; and its Chief Financial Officer, Paul Holt (collectively, "Defendants").

Lead Plaintiffs Have Settled the Action for \$19 Million

The Court-appointed Lead Plaintiffs, Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and City of Miami Fire Fighters' and Police Officers' Retirement Trust, have reached a settlement of this action for \$19,000,000 in cash with Defendants that resolves all claims in the action.

The Class consists of:

all persons or entities who purchased or otherwise acquired QSI common stock during the period from May 26, 2011 through July 25, 2012, inclusive, and were damaged thereby, except for certain persons and entities who are excluded from the Class by definition (*see* paragraph 18 of the Notice)

Following a hearing on November 19, 2018, the Court entered an Order granting Plaintiffs' motions for final approval of the Settlement and for attorneys' fees and expenses; entered a Final Judgment approving the Settlement as fair, reasonable and adequate; entered an order approving the Plan of Allocation for the proceeds of the Settlement; and entered an order awarding attorneys' fees and expenses.

On October 25, 2019, the Court authorized the initial distribution of the Net Settlement Fund to eligible Court-Approved Claimants. The initial distribution to eligible claimants occurred in December 2019. A second distribution of funds to eligible class members took place in August 2020.

The claims administration process has concluded and the net settlement fund has been fully disbursed. This matter is considered closed.

Background

QSI develops and sells practice management software to medical and dental providers, including software related to scheduling and billing. Throughout the Class Period, QSI portrayed itself as a high-growth company, repeatedly touting its record growth in revenue and earnings, and robust pipeline of business that contained hundreds of millions of dollars of software sales that the Company sought to realize within the next six to eight months. QSI also repeatedly issued bullish annual guidance to investors, stating that it was confident that it would achieve annual growth rates in earnings per share ("EPS") well in excess of 20%.

Lead Plaintiffs allege that, in truth, Defendants knew and recklessly disregarded that QSI's growth was materially slowing. Lead Plaintiffs allege that, throughout the Class Period, Defendants were privy to real-time data concerning the revenues and earnings of each of QSI's operating divisions, and QSI's guidance was continuously updated based



on that real-time data. Accordingly, Lead Plaintiffs contend that Defendants knew and recklessly disregarded that the fiscal 2012 guidance calling for earnings growth of as much as 33% was directly contradicted by the reality of QSI's performance.

On May 7, 2012, the Company announced that it was experiencing delays in closing sales, which raised investor concerns about the Company's fiscal 2012 performance. Following this announcement, QSI's stock price declined 17% over the next two trading days, falling from a closing price of \$36.99 on May 6 to a closing price of \$30.99 on May 8, on very high volume.

A few days later, on May 10, 2012, QSI revealed that its ability to generate earnings had materially slowed in fiscal 2012. Specifically, QSI announced that it would report EPS of between \$1.27 and \$1.30 for fiscal 2012 – or as much as 36% below its guidance. Following this announcement, QSI's stock price immediately declined 6%, falling from \$32.09 to \$30.12 on May 10, on extremely high volume.

Then, before the market opened on July 26, 2012, Defendants announced that the Company's EPS had materially declined from the year-ago quarter, and withdrew QSI's highly favorable fiscal 2013 guidance. That disclosure caused the price of QSI stock to decline from \$23.63 per share to \$15.95 per share on July 26, 2012.

On April 7, 2014, Lead Plaintiffs filed an Amended Complaint For Violations Of The Federal Securities Laws ("Amended Complaint"). In June 2014, Defendants filed a motion to dismiss the Amended Complaint, which Lead Plaintiffs opposed. In October 2014, the court granted the motion to dismiss. In January 2015, the court denied Lead Plaintiffs' motion for reconsideration. Following Lead Plaintiffs' appeal of these decisions, on July 28, 2017, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the district court's order and remanded for further proceedings.

Following the Court of Appeals' decision, Lead Plaintiffs and Defendants began formal discovery. After substantial document discovery and settlement negotiations, including before mediation before Gregory P. Lindstrom, Esq., of Phillips ADR, a nationally recognized mediator, the parties reached an agreement to settle all claims in the action for \$19 million.

Case Documents

- Notice of (I) Pendency of Class Action and Proposed Settlement; (II) Settlement Hearing; and (III) Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Expenses ("Notice")
- October 25, 2019 Order Approving Distribution Plan
- November 19, 2018 Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motions for Final Approval of Settlement and Attorneys' Fees, Expenses, and Lead Plaintiffs' Award
- November 19, 2018 Final Judgment and Order of Dismissal with Prejudice
- November 19, 2018 Order Approving Plan of Allocation
- November 19, 2018 Order Awarding Attorneys' Fees and Expenses and Award to Lead Plaintiffs Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4(a)(4)
- October 15, 2018 Lead Plaintiffs' Notice of Motion and Motion for Final Approval of Settlement and Approval of Plan of Allocation



- October 15, 2018 Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Lead Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Settlement and Approval of Plan of Allocation
- October 15, 2018 Lead Counsel's' Notice of Motion and Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses and Award to Lead Plaintiffs Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4)
- October 15, 2018 Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Lead Counsel's Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses and Award to Lead Plaintiffs Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4)
- October 15, 2018 Joint Declaration of Robert R. Henssler Jr. and Benjamin Galdston in Support of (A) Lead Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Settlement and Approval of Plan of Allocation, and (B) Lead Counsel's Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses and Award to Lead Plaintiffs Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4)
- October 15, 2018 Declaration of Ornel N. Cotera in Support of (A) Lead Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Settlement; and (B) Lead Counsel's Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses
- October 15, 2018 Declaration of Arkansas Teacher Retirement System in Support of (A) Lead Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of Settlement; (B) Lead Counsel's Motion for an Award of Attorneys' Fees and Reimbursement of Litigation Expenses; and (C) Lead Plaintiff Award
- October 15, 2018 Declaration of Eric J. Miller Regarding Notice Dissemination, Publication and Report on Requests for Exclusion Received To Date
- October 15, 2018 -Declaration of Robert R. Henssler Jr. Filed on Behalf of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP in Support of Lead Counsel's Application for Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses
- October 15, 2018 Declaration of Benjamin Galdston Filed on Behalf of Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP in Support of Application for Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses
- October 15, 2018 Declaration of Robert D. Klausner Filed on Behalf of Klausner, Kaufman, Jensen & Levinson in Support of Application for Award of Attorneys' Fees and Expenses
- August 3, 2018 Addendum to Order Granting Preliminarily Approval of Class Action Settlement and Lifting Stay
- July 30, 2018 Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement and Lifting Stay
- July 16, 2018 Lead Plaintiffs' Notice of Motion and Unopposed Motion for (I) Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement; (II) Certification of the Class; (III) Approval of Notice to the Class, and Incorporated Memorandum of Law
- July 16, 2018 Stipulation of Settlement
- July 28, 2017 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decision
- April 7, 2014 Amended Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws
- November 19, 2013 Class Action Complaint