

UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

In re PowerSchool Holdings, Inc., and PowerSchool Group, LLC Customer Data Security Breach Litigation

In re PowerSchool · No. MDL No. 3149 · Decided April 18, 2025

SUMMARY

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation orders centralization of litigation arising from the PowerSchool customer data security breach. The Panel transfers the listed actions to the Southern District of California and assigns them to Judge Roger T. Benitez for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 1407.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Karen K. Caldwell; Nathaniel M. Gorton; Matthew F. Kennelly; David C. Norton; Dale A. Kimball; Madeline Cox Arleo
JURISDICTION	United States Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation
DECIDED	April 18, 2025
DOCKET	MDL No. 3149
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs in a Western District of Missouri action moved under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 to centralize 32 related actions involving the PowerSchool data-security breach.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	procedural transfer order

TOPICS

[civil procedure](#) [class actions](#) [discovery dispute](#) [negligence](#) [breach of contract](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[multidistrict litigation](#) [civil procedure](#) [data security litigation](#) [class actions](#) [privacy and data breach](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the actions involve common questions of fact warranting centralization under 28 U.S.C. § 1407.

2. Whether centralization will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation.
3. Which federal district should serve as the transferee district for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.

HOLDINGS

1. Centralization was warranted because the actions involved common questions of fact concerning the PowerSchool cybersecurity incident, and centralization would serve convenience and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation.
2. The Southern District of California was an appropriate transferee district for the centralized litigation.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“We find that the actions listed on Schedule A involve common questions of fact, and that centralization in the Southern District of California will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of this litigation.” (at 1)

“IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that actions listed on Schedule A are transferred to the Southern District of California and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Roger T. Benitez for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The actions arise from unauthorized access to PowerSchool's Student Information System, which schools use to store current and former students' and staff members' personal information. Plaintiffs include students, students' guardians, and school staff seeking overlapping nationwide and statewide class actions. The cases assert virtually identical claims for negligence, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment, and discovery will concern the breach, PowerSchool's data-security practices, and its notice to affected individuals.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Panel considered 32 pending actions in three districts and 23 related potential tag-along actions in eight additional districts. After reviewing the papers and hearing argument, the Panel granted centralization and transferred the actions listed on Schedule A to the Southern District of California for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In re StockX Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig., 412 F. Supp. 3d 1363 (J.P.M.L. 2019)
- In re [24]7.AI, Inc., Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig., 338 F. Supp. 3d 1345 (J.P.M.L. 2018)
- In re Hudson's Bay Co. Customer Data Sec. Breach Litig., 326 F. Supp. 3d 1372 (J.P.M.L. 2018)

- In re Best Buy Co., Cal. Song-Beverly Credit Card Act Litig., 804 F. Supp. 2d 1376 (J.P.M.L. 2011)

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