

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 the centralization of 32 actions involving the PowerSchool customer data security breach, along with related actions, in the Southern District of California. The Panel finds common factual questions concerning the breach, PowerSchool's data security practices, and notification of affected individuals, and assigns the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings to Judge Roger T. Benitez. The action identified in the supplied title, White v. PowerSchool Holdings, Inc., is listed on Schedule A as an action transferred from the Eastern District of California.

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	Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation
DECIDED	April 18, 2025
DOCKET	MDL No. 3149
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs moved under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 to centralize 32 related data-security-breach actions pending in three federal districts, with 23 additional related actions identified as potential tag-along actions.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under 28 U.S.C. § 1407, the Panel determines whether actions involve common questions of fact and whether centralization will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	transfer order
PARTIES	Plaintiffs in the Western District of Missouri J.J. action listed on Schedule A v. Responding parties opposing or not supporting centralization, PowerSchool Holdings, Inc., PowerSchool Group LLC

TOPICS

class actions civil procedure discovery dispute negligence breach of contract

PRACTICE AREAS

multidistrict litigation civil procedure data security litigation class actions consumer protection

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the related actions involve common questions of fact warranting centralization under 28 U.S.C. § 1407.
2. Whether centralization would 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. The actions listed on Schedule A involve common questions of fact, and centralization under 28 U.S.C. § 1407 will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation.
2. The Southern District of California is an appropriate transferee district for the litigation.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“These actions share factual questions arising from a recent cybersecurity incident involving unauthorized access to PowerSchool’s Student Information System software, which schools use to store current and former students’ and staff members’ personal information.”

“Centralization will avoid the possibility of inconsistent pretrial rulings, particularly with respect to class certification.”

“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.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The actions arise from a cybersecurity incident involving unauthorized access to PowerSchool's Student Information System, which schools use to store personal information of current and former students and staff. Plaintiffs seek overlapping nationwide and statewide class actions and assert virtually identical claims involving negligence, breach of contract, and unjust enrichment, with discovery expected to address the breach, PowerSchool's data-security practices, and notification of victims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation considered the parties' written submissions and a hearing session concerning centralization and selection of a transferee district. The Panel ordered the actions listed on Schedule A transferred to the Southern District of California, with that court's consent, for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings before Judge Roger T. Benitez.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The actions listed on Schedule A are transferred to the Southern District of California and, with that court's consent, assigned to the Honorable Roger T. Benitez for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings.

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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