

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

SOUTHERN AIRWAYS CORPORATION,

Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant

v.

CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION AA
CASE NO.: 50-2023-CA-014213

BENJAMIN RYAN AND
NATHANIEL HILLARD,

Defendants/Counter-Plaintiffs.

**ORDER GRANTING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL
OF CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Based on the Unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of the Class-Action Settlement between Southern Airways Corporation, on one hand, and Benjamin Ryan and Nathaniel Hillard, on behalf of themselves and the proposed Settlement Class, on the other hand, and for good cause shown, Preliminary Approval is GRANTED as set forth below in accordance with Florida Rule 1.220 and other applicable law.

1. The Settlement Agreement, of March 6, 2026, including its exhibits (the “Settlement Agreement”), and the definition of words and terms contained therein, are incorporated by reference in this Order.

2. Class Certification for Settlement Purposes Only. Pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.220, the Court certifies, the following Settlement Classes:

Defendant Class: All of Southern’s pilots subject to Southern’s TRAP agreement who have been sued to collect the TRAP debt in Palm Beach County.

TRAP Agreement Class: All of Southern’s pilots subject to Southern’s TRAP agreement who have not been sued to collect the TRAP debt in Palm Beach County.

Defendant Disgorgement Sub-class: All members of the Defendant Class who

made a payment or partial payment to Southern pursuant to the TRAP.

3. In connection with certification, the Court makes the following findings for settlement purposes only:

- a. Each Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable;
- b. There are questions of law or fact common to each Settlement Class for purposes of determining whether this Settlement should be finally approved;
- c. The Class Representatives' claims are typical of the claims being resolved through the proposed Settlement;
- d. The Class Representatives and their counsel are capable of fairly and adequately protecting the interests of the Settlement Class Members in connection with the proposed Settlement;
- e. Common questions of law and fact predominate over questions affecting only individual persons in each Settlement Class, making each Settlement Class sufficiently cohesive to warrant settlement by representation; and
- f. Certification of the Settlement Classes is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient resolution of the claims of the Settlement Classes.

4. Class Counsel. Rachel Dempsey of Towards Justice and Jeffrey L. Newsome, II of Varnell & Warwick, PA are hereby APPOINTED as Class Counsel.

5. Class Representatives. Benjamin Ryan and Nathaniel Hillard are hereby APPOINTED as Class Representatives.

6. Preliminary Approval of the Settlement is within the Range of Reasonableness. The Court preliminarily finds the Settlement within the range of reasonableness based on:

- a. the complexity, duration, and procedural posture of the Action;
 - b. the risks and costs of continued litigation;
 - c. the significant relief for Settlement Class Members;
 - d. the adequacy of representation provided by Class Representative and Class Counsel;
 - e. the absence of fraud or collusion between the parties in reaching the Settlement; and
 - f. the equitable allocation of funds between Class Members.
7. Class Notice. The parties' postcard for notifying Class Members is APPROVED for distribution in accordance with the Settlement Agreement. The parties are permitted to make non-substantive changes prior to distribution and posting, including applicable deadlines and contact information.
8. CAC Services Group LLC is APPOINTED as Settlement Administrator.
9. Opt-Outs, Opt-Ins, and Objections. Members of the Settlement Class shall have the right to opt out or object to this Settlement pursuant to the procedures included in the Settlement Agreement and the postcard. The deadline to opt out or object is 45 days from the sending of the initial notices.
10. Final Approval Hearing. A Final Approval Hearing is set for **Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.** Eastern, in Courtroom 10C or remotely via ZOOM as follows:

The Zoom link for **Circuit Civil Division AA** is:
882 1173 5733 (no passcode required)
Join URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88211735733> [us02web.zoom.us]

Dial-in Information:
+1 8884754499 US Toll-Free
+1 8778535257 US Toll-Free

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida.

502023CA014213XXXAMB 05/28/2026
Gregory M. Keyser
Gregory M. Keyser Circuit Judge

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Gregory M. Keyser
Circuit Judge

A copy of the foregoing was filed via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal System and was sent to:

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