

Not for Publication

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION,**

Plaintiff,

v.

EDWARDS, et al.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 17-0393 (ES) (SCM)

**ORDER RESCHEDULING FINAL
APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND
RELATED RELIEF, INCLUDING A
FINAL BAR ORDER**

SALAS, DISTRICT JUDGE

This matter comes before the Court on the Receiver’s (i) Request for Entry of Preliminary Approvals and Scheduling Order and (ii) Motion for Entry of Order Approving Proposed Settlement, the Proposed Notice of Settlement, and to Enter the Bar Order and Final Judgment (the “Motion”). (D.E. No. 327). And the parties having previously consented to Magistrate Judge Steven C. Mannion’s jurisdiction (D.E. No. 152); and the Court having preliminarily approved the Settlement agreement through its June 27, 2019 Scheduling Order (D.E. No. 330); and the Court having originally set September 30, 2019 as the date for the Final Approval Hearing (*id.* ¶ 2); and based on counsels’ representations during the telephone conference held before the Undersigned on December 4, 2019, it appearing that that the Final Approval Hearing was adjourned to permit the parties time to resolve an issue relating to a Settlement provision requiring that the Settlement be finally approved by an Article III Judge (*see, e.g.*, D.E. No. 353); and the Undersigned having reasserted jurisdiction over this matter on November 26, 2019 pursuant to the parties’ consent to vacate the referral to the Magistrate Judge (D.E. No. 369); and the Court finding that pursuant to

the June 27, 2019 Scheduling Order, the Court may change “the date, time, and place of the Final Approval Hearing . . . without further notice other than that which may be posted by means of ECF in this case” (D.E. No. 330 ¶ 8);

IT IS on this 6th day of December 2019,

ORDERED that the Final Approval Hearing is set for **December 18, 2019 at 10:30 a.m.** before **the Honorable Esther Salas**, United State District Judge for the District of New Jersey, at **Courtroom 5A, Martin Luther King Building & U.S. Courthouse, 50 Walnut Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101**; the purposes of the Final Approval Hearing will be to: (i) determine whether the terms of the Settlement, including the Distribution Plan, should be finally approved by the Court; (ii) determine whether the Bar Order and Judgment attached as Exhibit F to the Settlement agreement should be entered by the Court; (iii) rule upon any objections to the Settlement, the Distribution Plan, and the Bar Order and Judgment; (iv) rule upon the Receiver’s request for approval of the professional fees and expenses of its general counsel, Wallet, and special counsel, Whitefotd Taylor; and (v) rule upon such other matters as the Court may deem appropriate.

s/Esther Salas
Esther Salas, U.S.D.J.