

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

If you are or were a student enrolled at the University of Southern California (“USC”) who, at any time between July 14, 2016 and March 4, 2026, was charged certain late fees imposed by USC, and have not received a full refund or waiver of such fees, you may benefit from a class action settlement.

READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY. YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS ARE AFFECTED WHETHER YOU ACT OR DO NOT ACT. PLEASE CHECK THE SETTLEMENT WEBSITE AT WWW.USCFEESETTLEMENT.COM REGULARLY FOR UPDATES AND FURTHER DETAILS.

The Superior Court of California authorized this Notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

- A class action settlement (“Settlement”) has been reached in the civil lawsuit *Chaisson, et al. v. University of Southern California*, Case No. 20STCV27062 (“Lawsuit”). This notice summarizes the Settlement. For the precise terms and conditions of the Settlement, please see the Settlement Agreement, available at the Settlement Website, located at www.USCFeeSettlement.com, or by contacting Class Counsel as explained below. Please do not telephone the Court or the Court Clerk’s Office to inquire about this Settlement or the claim process.
- The Lawsuit concerns charges by the University of Southern California (“USC”) to student accounts in the form of Late Registration Fees, Late Settlement Fees, and monthly Finance Charges (“Late Fees”) from July 14, 2016 to March 4, 2026 (“Class Period”). Plaintiffs in the Lawsuit allege that these Late Fees are unlawful penalties void and unenforceable under California Civil Code §1671, unlawful forfeitures under California Civil Code § 3275, and unlawful and unfair in violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* USC vigorously denies the allegations and contends the Late Fees fully comply with California law.
- The Settlement may affect your legal rights whether you act or do not act. Please read this notice carefully.
- As explained in more detail below, at this time you have the following options:
 - **Remain** in the Settlement, obtaining its benefits (see Question 8) but give up certain rights (see Question 9), and by participating in the Settlement, you can:
 - Submit a **Claim Form** (see Questions 10-12) to obtain a **Claim Payment** (see Questions 13-16);
 - File or make an **Objection** (see Questions 20-22, 28); or
 - **Do nothing** (see Question 23).
 - Or **exclude** yourself from the Class and Settlement by submitting an Opt-Out (see Questions 17-19).
- The Settlement may affect the rights of all persons who meet a Court-certified definition of the class in the Lawsuit (the “Class” and its “Class Members”). To be a Class Member, you must be a current or former student of USC who paid or were charged one or more Late Fees at any time during the Class

Period, and have not received a full refund or waiver of such fees. See Questions 5-7, below, for further information about being a Class Member.

- Under the terms of the Settlement, USC will pay claims of certain Class Members up to a class-wide total of \$2,000,000. If you are a Class Member, were assessed one or more Late Fees during the Class Period that USC did not wholly waive or reimburse, and you timely submit a valid Claim Form, you may be able to receive a payment for 30% of your unwaived and unreimbursed Late Fees (“Claim Payment”), up to a maximum Claim Payment of \$225. However, the amount of your Claim Payment may be adjusted downward on a pro rata basis so that the total amount of Claim Payments to the entire Class is not more than \$2,000,000. Depending on your circumstances and preference, your Claim Payment, should you receive one, may be paid by adjustment to your account balance with USC, by electronic payment through PayPal or Zelle to your bank account, or by a check mailed to you. See Questions 13-16, below, for further information about the Claim Payments.
- To receive a Claim Payment, a Class Member must timely submit a completed Claim Form. The Claim Form is available at www.USCFeeSettlement.com. The Claim Form can be submitted electronically from the website or printed, signed and mailed to a specified address. See Questions 10-12, below, for further information about the Claim Form.
- Additionally, under the Settlement, USC will waive (or decline to assess) 30% of the amount of Late Fees assessed (or that could have been assessed) during the two-year period commencing upon the Effective Date of the Settlement (the “Late Fee Waiver”). USC also will not assess Finance Charges for a period of ten (10) weeks, beginning on a date at USC’s discretion within one hundred eighty (180) days after the Effective Date of the Settlement (the “Finance Charge Pause”). Class Members and other USC students do not need to submit a Claim Form to receive these additional benefits of the Settlement.

YOUR RIGHTS AND CHOICES IF YOU FALL WITHIN THE DEFINITION OF THE CLASS

<i>YOU MAY:</i>		<i>DUE DATE</i>
FILE A CLAIM FORM	This is the <u>only</u> way that you may receive a Claim Payment. If you fail to file a Claim Form but do not exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will still be bound by the Settlement including the Settlement’s release of claims and may still benefit from a Late Fee Waiver and/or the Finance Charge Pause, but you will not receive a Claim Payment. For more details about submitting a Claim Form, see Questions 10-12 below.	Must Be Received by June 5, 2026 (the “Claims Deadline”)
DO NOTHING	If you do nothing, you will still be bound by the Settlement including the Settlement’s release of claims and may still benefit from a Late Fee Waiver and/or the Finance Charge Pause, but you will not receive a Claim Payment. See Question 23 below.	
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	Ask to “Opt-Out” of the Settlement. If you opt out of the Settlement, you cannot get any benefits provided in the Settlement solely to Class Members, but you keep your right to sue USC regarding the claims in the lawsuit. For more details about opting out, see Question 17-19 below.	Must Be Received by May 4, 2026 (the “Opt-Out Deadline”)
OBJECT	Send a written Objection to the Court (or make one at the Fairness Hearing) about why you do not like the Settlement. Even if you object, you can still receive a Claim Payment by submitting a valid Claim Form. If you choose to object, you may not also Opt-Out of the proposed Settlement, as only participating Class Members may object to a proposed Settlement. For more detailed Objection instructions, see Questions 20-22 below.	Written Objection Must Be Received by May 4, 2026 (the “Objection Deadline”)

- These rights and choices – **and the deadlines to exercise them** – are further explained below. These deadlines will be extended 20 days only for Class Members who receive a re-mailed Post Card Notice.
- These **deadlines may be moved, cancelled or otherwise modified by the Court**, so please check the Settlement Website at www.USCFeeSettlement.com regularly for updates and further details.
- The Court has preliminarily approved this Settlement but not yet decided whether to grant it final approval. Class Members will receive the benefits in the Settlement, including Claim Payments, the Late Fee Waiver and/or the Finance Charge Pause, only if the Court finally approves the Settlement and after any appeals are resolved.
- All documents that are submitted by mail shall be deemed received on the date that they are postmarked. All documents submitted by fax, email, or other electronic means shall be deemed received on the date they are transmitted.

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BASIC INFORMATION

1. Why did I get this Notice?

USC's records show that you may be a current or former USC student who was assessed one or more Late Fees assessed by USC during the Class Period. The Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles ("Court") ordered that this Notice be sent because you have the right to know about a Settlement that may affect you. You have legal rights and choices to make before the Court decides whether to approve the Settlement.

This Notice explains:

- What the lawsuit is about.
- Who is included in the Settlement.
- How the Settlement may benefit you.
- What your legal rights are.
- The Claim Form process.
- What and how Claim Payments will be made.
- Applicable deadlines.

2. What is the lawsuit about?

In this lawsuit, the Plaintiffs are two former USC students, Alejandra Chaisson and Grace Chong, who alleged that USC assessed Late Fees to them and to Class Members that are unlawful and unfair penalties under California law, and seek to have those fees refunded. USC vigorously denies these allegations and contends that its Late Fees fully comply with California law.

The Court has not issued a final ruling on the strengths or weaknesses of Plaintiffs' claims or USC's contentions in this lawsuit. Nevertheless, the Parties have agreed to the Settlement to avoid the risk and expense of further litigation. Plaintiffs believe that their claims have merit. USC believes that Plaintiffs' claims do not have merit. The Settlement is without an admission of liability by USC. Notwithstanding the dispute on the merits, Plaintiffs believe that the Settlement is fair and reasonable, and that given the risk and expense of further litigation it is in the best interests of the members of the Class to agree to the Settlement.

This case is pending in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. The full name of the action is *Chaisson, et al. v. University of Southern California*, No. 20STCV27062.

3. Why is this a class action?

In a class action, one or more people, called "class representative(s)," sue on behalf of other people who have similar claims. All these people together are a "class" or "class members." One court decides all the issues in the lawsuit for all class members, except for those who exclude themselves from the class. In a class action, the court has a responsibility to ensure that class representative(s) and the lawyers who represent them and the class prosecute and resolve the class claims fairly.

The Court has already certified the Lawsuit as a class action and appointed the Plaintiffs Alejandra Chaisson and Grace Chong as Class Representatives as their lawyers as Class Counsel. See Questions 24-25 for more information about Class Counsel.

4. Why is there a Settlement?

The Court has not ruled on the merits of Plaintiffs' claims or USC's contentions. The Settlement is without an admission of liability by USC. Instead, the parties agreed to a Settlement in order to avoid the risks and expense of further litigation. The class representatives and their attorneys think the Settlement is a fair and reasonable resolution of the lawsuit for all Class Members.

The Court has preliminarily approved the Settlement and ordered that this Notice be given to Class Members. The Court will make a final determination about the Settlement at a future hearing based on further submissions of interested parties. See Questions 26-28 about further Court proceedings affecting this Settlement.

The Settlement was negotiated between the Class Representatives and USC through their attorneys with the aid of a retired judge acting as a mediator.

WHO IS IN THE CLASS

5. How do I know if I am part of the Class?

The Court has certified a Class in the Lawsuit. The Class consists of all current and former students of USC who paid or were charged one or more Late Fees during the Class Period, and who have not received a full refund or waiver of such fees.

If this describes you, **you are automatically a Class Member unless you exclude yourself by following the steps to Opt-Out described in Questions 17-19 below.** Excluded from the Class are those individuals identified in Question 6 below. Class Members who do not exclude themselves from this Settlement through an Opt-Out will be bound by the Settlement, if approved by the Court, whether or not they submit a Claim Form, and will be prevented from bringing other claims covered by the Settlement. Those who exclude themselves from the Class will not be bound by the Settlement and will not receive any payments under the Settlement.

If you are not sure whether you are a Class Member, or have any other questions about the settlement, visit the website, www.USCFeeSettlement.com. You may also send questions to the Claim Administrator. See Question 17 for more information.

6. Is anyone who meets the definition of a Class Member automatically excluded from the Class?

Anyone who meets the definition of a Class Member but is a judicial officer to whom the Action is assigned is automatically excluded from the Class without needing to submit an Opt-Out. If you fall within the definition of the Class and are not automatically excluded based on the above, you will remain in the Class unless you exclude yourself as described in Questions 17-19.

7. What if someone else paid my USC tuition and fees? Are they included in the Class?

Class Members must have been current or former students enrolled at USC. Only Claims Members can submit a Claim Form or receive a Claim Payment.

THE SETTLEMENT BENEFITS – WHAT YOU MAY GET

8. What does the Settlement provide?

The Settlement permits Class Members to submit a Claim Form to receive a Claim Payment. USC will pay Claim Payments up to an aggregate amount of \$2,000,000 for all Class Members. A Claim Payment will be a one-time payment of 30% of the Late Fees charged to the Class Member during the Class Period excluding any amounts of those Late Fees that USC waived, wrote off, released, or previously settled, up to a maximum Claim Payment of \$225.00. However, the amount of each Claim Payment may be adjusted downward on a *pro rata* basis so that the total amount of Claim Payments is no more than \$2,000,000. Claim Payments will be administered by a third-party administrator selected by the Parties (“Claim Administrator”). A Class Member who does not submit a Claim Form will not receive a Claim Payment.

In addition to relief in the form of a Claim Payment, the Settlement also includes certain additional relief as more fully described in the Settlement. USC agrees to waive (or to decline to assess) Late Fees in an amount representing at least 30% of the amount of Late Fees assessed (or that could have been assessed) by USC during the two-year period commencing upon the Effective Date (the “Late Fee Waiver”). USC will also refrain from assessing new Finance Charges to its students for a period of ten (10) weeks, which will begin on a date at USC’s discretion within one hundred eighty (180) days after the Effective Date of the Settlement (the “Finance Charge Pause”). Class Members do not need to submit a Claim to receive these additional benefits of the Settlement.

9. What am I giving up by participating in the Settlement?

It is your choice to remain a Class Member participating in the Settlement, and if you do, all of the Court’s orders in this case will apply to you.

In addition, you are subject to the release that is set forth in the Agreement (“Release”). Under the Release, you are agreeing to fully, finally, and forever release, relinquish, and discharge any current or future claims you might have against USC that relate to the claims in the Lawsuit. You will not be allowed to sue or be part of any other lawsuit against USC about the claims in this Lawsuit after the Court approves the Settlement and it becomes effective. The definitions and terms in the Agreement relevant to the Release of Class Members are as follows:

“Released Claims” means any and all claims, demands, actions, causes of action, lawsuits, arbitrations, damages, liabilities, or penalties, whether federal or state, known or unknown, asserted or unasserted, regardless of legal theory, legal, equitable, or otherwise, that were alleged in the operative complaint, or reasonably could have been alleged in the operative complaint based upon the facts asserted in the operative complaint, or that arise out of USC’s Late Fee practices.

“Release Date” means the latest date on which USC sends to the Claim Administrator the full amount of funds to satisfy USC’s obligations to pay the amounts set forth in [Agreement] §§ 2.4 (Claim Payments to Class Members), 7.5 (Administrative and Notice Costs), 8.1 (Class Counsel’s Attorneys’ Fees and Costs) and 8.2 (Service Awards) of this Agreement

“Released Parties” means Defendant the University of Southern California and without limitation its past, present, and future successors and predecessors in interest, subsidiaries, affiliates, direct or indirect parents, wholly or majority-owned subsidiaries, divisions, affiliated and related entities, partners and privities, and each of USC’s past, present, and future officers, directors, trustees,

shareholders, employees, agents, principals, heirs, representatives, accountants, auditors, consultants, attorneys, insurers, and reinsurers.

“Releasing Parties” means each Named Plaintiff and each Class Member, and his or her respective former and present spouses, representatives, agents, attorneys, heirs, administrators, successors, and assigns, and any person who paid any tuition or fees on his or her behalf, provided that any Class Member who timely and properly excludes themselves under Section 6 of the Agreement shall not be included herein.

Release of Claims. As of the Release Date, the Releasing Parties will be deemed to have released the Released Parties of the Released Claims.

Named Plaintiffs’ Waiver of California Civil Code § 1542 Provisions. In addition to the release set out in Section 9.1 of the Agreement, the Named Plaintiffs (**but not other Class Members**) generally release the Released Parties and expressly waive and relinquish, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the provisions, rights, and benefits of California Civil Code § 1542, or any other similar provision under federal or state law. The Named Plaintiffs understand that California Civil Code § 1542 states:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

The Named Plaintiffs expressly waive and relinquish any and all rights and benefits that they may have under, or that may be conferred upon them by, the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, or any other law of any state or territory that is similar, comparable, or equivalent to Section 1542, to the fullest extent that they may lawfully waive such rights or benefits. In connection with such waiver and relinquishment, the Named Plaintiffs hereby acknowledge that they are aware that they or their attorneys may hereafter discover claims or facts in addition to or different from those that they now know or believe exist, but that it is their intention to hereby fully, finally, and forever settle and release all of their claims known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, that they have against the Released Parties. In furtherance of such intention, the release herein given by the Named Plaintiffs to the Released Parties shall be and remain in effect as a full and complete general release notwithstanding the discovery or existence of any such additional different claims or facts. Each Named Plaintiff expressly acknowledges that he/she has been advised by his/her attorney of the contents and effect of Section 1542, and with knowledge, each of the Named Plaintiffs hereby expressly waives whatever benefits he/she may have had pursuant to such section. Named Plaintiffs shall be deemed by operation of the Final Approval Order and Final Judgment to have acknowledged that the foregoing waiver was separately bargained for and a material element of this Agreement.

If you do not wish to be a Class Member participating in the Settlement, you must exclude yourself by submitting an Opt-Out. See Questions 17-19 regarding Opt-Outs.

CLAIM FORMS

10. How do I submit a claim for payment?

If you meet the definition of a Class Member and you wish to receive a Claim Payment, you must timely submit a complete Claim Form by June 5, 2026 (“Claim Deadline”). For certain Class Members who received a re-mailed Post Card Notice, the Claim Deadline will be extended by 20 calendar days.

To submit the Claim Form, you **must** complete the Claim Form and either submit it electronically at www.USCFeeSettlement.com by the Claims Deadline, or, print, sign and mail the Claim Form by the Claims Deadline to: *Chaisson v. University of Southern California*, c/o Settlement Administrator P.O. Box 25226 Santa Ana, CA 92799.

The Claim Form requires you to include the unique ID number that was emailed to you. In an effort to reduce fraudulent claims, each unique ID may only be used once.

The Claim Administrator will review each Claim Form. Claim Forms that do not meet the terms and conditions of the Agreement shall be rejected by the Claim Administrator. The Court will hold a Fairness Hearing to decide whether or not to approve the proposed Settlement. The Court must finally approve the proposed Settlement before any payments can be made. If a Claim is not contested, and if the Court grants final approval of the Settlement, you will receive payment for that Claim in accordance with the terms of the Settlement.

11. Can I submit multiple Claim Forms?

No. A Class Member may submit only one Claim Form. The Claim Administrator will ignore duplicate or multiple Claim Forms.

12. Can someone else submit a Claim Form on my behalf?

No. The Claim Form can only be submitted by a Class Member, and must be attested under penalty of perjury by the Claim Member.

PAYMENT PROCEDURES

13. How will I receive a Claim Payment?

The Settlement provides three method options for a Class Member to receive a Claim Payment: (1) a credit (adjustment) to his or her USC account; (2) an electronic transfer using PayPal or Zelle to the Class Member’s bank account; or (3) a check sent by mail. That is why the Claim Form requires each Class Member to select the preferred payment method of the three options, and to provide information for PayPal or Zelle if that option is selected.

At the time USC is determining the amount of funds to send the Claim Administrator for Claim Payments(which will be within 30 days after the Effective Date of the Settlement), USC will determine the status of each Class Member’s USC account. For accounts that have positive balances (that is, amounts still owed to USC) at that time, the Class Member will receive his or her Claim Payment as a credit to his or her USC account, regardless of the Class Member’s indicated preference for payment method. For accounts that have negative or zero balances, the Class Member will receive his or her Claim Payment according to that Class Member’s preference.

Any checks mailed to Class Members in connection with the Claim Payments will expire ninety (90) days from the date they are mailed, if not otherwise negotiated. For any checks that are not cashed as of the 91st day and/or any electronic payments that are not able to be completed by that date, the Claim Administrator shall provide the identity of such Class Members who have not cashed checks or processed PayPal or Zelle transfers to USC within seven (7) days and the amount of Claim Payments that were not cashed or processed (“Remainder”). If any Remainder exists, the parties will jointly request that the Court amend the Judgment to direct the Claim Administrator to pay the Remainder, plus any interest that has accrued thereon, to Scholarship America, Inc.

14. How is the amount of my payment determined? Can I dispute that amount?

USC will calculate the amount of your Claim Payment based on its financial records of your account. The amount of the Claim Payment is explained in Question 8 above.

If you think USC’s records of Late Fees assessed to you during the Class Period are not accurate, you can submit a dispute to the Claim Administrator. To review USC’s records, use USC’s online portal that you normally would use to access your account. To dispute USC’s records of Late Fees assessed to you during the Class Period, submit your dispute in writing to the Claim Administrator (along with documents supporting your position) by the Claim Deadline. The Claim Administrator may ask USC to provide additional relevant documents. The Claim Administrator has sole, binding and non-appealable authority to resolve your dispute. If the Claim Administrator denied your dispute to any extent, the Claim Administrator will notify you of its decision by email.

15. What if I change addresses or bank accounts after I submit my Claim Form but before I receive my Claim Payment?

It’s each Class Member’s obligation to submit updated addresses or PayPal or Zelle information to the Claim Administrator. Visit www.USCFeeSettlement.com to update that information as necessary.

16. When will I get my Claim Payment after I submit a Claim Form?

Settlement benefits will be available only if the Settlement is finally approved by the Court. The Court will hold a Fairness Hearing on July 1, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. PDT, to decide whether to approve the Settlement. See Questions 26-28 regarding the Fairness Hearing. If the Court approves the Settlement, there may be appeals, and the Settlement will not become final until all appeals are resolved. It is always uncertain how long the appeals process will take – it can take months or even years. You should regularly check the Settlement Website at www.USCFeeSettlement.com for updates on the status of the Settlement and any applicable deadlines. Please be patient.

YOUR RIGHTS AND CHOICES – EXCLUDING YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT

17. Do I have to be a Class Member? Can I get out of the Settlement?

It is your choice whether to remain a Class Member participating in the Settlement or to exclude yourself from the Settlement. To exclude yourself, you need to submit an “Opt-Out” of the Class and the Settlement. If you exclude yourself through an Opt-Out, you will waive any rights or benefits from the Settlement that are available only to Class Members, including the right to submit a Claim Form or receive a Claim Payment. You also may not file an Objection to the Settlement or to Class Counsel’s or the Class Representatives’ applications for fees and expenses or service award, and you may not appear at the Fairness Hearing where the Court will consider whether to approve the Settlement.

If you submit an Opt-Out, you keep the right to file your own lawsuit or join another lawsuit against USC about the claims in this lawsuit.

18. How do I exclude myself from the Settlement?

To exclude yourself, you must submit, by postal mail, an Opt-Out, which is a written request to the Claim Administrator that must be postmarked May 4, 2026 (the “Opt-Out Deadline”). For certain Class Members who received a re-mailed Post Card Notice, the Opt-Out Deadline will be extended by 20 calendar days.

Your Opt-Out must contain all of the following information:

- Identification of the case name and number (*Chaisson, et al. v. University of Southern California*, Case No. 20STCV27062);
- Your full name, current address, telephone number, email address, and Class Member ID Number;
- A clear statement that you want to be excluded from the case *Chaisson, et al. v. University of Southern California*, Case No. 20STCV27062, that you do not wish to be a Class member, and that you want to be excluded from any judgment entered in relation to the Settlement; and
- Your handwritten signature.

You can submit an Opt-Out **only** for yourself. You may not submit an Opt-Out requesting exclusion for or on behalf of other individuals or a group of people. In addition, no one may submit an Opt-Out on your behalf, including any agent or attorney purporting to act on your behalf. This restriction protects your interests by preventing other people from excluding you from the Class without your knowledge or permission.

Your request for exclusion must be mailed to:

Chaisson v. University of Southern California
c/o Settlement Administrator
P.O. Box 25226
Santa Ana, CA 92799

If your Opt-Out is late or not complete, you will still be a part of the Class, you will be bound by the Settlement and by all other orders and judgments in this Lawsuit, and you will not be able to participate in any other lawsuits based on the claims in this case.

All Opt-Outs are irrevocable. Once you submit an Opt-Out, you cannot change your mind and participate in the Settlement as a Class Member. However, if the Court does not accept the Settlement at the Fairness Hearing, then your Opt-Out is moot and you could participate in or be affected by the Lawsuit in the future.

19. If I do not exclude myself, can I still sue USC for the same issues in this case later?

No. If you do not exclude yourself with an Opt-Out, you give up the right to sue USC by effect of the Release set forth in the Agreement. See Question 9 that describes the Release. If you want to keep the right to sue USC, you have to exclude yourself from the Settlement by timely submitting an Opt-Out. Remember, any exclusion request must be signed and mailed and postmarked by the Opt-Out Deadline.

YOUR RIGHTS AND CHOICES - OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT

20. Is there a way to let the Parties and the Court know that I don't like the Settlement?

If you are a Class Member and do not exclude yourself, you can tell the Court you do not like either the entire Settlement or just a part of it (this is called an "Objection"). **You can only file or make an Objection if you stay in the Class (that is, if you do not submit an Opt-Out to exclude yourself).** See Question 17-19 regarding Opt-Outs.

In an Objection, you can ask the Court to deny approval. You cannot ask the Court to order a larger Settlement. If the Court denies approval, no Claim Payments will be sent out. If that is what you want to have happen, you may file a written Objection. You may also, but do not have to, come to the Fairness Hearing to make an objection, either in person or through your own attorney (see Question 28). If you appear through your own attorney, you are responsible for paying that attorney (see Question 24).

21. What is the process to file a written objection to the Settlement?

Any written Objection to the Settlement must be filed with the Court no later than May 4, 2026 ("Objection Deadline"); and served on the Claim Administrator, postmarked on or before the Objection Deadline. For certain Class Members who received a re-mailed Post Card Notice, the Objection Deadline will be extended by 20 calendar days.

Your written Objection and any supporting papers or evidence **must**:

- Clearly identify the case name and number (*Chaisson, et al. v. University of Southern California*, Case No. 20STCV27062);
- Be filed with the Court no later than the Objection Deadline;
- Be served on the Claim Administrator by U.S. postal mail and postmarked no later than the Objection Deadline;
- State your full name, current address, telephone number, email address, and your Class Member ID Number;
- State the full name, current address, telephone number, and email address of your counsel, if you are represented by counsel; and
- State in writing all Objections and the reasons for each Objection, accompanied by any legal or factual support for the Objection known to you or your counsel.

You need not be physically present at the Fairness Hearing (see Questions 26-28) to have your written Objection considered.

Filing an Objection does not make you a formal party to the Lawsuit nor give you any special or superior rights to any other Class Member. If you would like to object and preserve the ability to appeal should the Court deny your objection, you should review the Supreme Court of California's decision in *Hernandez v. Restoration Hardware, Inc.*, (2018) 4 Cal.5th 260, and the cases that followed it.

If you fail to timely file a written Objection in the manner specified above, you shall be deemed to have waived your right to file a written Objection and shall be foreclosed from filing a written Objection to the Settlement.

If you do not file a written Objection, and you have not Opted Out of the Settlement, you can still appear at the Fairness Hearing and ask the Court for permission to allow you (or your lawyer) to speak at the Fairness Hearing and raise an oral Objection with the Court at that time. See Question 28.

If you file or make an Objection, you can still complete a Claim Form to be eligible for a Claim Payment under the Settlement, subject to the terms and conditions discussed in this Notice and in the Agreement, and subject to the Court approving the Settlement.

22. What is the difference between objecting to the Settlement and excluding myself from the Settlement?

Objecting is the way to tell the Court what you do not like about the Settlement. You can file or make an Objection **only** if you stay in the Class and do not exclude yourself through an Opt-Out. You can still submit a Claim Form and receive a Claim Payment.

Excluding yourself with an Opt-Out is the way to tell the Court you do not want to be a part of the Class and the Settlement, and that you want to preserve the right to file your own lawsuit. If you exclude yourself with an Opt-Out, you cannot file or make an Objection or appear at the Fairness Hearing because the Settlement no longer will affect you. You also cannot submit a Claim Form or receive a Claim Payment. See Question 17-19 regarding Opt-Outs.

IF YOU DO NOTHING

23. What happens if I do nothing at all?

If you do nothing:

- You will remain a Class Member;
- The Settlement, including its Release, as well as all of the Court’s orders, will apply to you;
- You won’t be able to sue, or join a new lawsuit against USC, about the issues and claims in this lawsuit.

THE LAWYERS REPRESENTING YOU

24. Do I have a lawyer in this case?

Yes, the Court has appointed the following attorneys to represent the Class as Class Counsel:

SMITH KRIVOSHEY, PC
Joel D. Smith
joel@skclassactions.com
867 Boylston Street, 5th Floor, #1520
Boston, MA 02116
Telephone: (617) 377-7404

SMITH KRIVOSHEY, PC
Yeremey O. Krivoshey
yeremey@skclassactions.com
166 Geary Street, Suite 1500, #1520
San Francisco, CA 94108
Telephone: (415) 839-7077

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.
L. Timothy Fisher
ltfisher@bursor.com
Julia K. Venditti
jvenditti@bursor.com
1990 North California Blvd., 9th Floor
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Telephone: (925) 300-4455

You will not be charged for the services of these lawyers. You may also consult your own lawyer at your own expense, but you are not obligated to do so.

USC is represented by separate counsel (“Defense Counsel”). Defense Counsel are not able to provide advice or assistance to Class Members and should not be contacted by Class Members.

Please be aware that Class Counsel, Defense Counsel, or the Claim Administrator may **not** advise you on the tax consequences of participating or not participating in the Settlement.

25. How much will Class Counsel and the class representative be paid and how will they be paid?

Class Counsel have diligently worked on this case and have not been paid anything to date for their work on this case. Class Counsel will ask the Court to approve payment of attorneys’ fees and expenses of no more than \$1,135,000. Class Counsel and/or Class Representatives also will ask the Court to approve a Service Award of \$4,000 for each Named Plaintiff for their work on behalf of the Class.

Class Counsel will file their fee application, and Class Counsel and/or Class Representatives will file an application for the Class Representatives’ Service Awards, at least thirty days before the deadline for opting out or objecting to such applications. The Court will consider these applications at the Fairness Hearing (see Question 25).

If approved by the Court, Class Counsel’s fees and expenses and the Class Representatives’ Service Awards will be paid separately by USC and will not count against the \$2,000,000 maximum limit for class-wide Claim Payments.

THE COURT’S FAIRNESS HEARING

26. When and where will the Court decide whether to approve the Settlement?

The Court will hold a hearing to decide whether to approve the Settlement (“Fairness Hearing”) at 10:00 a.m. PDT on July 1, 2026. The Court is located at the Spring Street Courthouse, Department 15, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. This date, time or location may be moved, cancelled or otherwise modified, so please check the Settlement Website at www.USCFeeSettlement.com regularly for further details, or access the Court docket in this case through the Los Angeles Superior Court’s system at

<https://lacourt.ca.gov/casesummary/v2web3/?casetype=civil> or by visiting Archives and Records Center, 222 North Hill Street, Room 212, Los Angeles, CA 90012, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding Court holidays.

At the Fairness Hearing, the judge will consider all written or oral Objections, if any, and will consider whether the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequately addresses the claims of the Class Members. The judge will listen to people who have asked to speak at the Fairness Hearing. The judge may also decide how much to award to Class Counsel for their fees and expenses or to the class representative as a Service Award. At or after the Fairness Hearing, the judge will decide whether to approve the Settlement. We do not know how long these decisions will take.

27. Do I have to come to the hearing?

No. You do **not** have to come to the Fairness Hearing. Class Counsel will appear and speak on behalf of all Class Members. The Fairness Hearing will be open to the public and anyone may attend, so you and/or your lawyer are welcome to come at your own expense. Please note that the Court has the right to change the date and/or time of the Fairness Hearing without further notice, so it is a good idea to check the settlement website www.USCFeeSettlement.com for updates or check the Court's docket to confirm that the date has not changed. If you are planning to attend the Fairness Hearing, you should confirm the date and time on this website or on the Court docket.

If you timely send a valid written objection, you do not have to come to the Fairness Hearing for the judge to consider the objection. If you wish to speak at the Fairness Hearing about your Written objection or to make an oral Objection, see Question 28.

28. Can I speak at the hearing?

If you choose to attend the Fairness Hearing, you ask the Court for permission to allow you (or your lawyer) to speak at the Fairness Hearing, including to make an oral Objection. In general, the Court will hear from any Class Member who attends the Fairness Hearing and asks to speak regarding his or her objection. You may also retain your own lawyer to speak for you, but you will have to pay for that lawyer yourself. You may **not** exclude yourself from the Settlement orally at the hearing; to exclude yourself, you must file a written Opt-Out by the Opt-Out Deadline (see Questions 17-19).

You cannot speak at the Fairness Hearing if you exclude yourself with an Opt-Out.

GETTING MORE INFORMATION

29. Are more details about the lawsuit and the Settlement available?

This Notice only summarizes the lawsuit and Settlement and is not intended to be an offer nor is a binding agreement. More details are in the Plaintiffs' pleadings and Settlement. Copies of these documents are available on the Settlement Website located at www.USCFeeSettlement.com.

You can also look at all of the documents filed in the lawsuit at Archives and Records Center, 222 North Hill Street, Room 212, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

30. How do I get more information?

You can get more information and read common questions and answers by visiting the Settlement Website, www.USCFeeSettlement.com, by contacting Class Counsel at: info@bursor.com, or by writing to class counsel at: Bursor & Fisher, P.A., 1990 N California Blvd, 9th Floor, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR THE COURT CLERK'S OFFICE REGARDING THIS NOTICE