

For Immediate Release

August 26, 2008

## **WLF OPPOSES CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND AWARD OF \$18 MILLION ATTORNEYS' FEE**

*(In re: Trans Union Corp. Privacy Litig.)*

The Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) filed objections last week in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on behalf of a class member opposing a proposed class action settlement. The settlement would award up to \$18.7 million to class action attorneys, but where approximately 190 million class members will likely receive no money. Instead, class members who know about the suit and file a claim will receive up to nine months of a credit monitoring service from Trans Union. WLF urged the court to reject the settlement as inadequate and to slash the attorney's fee request.

In *In re: Trans Union Corp Privacy Litig.*, a dozen class action lawsuits, consolidated into one case, were filed against Trans Union for improperly selling consumer information to marketing groups in violation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). The law provides for statutory damages of \$100 to \$1,000 per violation. Hence, the minimum liability exposure to the class is \$19 billion. The parties propose to settle the case whereby class members who know about the case and file a claim, can receive either six or nine months of certain credit monitoring services. A fund of only \$75 million has been created to pay for expenses, fees, and other costs, including acting as a set-off to other claims Trans Union might pay in other cases.

WLF objected to the settlement and fees, particularly in light of the fact that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) had already sued Trans Union for the violations. "This is a classic piggy-back class action case filed by opportunistic trial lawyers to reap a windfall \$18 million in fees for relatively little effort, and where the compensation to class members is of dubious value," said Paul Kamenar, WLF's Senior Executive Counsel. A hearing will be held on September 10, 2008.

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For further information, contact Paul Kamenar, WLF's Senior Executive Counsel, at 202-588-0302. A copy of WLF's brief is available on its website at [www.wlf.org](http://www.wlf.org).