

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

CLAIRE VAN TREECK, *on behalf of
herself and all others similarly situated,*

Plaintiff,

v.

ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY,

Defendant.

CIVIL DIVISION – CLASS ACTION
Hon. Alan D. Hertzberg

No. GD-24-000927

**PLAINTIFF’S APPLICATION FOR
ATTORNEYS’ FEES, COSTS, AND
EXPENSES AND CASE
CONTRIBUTION AWARD TO
SETTLEMENT CLASS
REPRESENTATIVE**

Filed on behalf of Plaintiff: CLAIRE
VAN TREECK

Counsel of Record for this Party:

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COSTS, AND EXPENSES AND CASE CONTRIBUTION
AWARD TO SETTLEMENT CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

Plaintiff Claire Van Treeck (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through her counsel, hereby respectfully applies for: (1) approval of an award of attorneys’ fees in the amount of \$315,896.41 (33.33% of the \$947,784.00 Settlement Fund); (2) reimbursement of reasonable and necessary litigation costs in the amount of \$3,752.72; and (3) approval of a Case Contribution Award of \$2,500.00 to the Settlement Class Representative. In support of her Application and Motion, Plaintiff states as follows:

1. This matter is a class action by Plaintiff on behalf of a putative class of similarly situated individuals who paid tuition to attend Defendant Robert Morris University (“Defendant” or “RMU”) in exchange for in-person, hands-on educational services and campus access for the Spring 2020 semester, but nonetheless had their coursework and educational experience unilaterally moved online.

2. On January 24, 2024, Plaintiff filed a class action Complaint in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, styled *Van Treeck v. Robert Morris University*, Case No.

GD-24-000927 (the “Action”) (Dkt. No. 1) (the “Action”), bringing claims against RMU for breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

3. Following the filing of the Complaint, the Parties began discussing the possibility of early resolution of the litigation.

4. On August 29, 2024, the Parties held a mediation session in front of Hon. Thomas J. Rueter (Ret.). With the guidance of Judge Rueter, the Parties reached a settlement in principle after numerous demands and counteroffers.

5. The Parties thereafter executed a Term Sheet on October 11, 2024, and negotiated the final terms of the Settlement and its supporting exhibits in the following months. The final, signed Settlement Agreement was attached to Plaintiff’s Motion for Preliminary Approval as Exhibit 1. Dkt. No. 14.¹

6. On August 13, 2025, Plaintiff moved the Court for preliminary approval of the proposed Settlement, conditional certification of the putative class, and authorization of notice to the Settlement Class Members. Dkt. No. 14.

7. The Court entered an order granting preliminary approval, conditionally certifying the Settlement Class, and authorizing notice on October 22, 2025. Dkt. No. 16.

8. The Settlement will provide substantial benefits to a Settlement Class of approximately 3,500 individuals. The Settlement’s benefits include Defendant’s payment of \$947,784.00 to establish a Settlement Fund that will be used to pay for: (1) direct monetary relief to Settlement Class Members; (2) additional benefits to Class Members and RMU Students, as determined by RMU; (3) a Case Contribution Award of up to \$2,500.00 to Plaintiff, to the extent

¹ The capitalized terms used in this Application shall have the same meaning as in the Settlement Agreement, except where otherwise indicated.

approved by the Court; (4) up to one third, or 33.33% (or \$315,896.41) of the Settlement Fund for Class Counsel's attorneys' fees, to the extent approved by the Court; (6) reimbursement of Class Counsel's reasonable and necessary litigation costs, to the extent approved by the Court; and (7) the costs associated with notice and settlement administration.

9. The relief requested herein should be considered by the Court at the fairness hearing on February 23, 2026, in conjunction with Plaintiff's forthcoming Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement, which will be filed by February 13, 2026, and subject to the Court's review of any objections filed by Settlement Class Members.

10. In further support of her Application, Plaintiff refers the Court to her Brief in support of this Application and the Declaration of Nicholas A. Colella in support of this Application, both filed herewith.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that, along with final approval of the Settlement, the Court (1) approve of an award of attorneys' fees in the amount of \$315,896.41; (2) reimburse Class Counsel for reasonable and necessary litigation costs in the amount of \$3,752.72; and (3) approve a Case Contribution Award of \$2,500.00 to Plaintiff Van Treeck.

Dated: January 5, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nicholas A. Colella

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**Pro hac vice*

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Defendant.

ORDER

AND NOW, this ____ day of _____, 2026, upon consideration of Plaintiff's Application for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Expenses, and Case Contribution Award to Settlement Class Representative, it hereby ORDERED that Plaintiff's Application is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Class Counsel are awarded attorneys' fees in the amount of \$315,896.41.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Class Counsel are awarded reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$3,752.72.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a Case Contribution Award in the amount of \$2,500.00 is to be paid to Plaintiff Claire Van Treeck.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT:

Hon. Alan D. Hertzberg

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on January 5, 2026, the foregoing was served by email on the following:

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Counsel for Defendant Robert Morris University

/s/ Nicholas A. Colella
Nicholas A. Colella