

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION

In re HOT TOPIC, INC. SECURITIES LITIGATION)
)
) Lead Case No. 2:13-cv-02939-SJO(JCx)
)
 This Document Relates To:) CLASS ACTION
)
 ALL ACTIONS.)
)
)
)

PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE

I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. To recover as a Class Member based on your claims in the action entitled *In re Hot Topic, Inc. Securities Litigation*, Lead Case No. 2:13-cv-02939-SJO(JCx) (the "Litigation"), you must complete and, on page 4 hereof, sign this Proof of Claim and Release. If you fail to file a properly addressed (as set forth in paragraph 3 below) Proof of Claim and Release, your claim may be rejected and you may be precluded from any recovery from the Net Settlement Fund created in connection with the proposed settlement of the Litigation.

2. Submission of this Proof of Claim and Release, however, does not assure that you will share in the proceeds of the Settlement in the Litigation.

3. **YOU MUST MAIL OR SUBMIT ONLINE YOUR COMPLETED AND SIGNED PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 12, 2015, TO THE COURT-APPOINTED CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR IN THIS CASE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:**

Hot Topic, Inc. Securities Litigation
Claims Administrator
c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC
P.O. Box 8040
San Rafael, CA 94912-8040
www.hottopicsecuritiessettlement.com

If you are NOT a Class Member, as defined below, DO NOT submit a Proof of Claim and Release form.

4. If you are a Class Member and you do not timely and validly request exclusion from the Class, you are bound by the terms of any judgment entered in the Litigation, including the releases provided therein, WHETHER OR NOT YOU SUBMIT A PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE FORM.

II. DEFINITIONS

1. "Class," "Class Member," or "Members of the Class" means all holders of Hot Topic common stock on the record date, May 3, 2013. Excluded from the Class are Defendants, the officers and directors of the Company at all relevant times, members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, successors or assigns and any entity in which Defendants have or had a controlling interest, and any Person who timely and validly seeks exclusion from the Class.

2. "Defendants" means Hot Topic, Lisa M. Harper, Steven Becker, Matthew Drapkin, Evelyn D'an, Terri Funk Graham, John Kyees, Andrew Schuon and Thomas Vellios.

3. "Hot Topic" means Hot Topic, Inc.

4. "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, association, joint stock company, estate, legal representative, trust, unincorporated association, government or any political subdivision or agency thereof, and any business or legal entity and their spouses, heirs, predecessors, successors, representatives, or assignees.

5. "Related Parties" means each of a Defendant's or Sycamore's past or present directors, officers, employees, partners, insurers, co-insurers, reinsurers, principals, controlling shareholders, attorneys, accountants or auditors, financial advisors, personal or legal representatives, predecessors, successors, parents (including Sycamore), subsidiaries, divisions, affiliates, joint ventures, assigns, spouses, heirs, estates, related or affiliated entities, any entity in which a Defendant has a controlling interest, any members of any Individual Defendant's immediate family, or any trust of which any Individual Defendant is the settlor or which is for the benefit of any Individual Defendant's family.

6. "Released Claims" means any and all claims (including "Unknown Claims" as defined in paragraph below), causes of action, rights, actions, suits, obligations, debts, demands, judgments, agreements, promises, liabilities, damages, losses, controversies, costs, expenses or attorneys' fees, of every nature and description whatsoever, whether direct, indirect, now known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, accrued or unaccrued, in law or in equity, whether having arisen or yet to arise, including, without limitation, any claims of violations of federal or state securities laws and any federal or state claims of fraud, intentional misrepresentation, negligent misrepresentation, negligence, gross negligence, breach of duty of care and/or breach of duty of



loyalty, breach of fiduciary duty, unjust enrichment, abuse of control, mismanagement, waste of corporate assets, or violations of any state or federal statutes, rules or regulations, or aiding and abetting any of the foregoing, that have been or could have been alleged or asserted now or in the future by Lead Plaintiff or any Class Member against the Released Persons, or any of them in the Litigation or in any other court action (including, without limitation, the Consolidated State Action) or before any administrative body, tribunal, arbitration panel, or other adjudicatory body, arising out of or relating in any way to, or in connection with both (a) Hot Topic common stock held on the record date, May 3, 2013, and (b) any of the acts, facts, transactions, events, occurrences, disclosures, statements, omissions, or failures to act or matters set forth, referred to, or alleged, or that could have been set forth, referred to, or alleged (whether known or unknown) in the Litigation or the Consolidated State Action. The Released Claims do not include claims to enforce the Settlement.

7. "Released Persons" means each and all of the Defendants, Sycamore and each of their respective Related Parties.

8. "Unknown Claims" means any Released Claims which the Lead Plaintiff or any Class Member, as of the Effective Date, does not know or suspect to exist in his, her or its favor, whether direct, indirect, or derivative, including those which, if known by him, her or it, might have affected his, her or its settlement with and release of the Released Persons, or might have affected his, her or its decision not to object to this Settlement. With respect to any and all Released Claims, the Settling Parties stipulate and agree that, upon the Effective Date, the Lead Plaintiff shall expressly waive and each of the Class Members shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, expressly waived, the provisions, rights and benefits of California Civil Code §1542, which provides:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

The Lead Plaintiff shall expressly waive and each of the Class Members shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, expressly waived, any and all provisions, rights and benefits conferred by any law of any state or territory of the United States, or principle of common law that is similar, comparable or equivalent to California Civil Code §1542, or that might otherwise operate to bar or limit the release of Unknown Claims. Lead Plaintiff and Class Members may hereafter discover facts in addition to or different from those which he, she, or it now knows or believes to be true with respect to the subject matter of the Released Claims, but the Lead Plaintiff shall expressly release and each Class Member, upon the Effective Date, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of the Judgment shall have, expressly, fully, finally, and forever settled and released any and all Released Claims, known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, contingent or non-contingent, whether or not concealed or hidden, which now exist, or heretofore have existed, upon any theory of law or equity now existing or coming into existence in the future, including, but not limited to, conduct that is negligent, intentional, with or without malice, or a breach of any duty, law, or rule, without regard to and notwithstanding the subsequent discovery or existence of such different or additional facts. The Lead Plaintiff acknowledges, and the Class Members shall be deemed by operation of the Judgment to have acknowledged, that the foregoing waiver was separately bargained for and a key element of the Settlement of which this release is a part.

III. CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION

1. If you held Hot Topic common stock on the record date, May 3, 2013, and held the certificate(s) in your name, you are the beneficial purchaser as well as the record purchaser. If, however, the certificate(s) were registered in the name of a third party, such as a nominee or brokerage firm, you are the beneficial purchaser and the third party is the record purchaser.

2. Use Part I of this form entitled "Claimant Identification" to identify each share held of record ("nominee"), if different from the beneficial holder of the Hot Topic common stock that form the basis of this claim. THIS CLAIM MUST BE FILED BY THE ACTUAL BENEFICIAL HOLDER(S) OR THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF SUCH HOLDER(S) OF THE HOT TOPIC COMMON STOCK UPON WHICH THIS CLAIM IS BASED.

3. All joint holders must sign this claim. Executors, administrators, guardians, conservators and trustees must complete and sign this claim on behalf of Persons represented by them and their authority must accompany this claim and their titles or capacities must be stated. The Social Security (or taxpayer identification) number and telephone number of the beneficial owner may be used in verifying the claim. Failure to provide the foregoing information could delay verification of your claim or result in rejection of the claim.

IV. CLAIM FORM

1. Use Part II of this form entitled "Holdings in Hot Topic Common Stock" to state the number of shares of Hot Topic common stock that you held on the record date, May 3, 2013.

2. Copies of broker confirmations or other documentation of your holdings in Hot Topic common stock should be attached to your claim. Failure to provide this documentation could delay verification of your claim or result in rejection of your claim.

3. The above requests are designed to provide the minimum amount of information necessary to process the simplest claims. The Claims Administrator may request additional information as required to efficiently and reliably calculate your recovery. In the event the Claims Administrator cannot perform the calculation accurately or at a reasonable cost to the Class with the information provided, the Claims Administrator may condition acceptance of the claim upon the production of additional information and/or the claimant's responsibility for any increased costs due to the nature and/or scope of the claim.



Must Be Postmarked (if Mailed) or Received (if Filed Electronically) No Later Than October 12, 2015

HTOPIC



Official Office Use Only

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION

In re Hot Topic, Inc. Securities Litigation
Lead Case No. 2:13-cv-02939-SJO(JCx)

PROOF OF CLAIM AND RELEASE

Please Type or Print in the Boxes Below
Do NOT use Red Ink, Pencil, or Staples

PART I: CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION

Last Name M.I. First Name

Last Name (Co-Beneficial Owner) M.I. First Name (Co-Beneficial Owner)

IRA Joint Tenancy Employee Individual Other _____ (specify)

Company Name (Beneficial Owner - If Claimant is not an Individual) or Custodian Name if an IRA

Trustee/Asset Manager/Nominee/Record Owner's Name (If Different from Beneficial Owner Listed Above)

Account#/Fund# (Not Necessary for Individual Filers)

Social Security Number — — or Taxpayer Identification Number —

Telephone Number (Primary Daytime) — — Telephone Number (Alternate) — —

Email Address

MAILING INFORMATION

Address

Address

City State Zip Code

Foreign Province Foreign Postal Code Foreign Country Name/Abbreviation

FOR CLAIMS PROCESSING ONLY	OB <input type="text"/>	CB <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/> ATP <input type="radio"/> KE <input type="radio"/> ICI	<input type="radio"/> BE <input type="radio"/> DR <input type="radio"/> EM	<input type="radio"/> FL <input type="radio"/> ME <input type="radio"/> ND	<input type="radio"/> OP <input type="radio"/> RE <input type="radio"/> SH	MM / DD / YYYY	FOR CLAIMS PROCESSING ONLY
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A. State how many shares of Hot Topic common stock you held on the record date, May 3, 2013:

Grid for entering the number of shares held.

Proof Enclosed? Y N

YOU MUST READ AND SIGN THE RELEASE BELOW. FAILURE TO SIGN THE RELEASE MAY RESULT IN A DELAY IN PROCESSING OR THE REJECTION OF YOUR CLAIM.

V. SUBMISSION TO JURISDICTION OF COURT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I (We) submit this Proof of Claim and Release under the terms of the Stipulation of Settlement dated as of April 30, 2015 ("Stipulation") described in the Notice. I (We) also submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, with respect to my (our) claim as a Class Member (as defined in the Notice) and for purposes of enforcing the release set forth herein. I (We) further acknowledge that I am (we are) bound by and subject to the terms of any judgment that may be entered in the Litigation. I (We) agree to furnish additional information to Lead Counsel and/or the Claims Administrator to support this claim if required to do so. I (We) have not submitted any other claim covering the same holdings of Hot Topic common stock and know of no other Person having done so on my (our) behalf.

VI. RELEASE

- 1. I (We) hereby acknowledge full and complete satisfaction of, and do hereby fully, finally, and forever settle, release, relinquish, and discharge, all of the Released Claims (including Unknown Claims) against each and all of the Released Persons, all as defined herein and in the Notice and Stipulation.
2. This release shall be of no force or effect unless and until the Court approves the Stipulation and it becomes effective on the Effective Date.
3. I (We) hereby warrant and represent that I am (we are) not a Person excluded from the definition of the Class.
4. I (We) hereby warrant and represent that I (we) have not assigned or transferred or purported to assign or transfer, voluntarily or involuntarily, any matter released pursuant to this release or any other part or portion thereof.
5. I (We) hereby warrant and represent that I (we) have included all requested information about all of my (our) holdings of Hot Topic common stock on the record date, May 3, 2013, requested in this claim form.
6. The number(s) shown on this form is (are) the correct SSN/TIN(s).

I (We) declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information supplied by the undersigned is true and correct.

Executed this _____ day of _____ in _____ (Month/Year) (City/State/Country)

(Sign your name here)

(Sign your name here)

(Type or print your name here)

(Type or print your name here)

(Capacity of person(s) signing, e.g., Beneficial Holder, Executor or Administrator)

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ACCURATE CLAIMS PROCESSING TAKES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

Reminder Checklist:

- 1. Please sign the above release and declaration.
2. If this claim is being made on behalf of Joint Claimants, then both must sign.
3. Remember to attach copies of supporting documentation, if available.
4. Do not send originals of certificates.
5. Keep a copy of your claim form and all supporting documentation for your records.
6. If you desire an acknowledgment of receipt of your claim form please send it Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested.
7. If you move, please send your new address to the address below.
8. Do not use red pen or highlighter on the Proof of Claim Form or supporting documentation.

THIS PROOF OF CLAIM FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE OR MAILED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 12, 2015, ADDRESSED AS FOLLOWS:

Hot Topic, Inc. Securities Litigation
Claims Administrator
c/o Gilardi & Co. LLC
P.O. Box 8040
San Rafael, CA 94912-8040
www.hottopicsecuritiessettlement.com

