

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

BEATRIZ TIJERINA, DAVID
CONCEPCIÓN, GINA APRILE, THERESA
GILLESPIE, TALINA HENDERSON,
DIANA FERRARA, LAUREN DALY,
SHANE MCDONALD, KASEM CUROVIC,
CHRISTA CALLAHAN, ERICA UPSHUR,
JOHNNIE MOUTRA, JENNIFER TOLBERT,
DEREK LOWE, PHILLIP HOOKS, and
DELIA MASONE, Individually and on behalf
of All Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA,
INC. and VOLKSWAGEN
AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 2:21-cv-18755-BRM-LDW

**ORDER AND JUDGMENT
GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS, this Court, having carefully reviewed and considered all of the filed submissions relating to the proposed Class Settlement of this Action (“Settlement” or “Class Settlement”) including the Plaintiffs’ Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement and Final Certification of the Settlement Class and exhibits thereto (ECF No. 117) (hereinafter the “Motion for Final Approval”), the Parties’ Class Settlement Agreement dated July 8, 2024 with exhibits (ECF No. 111-3) (“Settlement Agreement”), the Declaration of Lara Jarjoura of JND Legal Administration, the Claim Administrator (ECF No. 117-3), Plaintiffs’ Memorandum in Support (ECF No. 118), Defendant’s Brief in Support of Final Approval and in Response to Certain Requests for Exclusion (ECF No. 119), and all other submissions and filings in this Action;

WHEREAS, this Court, having issued its Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement on February 10, 2025 (ECF No. 112) (“Preliminary Approval Order”) which

granted preliminary approval of the Class Settlement, provisionally certified, for settlement purposes only, the proposed Settlement Class pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3); preliminarily appointed the Settlement Class Representatives, Settlement Class Counsel, and the Settlement Claim Administrator; approved the form and content of the Class Notice and Claim Form; approved the Parties' Class Notice Plan set forth in the Settlement Agreement ("Notice Plan") as the best notice practicable under the circumstances and comporting in all respects with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e) and due process; and directed the dissemination of the Class Notice pursuant to the Notice Plan;

WHEREAS, the approved Notice Plan was effectuated in a timely and proper manner in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order;

WHEREAS, this Court held a Final Fairness Hearing on August 27, 2025, beginning at 10:15 a.m., and with no Settlement Class Members or objectors appearing; and

WHEREAS, this Court has carefully considered all the submissions, arguments and applicable law, and with due deliberation thereon,

NOW, this Court hereby GRANTS the Motion for Final Approval, and finds, orders, and adjudges as follows:

1. **Jurisdiction and Venue.** The Court has jurisdiction over the Action and all matters relating to the Settlement. Venue is also proper in this Court.

2. **Final Approval of the Class Settlement.** The Court hereby grants final approval of the Class Settlement and all the terms and provisions of the Settlement Agreement. The Court finds that the Class Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in all respects satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 and the applicable law.

3. **Certification of the Settlement Class.** The Court certifies, for Settlement purposes only, the proposed Settlement Class set forth in the Settlement Agreement and in the Preliminary Approval Order. The Court finds that, for the purposes of Settlement, the applicable prerequisites for certification of the proposed Settlement Class under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b)(3) are fully satisfied, to wit: the Settlement Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is not practicable; questions of law and fact are common to the Settlement Class; the claims of the Settlement Class Representatives are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class; the Settlement Class Representatives and Settlement Class Counsel have fairly and adequately represented, and will continue to fairly and adequately represent, the interests of the Settlement Class; questions of law and fact common to the members of the Settlement Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members; and a class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating this controversy. In addition, because this Action is being settled rather than litigated to conclusion, the Court need not consider manageability issues that might be presented by a trial of this action. *See Amchem Prods., Inc. v. Windsor*, 521 U.S. 591, 620 (1997). *Sullivan v. DB Invs.*, 667 F.3d 273, 302-03 (3d Cir. 2011)(*en banc*); *In re Warfarin Sodium Antitrust Litig.*, 391 F.3d 516, 519 (3d Cir. 2004).

4. **Defined Terms of the Settlement Agreement.** Unless otherwise defined herein, the terms used in this Order and Judgment that are defined in the Settlement Agreement shall have the same definition and meaning as set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

5. **Notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Class.** The Court finds that the dissemination of the Class Notice to the Settlement Class: (a) was implemented in a timely and proper fashion in accordance with the Parties' approved Notice Plan as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Preliminary Approval Order; (b) constituted the best notice practicable under the

circumstances; and (c) in all respects satisfied the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e), the Constitution of the United States (including the Due Process Clause), and all other applicable laws and rules.

6. **CAFA Notice.** The Court finds that in accordance with the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715 (“CAFA”), the Settlement Claim Administrator properly and timely caused to be mailed a copy of the proposed Settlement and all other documents required by law to the Attorney General of the United States and the Attorneys General of each State where class members reside and of Puerto Rico. No Attorney General has filed any objection to, or voiced any concern over, the Class Settlement or any of its terms and provisions.

7. **The Settlement is Fair, Reasonable, and Adequate.** The Court finds that the Class Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in all respects satisfies Fed. R. Civ. P. 23. The Settlement provides substantial benefits to, and is in the best interests of, the Settlement Class, and is particularly fair, reasonable, and adequate when considering the issues of this case including, but not limited to, the disputed nature of the claims, the potential defenses thereto, the risks of non-recovery or reduced recovery to the Settlement Class, and of the inability to certify a class and/or maintain class certification through trial and potential appeal, if this action is litigated rather than settled, the substantial burdens, time and expense of further litigation, and the delays of any potential recovery associated with the continued litigation of the Action.

8. **The Class Settlement is the Result of Extensive Arm’s Length Negotiations of Highly Disputed Claims by Experienced Class Action Counsel, and is Not the Product of Collusion.** The Court further finds that the Class Settlement was entered into as a result of extensive and adversarial arm’s length negotiations of highly disputed claims among experienced class action counsel on both sides. The Settlement is not the product of collusion, and was entered

into with a sufficient understanding by counsel of the strengths and weaknesses of their respective claims and defenses, and of the potential risks versus benefits of continued litigation, including but not limited to the ability to establish and/or extent of establishing liability, alleged damages, class certification, and maintenance of class certification through trial and appeal. In addition, the Court finds that the issues of Class Representative service awards and Class Counsel reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses (all of which are addressed by the Court in a separate Order) were not even discussed by the Parties, let alone agreed to, until after the Settlement Agreement had been fully executed, and were, likewise, negotiated at arm's length and without any collusion.

9. **No Admission of Wrongdoing.** This Class Settlement is a compromise of vigorously disputed allegations and claims. The Court finds and orders that, as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement, and any documents and submissions relating thereto, do not and shall not constitute a finding of either fact or law regarding the merits of any allegation, claim, fact, issue of law, or defense that was or could have been asserted in this Action. The Court further finds and orders that nothing in this Final Order and Judgment, the Settlement Agreement, the underlying proceedings or negotiations, or any documents, filings, submissions, or statements related thereto, is or shall be deemed, construed to be, or argued as, an admission of, or any evidence of, any allegation, claim, fact, or issue of law that was or could have been asserted in the Action or of any liability, wrongdoing or responsibility on the part of any Defendant or Released Party.

10. **Appointment of Settlement Class Representatives.** The Court hereby grants final approval and appointment of Plaintiffs Beatriz Tijerina, David Concepcion, Gina Aprile, Theresa Gillespie, Diana Ferrara, Lauren Daly, Shane McDonald, Kasem Curovic, Christa Callahan, Erica Upshur, Johnnie Moutra, Jennifer Tolbert, Derek Lowe, Phillip Hooks, and Delia Masone as

Representatives of the Settlement Class (“Settlement Class Representatives”). The Court finds that said Settlement Class Representatives have fairly and adequately represented, and will continue to fairly and adequately represent, the interests of the Settlement Class.

11. **Appointment of Settlement Class Counsel.** The Court hereby grants final approval and appointment of the law firms of Carella, Byrne, Cecchi, Brody & Agnello, P.C., Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP, and Seeger Weiss LLP, collectively, as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class (“Settlement Class Counsel” or “Class Counsel”). The Court finds that said Settlement Class Counsel have fairly and adequately represented, and will continue to fairly and adequately represent, the interests of the Settlement Class.

12. **Appointment of Settlement Claims Administrator.** The Court further grants final approval and appointment of JND Legal Administration as the Settlement Claims Administrator to effectuate its duties and responsibilities set forth in the Settlement Agreement.

13. **Objections and Requests for Exclusion.** Settlement Class Members were duly afforded a reasonable and ample opportunity to object to or request exclusion from the Settlement, and were duly advised of the deadlines and procedures for doing so. Of the approximately 644,167 Settlement Class Members, the Court has received no objections to the Settlement. The Parties received 100 requests for exclusion, of which 94 requests are valid and 6 requests are invalid for being untimely and/or otherwise failing to comply with the requirements for a valid request for exclusion mandated by the Preliminary Approval Order (Banna Aparicio (ECF 119-1), Carole Karon, Kayla Matlock, Alma Gutierrez, Justin Mangold and Anna Garcia (ECF 119-2)).

14. The court finds that the lack of objections and very small number of requests for exclusion demonstrate overwhelmingly that the Settlement Class favors the Settlement, and further support that the Class Settlement is fair, reasonable, adequate, and warranting of final approval.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADJUDGED AS FOLLOWS:

15. The Court certifies, for the purpose of settlement, the following Settlement Class consisting of:

All present and former U.S. owners and lessees of certain specific model year 2018 through 2024 Volkswagen Atlas vehicles purchased or leased in the United States or Puerto Rico that are designated individually by Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) in Exhibit 4 to the Settlement Agreement, which were distributed by Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. for sale or lease in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Excluded from the Settlement Class are: (a) all Judges who have presided over the Action and their spouses; (b) all current employees, officers, directors, agents and representatives of Defendants, and their family members; (c) any affiliate, parent or subsidiary of Defendants and any entity in which Defendants have a controlling interest; (d) anyone acting as a used car dealer; (e) anyone who purchased a Settlement Class Vehicle for the purpose of commercial resale; (f) anyone who purchased a Settlement Class Vehicle with salvaged title and/or any insurance company who acquired a Settlement Class Vehicle as a result of a total loss; (g) any insurer of a Settlement Class Vehicle; (h) issuers of extended vehicle warranties and service contracts; (i) any Settlement Class Member who, prior to the date of the Settlement Agreement, settled with and released Defendants or any Released Parties from any Released Claims; and (j) any Settlement Class Member who files a timely and proper Request for Exclusion from the Settlement Class

16. The Court hereby grants final approval of the Class Settlement as set forth in the Settlement Agreement and all its terms and provisions. The Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and in all respects satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23. Specifically, the Court has carefully analyzed each of the factors set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e)(2), *Girsh v. Jepson*, 521 F.2 153, 157 (3d Cir. 1975) and *In re Prudential Ins. Co. Am. Sales Practice Litig.*, 148 F.3d 283, 323 (3d Cir. 1998), and finds that they support, justify, and warrant final approval of this Class Settlement.

17. The Court excludes from the Settlement and Release, on the basis of their valid and timely requests for exclusion, the 94 Settlement Class Members who are listed on Exhibit A

annexed hereto. The remaining requests for exclusion of Banna Aparicio, Carole Karon, Kayla Matlock, Alma Gutierrez, Justin Mangold and Anna Garcia, are hereby denied.

18. The Parties are directed to perform all obligations under the Settlement Agreement in accordance with its terms and provisions.

17. The Parties and all Settlement Class Members are hereby bound in all respects by the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement, including but not limited to the Released Claims against all Defendants and Released Parties contained therein, and the Plaintiffs and each and every Settlement Class Member shall be deemed to have, and by operation of this Final Order and Judgment shall have, fully, completely and forever released, acquitted and discharged Defendant and all Released Parties from all Released Claims as set forth in the Settlement Agreement, incorporated herein by reference, except for the 94 persons identified in Exhibit A who have timely and properly excluded themselves from the Settlement Class.

18. The Action is hereby dismissed with prejudice and without costs.

19. Neither this Settlement, the Settlement Agreement, its negotiations, any agreements, documents, motions, submissions and/or Orders relating thereto, nor this Final Order and Judgment, shall, in any way, constitute, be deemed to constitute, be construed as, or be admissible in any action or proceeding (judicial or otherwise) as, (a) any admission by any Defendant or Released Party as to the merits of any allegation, claim or defense that was or could have been asserted in this Action, (b) any evidence, or finding of either fact or law, as to any allegation, claim or defense that was or could have been asserted in the Action, and/or (c) any admission or evidence of any liability, fault, wrongdoing or responsibility on the part of the Defendants or any Released Party. Nor shall it/they be offered, or be admissible, as evidence against any Defendant, Released Party, or the Plaintiffs, in any action or proceeding (judicial or

otherwise) except as may be necessary to enforce the terms of the Settlement Agreement and/or this Final Order and Judgment including the Released Claims.

20. In the event that any provision of the Settlement or this Final Order and Judgment is asserted by Defendants or any Released Party as a defense (including, without limitation, as a basis for dismissal and/or a stay), in whole or in part, to any claim, suit, action or proceeding brought by a Settlement Class Member or any person acting or purporting to act on behalf of any Settlement Class Member(s) in any forum, judicial or otherwise, that claim, suit, action and/or proceeding shall immediately be stayed and enjoined until this Court or the court or tribunal in which the claim is pending has determined any issues related to such defense or assertion.

21. Without further order of this Court, the Parties may agree to reasonably necessary extensions of time to carry out any of the provisions of the Settlement Agreement, this Order and Judgment, and any obligations thereunder.

22. Plaintiffs and each and every Settlement Class Member, and any person or entity acting or purporting to act on behalf of any said Settlement Class Member, is/are hereby permanently barred and enjoined from commencing, instituting, pursuing, maintaining, prosecuting, or continuing to pursue, maintain or prosecute, any Released Claim against any Defendant and/or any of the Released Parties (including, without limitation, in any individual, class/putative class, representative or other action or proceeding, directly or indirectly, in any judicial, administrative, arbitral, or other forum). This permanent bar and injunction is necessary to protect and effectuate the Settlement Agreement, this Final Order and Judgment, and this Court's authority to enforce and effectuate the Settlement Agreement, and is ordered in aid of this Court's jurisdiction and to protect its judgments. However, this provision will not bar any

communications with, or compliance with requests or inquiries from, any governmental authorities.

23. Without affecting the finality of this Final Order and Judgment, this Court hereby retains exclusive jurisdiction, and all Settlement Class Members are hereby deemed to have submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of this Court, of, over, and with respect to, the consummation, implementation and enforcement of this Settlement and its terms, including the release of claims therein, and any suit, action, proceeding (judicial or otherwise) or dispute arising out of or relating to this Final Order and Judgment, the Settlement Agreement and its terms, or the applicability of the Settlement Agreement. This exclusive jurisdiction includes, without limitation, the Court's power pursuant to the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651, or any other applicable law, to enforce the above-described bar and injunction against the pursuit, commencement, maintenance, prosecution, and/or continuation of any Released Claim against any Defendant or Released Party.

IT IS SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED.

Date: August 28, 2025



Honorable Brian Martinotti
United States District Judge

<i>Tijerina, et al. v. Volkswagen Group of America, Inc., et al.</i> Valid Exclusions		
<u>Class Member</u>	<u>VIN (Last 4)</u>	
LEE LYLES IKHUOYA BRAIMAH	5221	
HEE LIM	1343	
SCOTT G. SMITH	2334	
TRACIE E. VOLLGRAF	6023	
PAUL GUERRERO	0302	
ROBERTO CERVANTES	8878	
VANESSA NICHOLSON	3935	
NEIDA GALVAN	2863	
BLANCA GONZALEZ	1813	
BIANCA CARDENAS	1997	
CYNTHIA RAYGOZA	5902	
FRANCIS HADLEY	3262	
GUADALUPE RODRIGUEZ	1159	
HAGOP KABAYAN	6688	
ISMAEL LANDRAUPEREZ	8231	
JESUS VALENCIA	0408	
STEVEN PELLOT	6490	
MARSHALL EIRING	0443	
MARIA RAMOS	9844	
MARIO HUDSON	1707	
RICARDO NUNEZ	2599	
MOHAMMAD SHAFI	6526	
VICTORIA MILLER	1890	
ELMER CHAVEZ	8875	
BEATRIZ DIAZ	4742	
ALEXANDRA SOUTH	4513	
ANA MARTINEZ	2495	
ASHLEY HARRIS	8039	
BRADLEY JONKO	7058	
CHRISTOPHER CALDERON	4424	
CHRISTOPHER MASI	8099	
DANILO DAVID	1751	
DAVID EGNER	3914	
JON ELLIOT SILBER	8275	
EDUARDO CARBAJAL	1632	
ERIC VIETH	4214	
ERIC FIGUEROA	8094	
GARRETT MASCIEL	5145	

GOBI RAHIMI	5138	
ISRAEL LOZANO RODRIGUEZ	6636	
JAMES MELLINGER	1940	
JOE CASANOVA	1124	
JONATHAN MACIAS	6256	
KARLA AYALA	8993	
MARIAM SHAIR	9567	
MELISSA NIEVES	2447	
MILDRED RANDLE	0880	
NICHOLAS JAMES	8324	
RACHEL SCRUGGS	8676	
RICARDO PADILLA	9403	
PHOEBE TAWADROS SARKISSIAN	5543	
TRACIE VOLLGRAF	6023	
ALBERT LOMELLI	5293	
ANDRANIK AYKAZYAN	2366	
ELIANA VALLEJO	2542	
FERNANDO CABRERA	8491	
RAYMOND SMITH	2022	
TERESA SEGURA	6587	
CLAYTON LEI SEGUNDO SR	5566	
KENDALL WALTER	8424	
EUROCLASS MOTORS INC	6704 2894 2339 5608 5025 0564 2702	
PATRICIA WEST	9160	
PAUL BANDUCCI	8143	
LOIS HOLLAND	5348	
MELODIE MORGAN	6699	
JOSE CALDERON	7817	
RICHARD PAYNTER	6174	
MATTHEW STEVENS	8283	
STEPHANIE KLINE-TISSI	3588	
BRADLEY TISSI		
WILLIAM CURTIS	7421	
LE CURTIS		
MARLENE ARELLANES	2478	
JEFFREY HAISLIP	0561	
KATTEY HAISLIP		

GUSTAVO SANDOVAL	3467	
SARAH GALLAGHER	5720	
KELSEY L SMITH	0329	
HEATHER BLUHM	7704	
JORGE PRADO JR	7168	
ALBERT LOVINGOOD	7491	
DENNIS SARNO		
MAGALY CORROFLORES	4694	
CARLOS CORROFLORES		
JULIANA CASAS	7281	
KIMBERLY AGUILAR	4415	
JAVIER ROMERO MENDOZA	8689	
NICOLE GOLDSTEIN	5472	
WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN		
LEVON GHARIBIAN	7945	
SHARON HERNANDEZ-MAGANA	2833	
JONATHAN MAGANA-CRUZ		
YIZHOU ZHANG	8474	