



IBIT

GRANTED WITH MODIFICATIONSEFiled: Sep 16 2025 04:36PM EDT
Transaction ID: 77051006
Case No. 2019-0798-JTL**THE COURT OF CHANCERY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE**

IN RE SEARS HOMETOWN AND
OUTLET STORES, INC.
STOCKHOLDERS LITIGATION

CONSOLIDATED
C.A. No. 2019-0798-JTL

**[PROPOSED] AMENDED SCHEDULING ORDER
WITH RESPECT TO NOTICE AND SETTLEMENT HEARING**

WHEREAS, a consolidated stockholder class action is pending in this Court, styled *In re Sears Hometown and Outlet Stores, Inc. Stockholders Litigation*, Consol. C.A. No. 2019-0798-JTL (the “Action”);

WHEREAS, an Amended Stipulation and Agreement of Compromise, Settlement, and Release Between the Primary Subclass Representatives (on behalf of themselves and the Primary Subclass (as defined below)) and Defendants, dated as of September 12, 2025 (the “Stipulation”) has been entered into by and among: (i) Whitebark Value Partners LP and Keith Edquist (“Primary Subclass Representatives”),¹ on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the Primary Subclass, and (ii) defendants Edward S. Lampert, ESL Investments, Inc., ESL Partners, LP, RBS Partners, LP, Transform Holdco LLC, and Hometown Midco LLC (the “Defendants,” and collectively with the Primary Subclass Representatives, the “Settling Parties”);

¹ As noted in Paragraphs Paragraphs EE and RRR of the Stipulation, the Court appointed Whitebark Value Partners LP and Keith Edquist Lead Plaintiffs for the Full Class (“Lead Plaintiffs for the Full Class”) on January 3, 2020, and subsequently appointed them Primary Subclass Representatives on May 29, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Stipulation provides, subject to the approval of this Court, for the complete dismissal with prejudice of the claims of the Primary Subclass against Defendants upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Stipulation (the “Settlement”); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Stipulation, the Settling Parties have made an application, pursuant to Court of Chancery Rule 23, for entry of a scheduling order in accordance with the Stipulation, approving the form and content of the notice of the Settlement to the Primary Subclass, and scheduling the date and time for the Settlement Hearing.

NOW, upon consent of the Settling Parties, after review and consideration of the Stipulation filed with the Court and the Exhibits attached thereto, and after due deliberation,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, this ____ day of _____, 2025 that:

1. Except for terms defined herein, the Court adopts and incorporates the definitions in the Stipulation for purposes of this Order.
2. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action, and all matters relating to the Settlement of the claims of the Primary Subclass against the Defendants, as well as personal jurisdiction over all of the Settling Parties and each of the Primary Subclass Members (as defined below).

3. Pursuant to a stipulated order dated February 3, 2021, Dkt. 90, as amended by a stipulated order dated January 18, 2023, Dkt. 176, and as further amended by a stipulated order dated May 29, 2025, Dkt. 338, the Court certified the following non-opt-out class under Delaware Court of Chancery Rules 23(a), 23(b)(1), and 23(b)(2) (the “Class”):

all record holders and beneficial owners of SHOS common stock who held such shares as of the date of the Merger (i.e., October 23, 2019) (the “Class Shares”) in their capacities as holders of Class Shares, together with their heirs, assigns, transferees, and successors-in-interest, in each case in their capacity as holders of Class Shares. Excluded from the Class are (i) Defendants (previously defined as Edward S. Lampert, ESL Investments Inc., ESL Partners LP, RBS Partners, LP, Transform Holdco LLC, Transform Merger Corporation, Josephine Linden, Alberto Franco, and John E. Tober), as well as Will Powell, E.J. Bird, James F. Gooch, and William K. Phelan (collectively, the “Dismissed Parties” and each a “Dismissed Party”) and each of Defendants’ and the Dismissed Parties’ Immediate Family members, affiliates, investors, partners, limited partners, legal representatives, heirs, estates, successors, or assigns; and (ii) any entity in which any Defendant or Dismissed Party has had a direct or indirect controlling interest (each an “Excluded Person” and, collectively, the “Excluded Persons”).

4. The Class was further certified with the following subclasses without opt-out rights under Delaware Court of Chancery Rule 23(c)(5) (the “Subclasses”).

a. “Primary Subclass” means all members of the Class whose shares were converted in connection with the October 23, 2019 Merger into the right to receive the \$3.21 per share Merger Consideration.

b. For purposes of the Settlement, Quadre Investments, LP (“Quadre”) is a member of the Primary Subclass solely with respect to the 5,000 shares for which it did not seek appraisal, and solely in its capacity as holder of those shares. Any references in the Stipulation, this Scheduling Order, the Notice, or the Judgment to the Primary Subclass or Primary Subclass Members include Quadre solely with respect to the 5,000 shares for which it did not seek appraisal, and solely in its capacity as holder of those shares. Nothing in the Settlement is intended to affect Quadre’s rights or claims as a member of the Intervenor Subclass (as defined below), or Defendants’ defenses or arguments related thereto, with respect to the 1,000 shares for which Quadre exercised its statutory appraisal rights. Cannon Square is not a member of the Primary Subclass and will not receive any benefit, or provide any release, in connection with the Settlement.

c. “Intervenor Subclass” means all members of the Class who exercised their appraisal rights pursuant to the Merger and did not receive the \$3.21 per share Merger consideration. “Subclasses” means the Primary Subclass, together with the Intervenor Subclass.

5. Pursuant to the stipulated orders referenced above, the Court appointed Lead Plaintiffs for the Full Class as the Primary Subclass Representatives and Labaton Keller Sucharow LLP, Prickett, Jones & Elliott, P.A., and Andrews & Springer LLC as Primary Subclass Counsel (the “Primary Subclass Counsel”).

6. Pursuant to the stipulated orders referenced above, the Court found that each element required for certification of the Class pursuant to Court of Chancery Rules 23(a), 23(b)(1) and 23(b)(2) was met in that: (a) the members of the Class (collectively, the “Class Members”) are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable; (b) there are numerous questions of law and fact that are common to all Class Members; (c) the claims of Lead Plaintiffs for the Full Class are typical of the claims of the Class, including because their interests arise from the same alleged course of conduct that gives rise to claims of other Class Members, and the claims of Lead Plaintiffs for the Full Class and the Class employ the same legal theories; (d) in connection with the prosecution of the Action, Lead Plaintiffs for the Full Class would fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class because their interests are not antagonistic to those of any other Class Members and Class Counsel are highly qualified, have significant relevant experience, and are capable of conducting the litigation; (e) the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying

adjudications for individual Class Members, and conflicting adjudications for individual Class Members might, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class Members who are not parties to the adjudications, and might substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests; and (f) Defendants allegedly acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

7. A hearing (the “Settlement Hearing”) will be held on _____, 202__, at __:__ .m., either in person at the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, New Castle County, Leonard L. Williams Justice Center, 500 North King Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, or remotely by telephone or videoconference (in the discretion of the Court) to, among other things:

a. determine whether the proposed Settlement on the terms and conditions provided for in the Stipulation is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Primary Subclass, and should be approved by the Court;

b. determine whether a Judgment, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit C to the Stipulation, should be entered, dismissing the claims of the Primary Subclass against Defendants with prejudice, releasing the Released Claims against the respective Released Persons, and barring and enjoining prosecution of the Released Claims against the Released Persons;

c. determine whether the proposed Plan of Allocation of the Net Settlement Fund proposed by Primary Subclass Counsel is fair and reasonable, and should therefore be approved;

d. determine whether and in what amount any Fee and Expense Award should be paid to Primary Subclass Counsel out of the Settlement Fund;

e. determine whether and in what amount Primary Subclass Counsel should be authorized to pay an incentive fee to Primary Subclass Representatives solely from any Fee and Expense Award;

f. hear and rule on any objections to the Settlement, the proposed Plan of Allocation of the Net Settlement Fund proposed by Primary Subclass Counsel, to the application by Primary Subclass Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, or any application by Primary Subclass Representatives for an Incentive Fee Award; and

g. consider any other matters that may properly be brought before the Court in connection with the Settlement.

8. The Court may adjourn or reconvene the Settlement Hearing, or any adjournment thereof, including the consideration of the application for attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, without further notice to Primary Subclass Members other than oral announcement at the Settlement Hearing or any adjournment thereof, or a

notation on the docket in the Action, and the Court retains jurisdiction over the Settling Parties and all Primary Subclass Members to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

9. The Court may decide to hold the Settlement Hearing remotely by video or teleconference without further notice to the Primary Subclass. Any Primary Subclass Member (or the Primary Subclass Member's counsel) who wishes to appear at the Settlement Hearing should consult the Court's docket and/or the Settlement website for any change in the format of the hearing.

10. The Court may approve the Settlement at or after the Settlement Hearing, according to the terms and conditions of the Stipulation, as it may be modified by the Settling Parties, without further notice to Primary Subclass Members. The Court may approve the Plan of Allocation proposed by Primary Subclass Counsel or a modified plan of allocation at or after the Settlement Hearing, without further notice to Primary Subclass Members. Further, the Court may render its judgment and order the payment of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses at or after the Settlement Hearing, with such modifications as may be consented to by the Settling Parties and without further notice of any kind.

11. The Court approves A.B. Data, Ltd. as the Settlement Administrator to provide notice to the Class and administer the Settlement, including the allocation

and distribution of the Settlement Fund. The Court further approves the Initial Settlement Payment pursuant to Paragraph 4.1(a) of the Stipulation.

12. The Court approves, in form and substance, the Notice of Pendency of Stockholder Class Action and Proposed Settlement, Settlement Hearing, and Right to Appear attached as Exhibit B to the Stipulation (the “Notice”).

13. The Court finds that the mailing of the Notice in substantially the manner set forth in this Order constitutes the best notice practicable under the circumstances to all persons entitled to such notice of the Settlement Hearing and the proposed Settlement, and meets the requirements of Delaware Court of Chancery Rule 23, the requirements of due process, and all other applicable law and rules.

14. Beginning not later than fifteen (15) business days from the date of entry of this Order (such date that is fifteen (15) business days after the date of entry of this Order, the “Notice Date”), A.B. Data, Ltd. shall cause the Notice, substantially in the form attached as Exhibit B to the Stipulation, to be mailed by U.S. first-class mail, or other mail service if mailed outside the United States, postage prepaid, to each Class Member who may be identified through reasonable effort at their last known address based on the records of A.B. Data, Ltd. collected in connection with the Partial Settlement. All stockholders of record who held SHOS common stock on behalf of beneficial owners and who receive the Notice shall be requested to either: (i) within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the

Notice, request from A.B. Data, Ltd. sufficient copies of the Notice to forward to all such beneficial owners and within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of those Notices forward them to all such beneficial owners; or (ii) within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the Notice, provide a list of the names, addresses, and, if available, email addresses of all such beneficial owners to A.B. Data, Ltd., in which event A.B. Data, Ltd. shall promptly mail the Notice to such beneficial owners. Upon full compliance with this Order, such nominees may seek reimbursement of their reasonable expenses actually incurred in complying with this Order by providing A.B. Data, Ltd. with proper documentation supporting the expenses for which reimbursement is sought.

15. Not later than the Notice Date, A.B. Data, Ltd. shall cause the Stipulation and the Notice to be posted on the Settlement website, www.searsstockholderssettlement.com, from which copies of the Notice and Stipulation may be downloaded.

16. All costs and expenses that are incurred by A.B. Data, Ltd. and Primary Subclass Counsel in connection with: (i) providing notice to the Class; and (ii) administering the Settlement, including the costs and expenses incurred in connection with the Escrow Account shall be paid from the Settlement Fund in accordance with the Stipulation without further order of the Court.

17. A.B. Data, Ltd. is authorized and directed to prepare any tax returns and any other tax reporting form for or in respect to the Settlement Fund, to pay from the Settlement Fund any Taxes owed with respect to the Settlement Fund, and to otherwise perform all obligations with respect to Taxes and any reporting or filings in respect thereof without further order of the Court in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Stipulation.

18. At least ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of the Settlement Hearing, Primary Subclass Representatives shall file with the Court proof of mailing of the Notice.

19. The contents of the Settlement Fund that will be held in the Escrow Account shall be deemed and considered to be *in custodia legis* of the Court, and shall remain subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court, until such time as they shall be distributed pursuant to the Stipulation and the Primary Subclass Distribution Order.

20. Unless the Court orders otherwise, any Primary Subclass Member may enter an appearance in the Action, at the Primary Subclass Member's own expense, individually or through counsel of the Primary Subclass Member's own choice, by filing with the Register in Chancery and delivering a notice of appearance to Primary Subclass Counsel and the Defendants' Counsel, at the addresses set forth in Paragraph 21 below, such that it is received no later than thirty (30) calendar days

prior to the Settlement Hearing, or as the Court may otherwise direct. Any Primary Subclass Member who does not enter an appearance will be represented by Primary Subclass Counsel and shall be deemed to have waived and forfeited any rights the Primary Subclass Member may otherwise have to appear separately at the Settlement Hearing.

21. Any Primary Subclass Member may file a written objection to the proposed Settlement, Plan of Allocation, and/or Primary Subclass Counsel's application for an award of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses ("Objector"), if the Primary Subclass Member has any cause why the proposed Settlement, Plan of Allocation, and/or application for an award of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses should not be approved; *provided, however*, that, unless otherwise directed by the Court for good cause shown, no Objector shall be heard or entitled to contest the approval of the terms and conditions of the proposed Settlement, Plan of Allocation, and/or application for an award of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses unless that person or entity has filed a written objection with the Register in Chancery, Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware, New Castle County, Leonard L. Williams Justice Center, 500 North King Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19801, and served (electronically by File & Serve*Xpress*, by hand, by first-class U.S. Mail, or by express service) copies of the objection upon each of the following counsel at the following addresses and email addresses such that they are received electronically

and in hard copy no later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing:

Ned Weinberger
LABATON KELLER SUCHAROW LLP
222 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1510
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nweinberger@labaton.com

Michael A. Pittenger
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Samuel L. Closic
PRICKETT, JONES & ELLIOTT, P.A.
1310 King Street
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Counsel for Defendants and Cross-Claimants Edward S. Lampert, ESL Investments, Inc., ESL Partners, LP, RBS Partners, LP, Transform Holdco LLC, and Hometown Midco LLC

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dsborz@andrewsspringer.com

Primary Subclass Counsel

Counsel for the Settling Parties are directed to promptly furnish each other with copies of any objections that come into their possession.

22. Any objections must: (i) identify the case name and civil action number, “*In re Sears Hometown and Outlet Stores, Inc. Stockholders Litigation*, Consol. C.A. No. 2019-0798-JTL”; (ii) state the name, address, and telephone number of the Objector and, if represented by counsel, the name, address, and telephone number of the Objector’s counsel; (iii) be signed by the Objector;

(iv) contain a specific, written statement of the objection(s) and the specific reason(s) for the objection(s), including any legal and evidentiary support the Objector wishes to bring to the Court's attention, and if the Objector has indicated that he, she, or it intends to appear at the Settlement Hearing, the identity of any witnesses the Objector may call to testify and any exhibits the Objector intends to introduce into evidence at the hearing; and (v) include documentation sufficient to prove that the Objector is a member of the Primary Subclass (*i.e.*, that the Objector held shares of SHOS common stock as of the close of business on October 23, 2019 and that the Objector's shares were converted in connection with the Merger into the right to receive the \$3.21 per share Merger Consideration) (a "Primary Subclass Member"). Documentation establishing that an Objector is a member of the Primary Subclass must consist of copies of monthly brokerage account statements or an authorized statement from the Objector's broker containing the transactional and holding information found in an account statement.

23. Any person who fails to object in the manner described above shall be deemed to have waived the right to object (including any right of appeal) and shall be forever barred from raising such objection in this Action or any other action or proceeding or otherwise contesting the Settlement, Plan of Allocation, and application for attorneys' fees, costs and expenses in the Action or any other proceeding and will otherwise be bound by the Judgment to be entered and the

releases to be given. Primary Subclass Members who do not object need not appear at the Settlement Hearing or take any other action to indicate their approval.

24. At least forty-five (45) calendar days prior to the Settlement Hearing, Primary Subclass Representatives shall file any opening briefs in support of the proposed Settlement and Plan of Allocation, and Primary Subclass Counsel shall file their application for an award of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, including any supporting affidavit(s). At least seven (7) calendar days prior to the date of the Settlement Hearing, the Settling Parties shall file any reply in response to any objections to the Settlement or the Plan of Allocation, and Primary Subclass Counsel shall file any reply in response to any objections to their application for an award of attorney's fees, costs and expenses.

25. Pending final determination of whether the Settlement should be approved, the Court bars and enjoins Primary Subclass Representatives and all other Primary Subclass Members from commencing, instituting, or prosecuting, or in any way participating in the commencement, institution, or prosecution, of any suit, action, or proceeding asserting any of the Released Primary Subclass Claims against any of the Released Defendant Persons.

26. Neither the Settlement nor any act or omission in connection therewith is intended or shall be deemed or argued to be evidence of or to constitute an admission or concession by: (a) the Defendants as to (i) the truth of any fact alleged

by Lead Plaintiffs for the Full Class, Primary Subclass Representatives, any Primary Subclass Member, Intervenor Subclass Representative, or any member of the Intervenor Subclass in this Action or any other action;; (ii) the validity of any claims or other issues raised, or which might be or might have been raised, in the Action (including (x) in any appeal and (y) in any further proceedings in this Action, whether involving the Primary Subclass, the Intervenor Subclass, or both) or in any other litigation or proceeding (including the Appraisal Action); (iii) the deficiency of any defense or argument that has been or could have been asserted in the Action (including (x) in any appeal and (y) in any further proceedings in this Action, whether involving the Primary Subclass, the Intervenor Subclass, or both) or in any other litigation or proceeding (including the Appraisal Action); (iv) the validity of any arguments that may be asserted or could have been asserted in the briefing on open issues in connection with the final judgment or on appeal in this Action (including any further proceedings or appeal involving the claims of the Intervenor Subclass); or (v) any wrongdoing, fault, liability, or damages of any kind by any of them, which each of them expressly denies; or (b) Lead Plaintiffs for the Full Class and/or Primary Subclass Representatives that any of their claims are without merit, that any of the Defendants had meritorious defenses or arguments on appeal, or that damages recoverable from the Defendants (including pre- and post-judgment interest) would not have exceeded the Settlement Amount.

27. Neither the Settlement nor any act or omission in connection therewith shall be admissible, referred to, interpreted, construed, deemed, invoked, offered, or received in evidence or otherwise used by any Person in the Action (including in any appeal), or in any other suit, action or proceeding whatsoever, whether civil, criminal, or administrative; *provided, however*, that the Defendants and the Released Persons may file the Stipulation and/or the Judgment in any action that has been or may be brought against them in order to support a claim or defense based on principles of *res judicata*, collateral estoppel, release, good faith settlement, judgment bar or reduction, or any other theory of claim preclusion or issue preclusion or similar defense or counterclaim or in connection with any insurance litigation.

28. In the event the proposed Settlement (or any amendment thereof by the Settling Parties) is terminated or rendered null and void for any reason: (i) any judgment related to the Settlement entered in the Action related to the claims of the Primary Subclass against Defendants and any related orders entered by the Court shall in all events be treated as vacated, *nunc pro tunc*; (ii) all proceedings in the Action relating to the claims of the Primary Subclass against Defendants shall revert to their statuses as of immediately prior to the execution of the Term Sheet on August 2, 2024; (iii) the Settling Parties shall jointly petition the Court for a revised schedule to address open issues and a form of final order and judgment; and (iv) the

Settling Parties shall proceed in all respects as if the Settlement and the Stipulation (other than the paragraphs of the Stipulation identified in Paragraph 12.2 of the Stipulation) had not been entered into by the Settling Parties.

29. The Court may, for good cause, extend any of the deadlines set forth in this Order without further notice to the Primary Subclass.

30. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction to consider all further applications arising out of or connected with the proposed Settlement.

Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster

This document constitutes a ruling of the court and should be treated as such.

Court: DE Court of Chancery Civil Action

Judge: J Travis Laster

**File & Serve
Transaction ID:** 77071465

Current Date: Sep 16, 2025

Case Number: 2019-0798-JTL

Case Name: CONF ORD/ 2019-0825, 19-0929, 19-0942-JTL - IN RE SEARS HOMETOWN AND
OUTLET STORES, INC. STOCKHOLDERS LITIGATION

Court Authorizer: J Travis Laster

**Court Authorizer
Comments:**

A hearing (the "Settlement Hearing") will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

/s/ Judge J Travis Laster