

MR. JONATHAN ALEXANDER GALENTE, MR. JAMES D. WINFREY, AND DOES 2 THROUGH 10,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CARDINAL FINANCIAL COMPANY, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, AND DOES 11 THROUGH 20,

Defendants.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LAW DIVISION

HUDSON COUNTY

DOCKET NO. HUD-L-82-23

NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION AND PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

TO: All persons who obtained a residential mortgage loan for real property in New Jersey from Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership between January 10, 2017 and January 9, 2023, and paid a fee labeled “Processing Fee” on a Closing Disclosure issued in connection with that mortgage. This includes all loans originated under the originating entity using the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry (NMLS) number 66247.

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THIS CLASS OF PERSONS, YOU SHOULD READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY BECAUSE IT WILL AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

A settlement (“Settlement”) has been proposed in the class action lawsuit referenced above pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Case No. HUD-L-000082-23 (the “Action”). If the Court gives final approval to the Settlement, Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership (“Cardinal Financial”) will provide for each Class Member who properly and timely completes and submits a Claim Form a one-time cash payment in the amount of 55 percent of the fee labeled “Processing Fee” on your Closing Disclosure issued in connection with a Cardinal Financial residential mortgage loan (“Settlement Payment”).

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS IN THIS SETTLEMENT

SUBMIT A CLAIM FORM	This is the only way to get a Settlement Payment. Visit the Settlement website located at www.CardinalFinancialSettlement.com to obtain and to electronically submit a Claim Form and supporting documentation. You can also print the Claim Form from the website and then submit it by mail along with any supporting documentation.	Deadline: May 16, 2025
EXCLUDE YOURSELF	If you exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will not receive a Settlement Payment under the Settlement. Excluding yourself is the only option that allows you to ever bring or maintain your own lawsuit against Cardinal Financial regarding the allegations in the Action ever again.	Deadline: May 16, 2025
OBJECT	You may write to the Court about why you object to (<i>i.e.</i> , don’t like) the Settlement and think it should not be approved. Filing an objection does not exclude you from the Settlement.	Deadline: May 16, 2025
GO TO THE “FAIRNESS HEARING”	The Court anticipates holding a Final Approval Hearing or “Fairness Hearing” to consider the Settlement and the request for attorneys’ fees and costs of the lawyers who brought the Action. You may, but are not required to, speak at the Fairness Hearing about any objection you filed to the Settlement. If you intend to speak at the Fairness Hearing, you must also include as part of your objection a “Notice of Intention to Appear” to the Court and the Parties’ attorneys indicating your intent to do so.	Anticipated Hearing Date: August 1, 2025
DO NOTHING	You will not receive a Settlement Payment under the Settlement. You will also give up your right to object to the Settlement, and you will not be able to be part of any other lawsuit involving the legal claims in this Action.	N/A

- These rights and options—and the deadlines to exercise them—are explained in more detail below.
- The Court in charge of this Action has preliminarily approved the Settlement and must decide whether to give final approval to the Settlement. The relief provided to Class Members will be provided only if the Court gives final approval to the Settlement and, if there are any appeals, after the appeals are resolved in favor of the Settlement. ***Please be patient.***

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. *Why did I get this Notice?*

You received Notice because a Settlement has been reached in this Action. According to Cardinal Financial's available records, you might be a member of the Settlement Class and may be eligible for the relief detailed below.

This Notice explains the nature of the Action, the general terms of the proposed Settlement, and your legal rights and obligations. To obtain more information about the Settlement, including information about how you can see a copy of the Settlement Agreement (which defines certain capitalized terms used in this Notice), see Section 20 below.

2. *What is this lawsuit about?*

Plaintiffs Jonathan A. Galente and James D. Winfrey (the "Representative Plaintiffs") filed a lawsuit against Cardinal Financial on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated. The lawsuit alleges that Cardinal Financial charged fees that were improper under New Jersey's Residential Mortgage Lending Act in connection with residential mortgage loans issued in New Jersey between January 10, 2017 and January 9, 2023.

Cardinal Financial denies each and every one of the allegations of unlawful conduct, any wrongdoing, and any liability whatsoever, and no court or other entity has made any judgment or other determination of any liability. Cardinal Financial further denies that any Class Member is entitled to any relief and, other than for settlement purposes, and that this Action is appropriate for certification as a class action. Cardinal Financial denies any wrongdoing and any liability whatsoever.

The issuance of this Notice is not an expression of the Court's opinion on the merits or the lack of merits of the Representative Plaintiffs' claims in the Action.

For information about how to learn about what has happened in the Action to date, please see Section 20 below.

3. *Why is this a class action?*

In a class action lawsuit, one or more people called "Representative Plaintiff(s)" (in this Action, Jonathan A. Galente and James D. Winfrey) sue on behalf of other people who have similar claims. For purposes of this proposed Settlement, one court will resolve the issues for all Class Members. The company sued in this case, Cardinal Financial, is called the Defendant.

4. *Why is there a Settlement?*

The Representative Plaintiffs have made claims against Cardinal Financial. Cardinal Financial denies that it has done anything wrong or illegal and admits no liability. The Court has **not** decided that the Representative Plaintiffs or Cardinal Financial should win this Action. Instead, both sides agreed to a Settlement in order to limit further expense, inconvenience, and uncertainty. That way, the Parties avoid the cost of a trial, and the Class Members will receive relief now rather than years from now, if at all.

5. *How do I know if I am part of the Settlement?*

The Court has decided that everyone who fits this description is a Class Member for purposes of the proposed Settlement: all persons who paid a fee labeled "Processing Fee" on a Closing Disclosure issued in connection with a residential mortgage loan originated by Cardinal Financial (using the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry number 66247) relating to real property in New Jersey between January 10, 2017 and January 9, 2023.

6. *I'm still not sure if I am included.*

If you are still not sure whether you are included, you can contact the Claims Administrator for free help about whether you are a Class Member. The email address of the Claims Administrator is Info@CardinalFinancialSettlement.com and the U.S. postal (mailing) address is Cardinal Financial Settlement, Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 301174, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1174, and the telephone number is 1-866-678-9553.

THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

7. *What relief does the Settlement provide to the Class Members?*

Cardinal Financial has agreed to provide the Class a Settlement Payment of a one-time cash payment to a Class Member in the amount of 55 percent of the fee labeled “Processing Fee” on the Closing Disclosure issued to that Class Member in connection with a Cardinal Financial residential mortgage loan relating to real property in New Jersey between January 10, 2017 and January 9, 2023. To receive a Settlement Payment, you must timely complete and submit a valid Claim Form, which explains the eligibility and any documentation requirements for the different payment categories.

HOW TO REQUEST A SETTLEMENT PAYMENT – SUBMITTING A CLAIM FORM

8. *How can I get a Settlement Payment?*

To qualify for a Settlement Payment, you must send in a Claim Form by the deadline. A Claim Form is available by clicking [HERE](#) or on the Internet at the website www.cardinalfinancialsettlement.com. The Claim Form may be submitted electronically or by postal mail. Read the instructions carefully, fill out the form, and postmark it by May 16, 2025 or submit it online on or before 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on May 16, 2025.

If you received an email or postcard notifying you of the Settlement, please provide the unique Claim ID and PIN code included in that email or postcard when completing your Claim Form.

9. *When will I get a Settlement Payment and what is the deadline to cash the check for the Settlement Payment?*

As described in Sections 17 and 18 below, the Court anticipates holding a hearing on August 1, 2025 to decide whether to approve the Settlement. If the Court approves the Settlement, after that, there may be appeals. It is always uncertain whether these appeals can be resolved, and resolving them can take time, perhaps more than a year. You can check on the progress of the case on the website dedicated to the Settlement at www.CardinalFinancialSettlement.com. ***Please be patient.***

You will have one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of issuance to negotiate (*i.e.*, cash) the check you receive for the Settlement Payment.

THE LAWYERS IN THIS CASE AND THE REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF

10. *Do I have a lawyer in this case?*

The Court has ordered that the law firms of Mortgage Justice, LLC and Marion & Allen, P.C. (“Class Counsel”) will represent the interests of all Class Members. You will not be separately charged for these lawyers. If you want to be represented by your own lawyer, you may hire one at your own expense.

11. *How will the lawyers be paid?*

Cardinal Financial has agreed to pay Class Counsel’s attorneys’ fees and costs up to \$179,718.40, subject to approval by the Court. You will not be required to pay any attorneys’ fees or costs for Class Counsel’s attorneys’ fees and costs.

12. *Will the Representative Plaintiffs receive any compensation for their efforts in bringing this Action?*

The Representative Plaintiffs will request a service award (also known as an “incentive award”) of up to \$1,000 per individual for their services as class representatives and their efforts in bringing the Action. The Court will make the final decision as to the amount to be paid to the Representative Plaintiffs. Cardinal Financial agrees to pay to the Representative Plaintiffs the incentive award approved by the Court up to \$1,000 per individual.

DISMISSAL OF ACTION AND RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

13. *What am I giving up to obtain relief under the Settlement?*

If the Court approves the proposed Settlement, unless you exclude yourself from the Settlement, you will be releasing your claims against Cardinal Financial. This generally means that you will not be able to file a lawsuit, continue prosecuting a lawsuit, or be part of any other lawsuit against Cardinal Financial regarding the allegations in the Action. The Settlement Agreement, available on the Internet at the website www.CardinalFinancialSettlement.com contains the full terms of the release.

HOW TO EXCLUDE YOURSELF FROM THE SETTLEMENT

14. *How do I exclude myself from the Settlement?*

You may exclude yourself from the Class and the Settlement. If you want to be excluded, you must send a letter or postcard stating: (a) the name and case number of the Action “*Galente, et al. v. Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership, et al.*,” Case No. HUD-L-000082-23”; (b) your full name, address, and telephone number (email address optional); and (c) a statement that you do not wish to participate in the Settlement, postmarked no later than May 16, 2025 to the Claims Administrator at:

Cardinal Financial Settlement
Claims Administrator
P.O. Box 301174
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1174

If you timely request exclusion from the Class, you will be excluded from the Class, you will not be bound by the judgment entered in the Action, and you will not be precluded from prosecuting any timely, individual claim against Cardinal Financial based on the conduct complained of in the Action.

HOW TO OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT

15. *How do I tell the Court that I do not like the Settlement?*

At the date, time, and location stated in Section 18 below, the Court will hold a Fairness Hearing to determine if the Settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate, and to also consider Class Counsel’s request for an award of attorneys’ fees and costs.

If you wish to object to the fairness, reasonableness, or adequacy of the Settlement Agreement or the proposed Settlement, you must submit a written objection to the Claims Administrator at the address set forth below no later than (*i.e.*, postmarked by) May 16, 2025.

Cardinal Financial Settlement
Claims Administrator
P.O. Box 301174
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1174

The written objections must state: (a) the name and case number of the Action “*Galente, et al. v. Cardinal Financial Company, Limited Partnership, et al.*,” Case No. HUD-L-000082-23”; (b) the full name, address, and telephone number of the person objecting (email address optional); (c) the words “Notice of Objection” or “Formal Objection”; (d) in clear and concise terms, the objection and legal and factual arguments supporting the objection; and (e) facts showing that the person objecting is a Class Member. The written objection must be signed and dated, and must include the following language immediately above the signature and date:

“I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing statements regarding class membership are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.”

You may, but need not, submit your objection through counsel of your choice. If you do make your objection through an attorney, you will be responsible for your personal attorney’s fees and costs.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY MAKE YOUR OBJECTION, YOU WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE WAIVED ALL OBJECTIONS AND WILL NOT BE ENTITLED TO SPEAK AT THE FAIRNESS HEARING.

If you submit a written objection, you may appear at the Fairness Hearing, either in person or through personal counsel hired at your expense, to object to the Settlement Agreement. You are not required, however, to appear. If you, or your attorney, intend to make an appearance at the Fairness Hearing, you must include on your timely and valid written objection a statement substantially similar to “Notice of Intention to Appear.”

If you intend to appear at the Fairness Hearing through counsel, you must also identify the attorney(s) representing you who will appear at the Fairness Hearing and include the attorney(s)’ name, address, phone number, email address, and the state bar(s) to which counsel is admitted. Also, if you intend to request the Court to allow you to call witnesses at the Fairness Hearing, such request must be made in your written objection, which must also contain a list of any such witnesses and a summary of each witness’s expected testimony.

16. *What is the difference between excluding myself and objecting to the Settlement?*

Objecting is simply telling the Court that you do not like something about the Settlement. You can object only if you stay in the Settlement Class. Excluding yourself is telling the Court that you do not want to be part of the Settlement Class. If you exclude yourself, you have no basis to object because the Settlement no longer affects you.

FAIRNESS HEARING

17. *What is the Fairness Hearing?*

The Court has preliminarily approved the Settlement and will hold a hearing to decide whether to give final approval to the Settlement. The purpose of the Fairness Hearing will be for the Court to determine whether the Settlement should be approved as fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class, as well as to consider the award of attorneys' fees and costs to Class Counsel.

18. *When and where is the Fairness Hearing?*

On August 1, 2025, it is anticipated a hearing will be held on the fairness of the proposed Settlement. At the Fairness Hearing, the Court will be available to hear any objections and arguments concerning the proposed Settlement's fairness. The Fairness Hearing will take place before the Honorable Joseph A. Turula in Floor 2 of the W.J. Brennan Courthouse, located at 583 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey 07306. The Fairness Hearing may be postponed to a different date or time or location without notice. Please check the website www.cardinalfinancialsettlement.com for any updates about the Settlement generally or the Fairness Hearing specifically. If the date or time of the Fairness Hearing changes, an update to the Settlement website will be the only way you will be informed of the change.

19. *May I speak at the Fairness Hearing?*

At the Fairness Hearing, the Court will be available to hear any objections and arguments concerning the fairness of the Settlement. You may attend, but you do not have to. As described above in Section 15, you may speak at the Fairness Hearing only if (a) you have timely served and filed an objection, and (b) you have timely and validly provided a Notice of Intent to Appear. If you have requested exclusion from the Settlement, however, you may not speak at the Fairness Hearing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

20. *How do I get more information?*

To see a copy of the Settlement Agreement, the Court's Preliminary Approval Order, Class Counsel's application for attorneys' fees and costs, and the operative complaint filed in the Action, please visit the Settlement website located at: www.CardinalFinancialSettlement.com. Alternatively, you may contact the Claims Administrator at the email address: Info@CardinalFinancialSettlement.com or the U.S. postal address (mailing): Cardinal Financial Settlement, Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 301174, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1174, or the telephone number: 1-866-678-9553.

This description of this Action is general and does not cover all of the issues and proceedings that have occurred. In order to see the complete file, you should visit www.njcourts.gov in order to obtain the file for inspection and copying at your own expense.

21. *What if my address or other information has changed or changes after I submit a Claim Form?*

It is your responsibility to inform the Claims Administrator of your updated information. You may do so at the address below:

Cardinal Financial Settlement
Claims Administrator
P.O. Box 301174
Los Angeles, CA 90030-1174

DO NOT ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT OR THE LITIGATION TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT OR THE JUDGE.