

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

VERIDIAN CREDIT UNION, on behalf of itself  
and a class of similarly situated financial  
institutions,

Plaintiff,

v.

EDDIE BAUER LLC,

Defendant.

NO.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff Veridian Credit Union (“Plaintiff”), through its undersigned counsel,  
individually and on behalf of a class of similarly situated financial institutions, files this Class  
Action Complaint against Defendant Eddie Bauer LLC (“Eddie Bauer” or “Defendant”) and  
states the following:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This is a class action on behalf of credit unions, banks, and other financial  
institutions that suffered injury as a result of a security breach from or around January 2, 2016  
to July 17, 2016<sup>1</sup>, which compromised the names, credit and debit card numbers, card  
expiration dates, card verification values (“CVVs”), and other credit and debit card information  
(collectively, “Payment Card Data”) of customers at approximately 350 American and

<sup>1</sup> To date, the Eddie Bauer Data Breach has been confirmed to have run through July 17, 2016. It is entirely  
possible that the Eddie Bauer Data Breach ran past this date, which will be confirmed through discovery in this  
litigation.

1 Canadian locations of Defendant Eddie Bauer’s stores (hereinafter, the “Eddie Bauer Data  
2 Breach”).

3 2. The Eddie Bauer Data Breach forced Plaintiff and other financial institutions to  
4 take one or more of the following actions: (a) cancel or reissue any credit and debit cards  
5 affected by the Eddie Bauer Data Breach; (b) close and/or open or reopen any deposit,  
6 transaction, checking, or other accounts affected by the Eddie Bauer Data Breach; (c) refund or  
7 credit any cardholder to cover the cost of any unauthorized transaction relating to the Eddie  
8 Bauer Data Breach; (d) respond to a higher volume of cardholder complaints, confusion, and  
9 concern; (e) increase fraud monitoring efforts; and/or (f) other lost revenues as a result of the  
10 breach.

11 3. As alleged herein, the injuries to Plaintiff and the Class were directly and  
12 proximately caused by Defendant’s failure to implement or maintain adequate data security  
13 measures for customer information, including credit and debit card data and personally  
14 identifying information. Defendant failed to take steps to employ adequate security measures  
15 despite well-publicized data breaches at large national retail and restaurant chains in recent  
16 months, including Target, Home Depot, Sally Beauty, Harbor Freight Tools, P.F. Chang’s,  
17 Wendy’s, Dairy Queen, Noodles, and Kmart.

18 4. The failure of Defendant to adequately secure its data networks was particularly  
19 inexcusable given the fact that the infiltration underlying the Eddie Bauer Data Breach  
20 involved mostly the same techniques as those used in major data breaches in the preceding  
21 months and years, including those at other major retailers like Target, Home Depot, and Kmart.  
22 Nevertheless, despite having knowledge that such data breaches were occurring throughout the  
23 retail industry, Defendant failed to properly protect sensitive payment card information.

24 5. The data breach was the inevitable result of Eddie Bauer’s inadequate data  
25 security measures and approach to data security. Despite the well-publicized and ever-growing  
26 threat of cyber breaches involving payment card networks and systems, Eddie Bauer  
27

1 systematically failed to ensure that it maintained adequate data security measures, failed to  
2 implement best practices, failed to upgrade security systems, and failed to comply with industry  
3 standards by allowing its computer and point of sale systems to be hacked causing financial  
4 institutions' payment card and customer information to be stolen. Eddie Bauer's data security  
5 deficiencies were so significant that hackers were able to install malware and remain  
6 undetected for months, until outside parties notified Eddie Bauer that its computer and point of  
7 sale systems may have been breached as a result of the identification of fraudulent transactions  
8 that had taken place after the hackers had used or sold customer data.

9           6. Defendant also failed to mitigate the damage of a potential data breach by  
10 failing to implement chip-based card technology, otherwise known as EMV technology. EMV  
11 – which stands for Europay, MasterCard, and Visa – is a global standard for cards equipped  
12 with computer chips and technology used to authenticate chip card transactions. While Visa  
13 implemented minimum EMV Chip Card and Terminal Requirements in October 2015, at the  
14 time of the Eddie Bauer Data Breach, Defendant had not fully implemented EMV technology  
15 in its stores, and thus, left all of the information on the magnetic stripe of cards used in its retail  
16 locations vulnerable to theft in a way it has been repeatedly warned about.

17           7. In addition to failing to prevent the intrusion in the first instance and failing to  
18 implement required data security measures that would have limited its ability to affect  
19 cardholders and the financial institutions from which their cards came, Defendant exacerbated  
20 injury by failing to notify customers of the infiltration for a period of at least six weeks from  
21 being first informed by a third party that the Eddie Bauer Data Breach had occurred, after  
22 letting the breach itself go undetected for over six months. Eddie Bauer store payment data  
23 systems were infected with a form of malware of which Defendant was unaware until July or  
24 even August 2016. Therefore, the volume of data stolen was much greater than it would have  
25  
26  
27

1 been had Defendant maintained sufficient malware monitoring to identify and eliminate the  
2 breach as it was occurring.

3 8. As a direct and proximate consequence of Defendant's negligence, vast amounts  
4 of customer information were stolen from the Eddie Bauer computer network. Though an  
5 investigation is still ongoing, it appears that hundreds of thousands or even millions of  
6 Defendant's customers at approximately 350 American and Canadian locations have had their  
7 credit and debit numbers compromised, have had their privacy rights violated, have been  
8 exposed to the risk of fraud and identity theft, and have otherwise suffered damages.

9 Moreover, Plaintiff and members of the Class have incurred, and have a certainly impending  
10 risk of incurring in the future, significant costs associated with having to respond to the breach  
11 in one or more of the ways: notifying their customers of issues related to the Eddie Bauer Data  
12 Breach, closing out and opening new customer accounts, reissuing customers' cards, and/or  
13 refunding customers' losses resulting from the unauthorized use of their accounts.

14 9. Plaintiff and the members of the Class seek to recover damages caused by  
15 Defendant's negligence, negligence *per se*, violation of RCW 19.255.020, violation of RCW  
16 Ch. 19.86, and for declaratory and injunctive relief.

### 17 **PARTIES**

18 10. Plaintiff Veridian Credit Union ("Veridian" or "Plaintiff") is an Iowa-chartered  
19 credit union with its principal place of business located in Waterloo, Iowa. As a result of the  
20 Eddie Bauer Data Breach, Plaintiff Veridian has suffered and is subject to a certainly  
21 impending risk of suffering, injury in one or more of the following ways: costs to cancel and  
22 reissue cards compromised in the data breach, costs to refund fraudulent charges, costs to  
23 investigate fraudulent charges, costs for customer fraud monitoring, and other lost revenues.

24 11. Defendant Eddie Bauer LLC ("Eddie Bauer") is headquartered at 10401 NE 8th  
25 Street, Suite 500, Bellevue, Washington 98004. According to its website, "Eddie Bauer offers  
26 premium-quality clothing, accessories and gear for men and women that complement today's  
27

1 modern outdoor lifestyle.” Eddie Bauer operates approximately 370 stores throughout the  
2 United States and Canada.<sup>2</sup>

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 12. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action under the Class Action  
5 Fairness Act (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2). The amount in controversy in this action  
6 exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and there are more than 100 members of  
7 the Class, defined below, many of which are citizens of a different state than Defendant.  
8 Defendant Eddie Bauer is a citizen of Washington, where its principal place of business is  
9 located.

10 13. The Western District of Washington has personal jurisdiction over Defendant  
11 because Defendant is found within this District and conducts substantial business in this  
12 District.

13 14. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 because Defendant  
14 resides in this judicial district, regularly transacts business in this District, and a substantial part  
15 of the events giving rise to this Complaint arose in this District.

16 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

17 **A. Background on Electronic Debit and Credit Card Transactions and**  
18 **Requirements for Securing Data**

19 15. Plaintiff and the members of the Class are financial institutions that issue  
20 payment cards<sup>3</sup> to their customers.

21 16. Eddie Bauer stores accept customer payment cards for the purchase of goods  
22 and services. At the point of sale (“POS”), these cards are swiped on a POS terminal and either  
23 a personal identification number (or some other confirmation number) is entered or a receipt is  
24 signed to finish the transaction on behalf of the customer.

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>2</sup> <http://www.eddiebauer.com/company-info/company-info-about-us.jsp> (last visited on Mar. 7, 2017)).

27 <sup>3</sup> These cards include, for example, debit or credit cards branded with the Visa or MasterCard logo.

1           17. It is well known that customer Payment Card Data is valuable and often targeted  
2 by hackers. Over the last several years, numerous data breaches have occurred at large retailers  
3 and restaurants nationwide, including Home Depot, Target, Kmart, Wendy's, P.F. Chang's,  
4 Neiman Marcus, and many others. Indeed, Eddie Bauer should have been especially aware of  
5 the threat posed by data breaches since in April 2011, Eddie Bauer customers were warned that  
6 hackers may have obtained access to email addresses and other personal information because of  
7 a breach at Epsilon. Despite widespread publicity and industry alerts regarding these other  
8 notable data breaches, Eddie Bauer failed to take reasonable steps to adequately protect its  
9 computer systems from being breached.

10           18. A large portion of sales at Eddie Bauer's stores are made to customers using  
11 credit or debit cards. A basic description of the various steps necessary to execute a  
12 credit/debit card transaction is as follows: (1) after the credit/debit card is swiped, the merchant  
13 (*e.g.*, Eddie Bauer) uses one of several payment processing networks (*e.g.*, Visa or MasterCard)  
14 to transmit a request for authorization to the institution that issued the payment card (*e.g.*,  
15 Plaintiff); (2) the issuing institution authorizes the payment and the merchant electronically  
16 forwards a receipt of the transaction to another financial institution, known as the "acquiring  
17 bank," which contracts with the merchant to process credit and debit card transactions on the  
18 merchant's behalf; (3) the acquiring bank forwards the funds to the merchant to satisfy the  
19 transaction and is then reimbursed by the issuing financial institution (*e.g.*, Plaintiff); and (4)  
20 finally, the issuing institution posts the debit or credit transaction to its customer's account.

21           19. Eddie Bauer is, and at all relevant times has been, aware that the Payment Card  
22 Data it maintains is highly sensitive and could be used for nefarious purposes by third parties,  
23 such as perpetrating identity theft and making fraudulent purchases.

24           20. Eddie Bauer is, and at all relevant times has been, aware of the importance of  
25 safeguarding its customers' Payment Card Data and of the foreseeable consequences that would  
26  
27

1 occur if its data security systems were breached, specifically including the significant costs that  
2 would be imposed on issuers, such as the Plaintiff, members of the Class, and others.

3 21. Given the extensive network of financial institutions involved in these  
4 transactions and the sheer volume of daily transactions using credit and debit cards, it is  
5 unsurprising that financial institutions and credit card processing companies have issued rules  
6 and standards governing the basic measures that merchants must take to ensure consumers'  
7 valuable data is protected.

8 22. The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards ("PCI DSS") is a list of 12  
9 information security requirements that were promulgated by the Payment Card Industry  
10 Security Standards Council. The PCI DSS list applies to all organizations and environments  
11 where cardholder data is stored, processed, or transmitted and requires merchants like  
12 Defendant to protect cardholder data, ensure the maintenance of vulnerability management  
13 programs, implement strong access control measures, regularly monitor and test networks, and  
14 ensure the maintenance of information security policies.

15 23. The 12 requirements of the PCI DSS are:

16 **Build and Maintain a Secure Network**

- 17 1) Install and maintain a firewall configuration to protect cardholder data  
18 2) Do not use vendor-supplied defaults for system passwords and other security  
19 parameters

20 **Protect Cardholder Data**

- 21 3) Protect stored cardholder data  
22 4) Encrypt transmission of cardholder data across open, public networks

23 **Maintain a Vulnerability Management Program**

- 24 5) Protect all systems against malware and regularly update anti-virus software or  
25 programs  
26 6) Develop and maintain secure systems and applications  
27

1 **Implement Strong Access Control Measures**

- 2 7) Restrict access to cardholder data by business need to know
- 3 8) Identify and authenticate access to system components
- 4 9) Restrict physical access to cardholder data

5 **Regularly Monitor and Test Networks**

- 6 10) Track and monitor all access to network resources and cardholder data
- 7 11) Regularly test security systems and processes

8 **Maintain an Information Security Policy**

- 9 12) Maintain a policy that addresses information security for all personnel.<sup>4</sup>

10 24. Furthermore, PCI DSS 3.1 sets forth detailed and comprehensive requirements  
 11 that must be followed to meet each of the 12 mandates. Defendant was at all times fully aware  
 12 of its data protection obligations for Eddie Bauer stores in light of their participation in the  
 13 payment card processing networks and their daily collection and transmission of tens of  
 14 thousands of sets of Payment Card Data.

15 25. Furthermore, Defendant knew that because they accepted payment cards at  
 16 Eddie Bauer stores containing sensitive financial information, customers and financial  
 17 institutions, such as Plaintiff, were entitled to, and did, rely on Defendant to keep that sensitive  
 18 information secure from would-be data thieves in accordance with the PCI DSS requirements.

19 26. In addition, the payment card industry also set rules requiring all businesses to  
 20 upgrade to new card readers that accept EMV chips. EMV chip technology uses embedded  
 21 computer chips instead of magnetic stripes to store Payment Card Data. Unlike magnetic stripe  
 22 cards that use static data (the card information never changes), EMV cards use dynamic data.  
 23 Every time an EMV card is used, the chip creates a unique transaction code that cannot be used  
 24

---

25 <sup>4</sup> PCI Security Standards Council, *PCI DSS Quick Reference Guide: Understanding the Payment Card Industry*  
 26 *Data Security Standard version 3.2*, at 9 (May 2016),  
 27 [https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/documents/PCIDSS\\_QRGv3\\_2.pdf?agreement=true&time=1472840893444](https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/documents/PCIDSS_QRGv3_2.pdf?agreement=true&time=1472840893444)  
 (last visited Mar. 7, 2017).



1 again. Such technology greatly increases payment card security because if an EMV chip's  
2 information is stolen, the unique number cannot be used by the thieves, making it much more  
3 difficult for criminals to profit from what is stolen.

4 27. The payment card industry (MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express)  
5 set a deadline of October 1, 2015, for businesses to transition their systems from magnetic  
6 stripe to EMV technology. Eddie Bauer did not meet that deadline.

7 28. Under Card Operating Regulations, businesses accepting payment cards, but not  
8 meeting the October 1, 2015 deadline, agree to be liable for damages resulting from any data  
9 breaches.

10 29. Additionally, according to the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"), the failure to  
11 employ reasonable and appropriate measures to protect against unauthorized access to  
12 confidential consumer data constitutes an unfair act or practice prohibited by §5 of the Federal  
13 Trade Commission Act of 1914 ("FTC Act"), 15 U.S.C. §45.

14 30. In 2007, the FTC published guidelines that establish reasonable data security  
15 practices for businesses. The guidelines note that businesses should protect the personal  
16 customer information that they keep; properly dispose of personal information that is no longer  
17 needed; encrypt information stored on computer networks; understand their network's  
18 vulnerabilities; and implement policies for installing vendor-approved patches to correct  
19 security problems. The guidelines also recommend that businesses consider using an intrusion  
20 detection system to expose a breach as soon as it occurs; monitor all incoming traffic for  
21 activity indicating someone may be trying to hack the system; watch for large amounts of data  
22 being transmitted from the system; and have a response plan ready in the event of a breach.

23 31. The FTC has also published a document, entitled "Protecting Personal  
24 Information: A Guide for Business," which highlights the importance of having a data security  
25 plan, regularly assessing risks to computer systems, and implementing safeguards to control  
26  
27

1 such risks.<sup>5</sup>

2 32. The FTC has issued orders against businesses that failed to employ reasonable  
3 measures to secure Payment Card Data. These orders provide further guidance to businesses in  
4 regard to their data security obligations.

5 **B. The Eddie Bauer Data Breach: the Result of Lax Security Standards**

6 33. On July 5, 2016, Brian Krebs, of KrebsOnSecurity, a leading information  
7 security investigator, reached out to Eddie Bauer after hearing from several sources who work  
8 in fighting fraud at American financial institutions of a possible breach at Eddie Bauer retail  
9 locations. All of those sources said they had identified a pattern of fraud on customer cards that  
10 had one thing in common: they were all used at Eddie Bauer's American retail locations. A  
11 spokesperson for Eddie Bauer at the time said that Defendant was grateful for the outreach, but  
12 that Eddie Bauer had not received any fraud complaints from banks or credit card associations.

13 34. Recognizing the impact the Eddie Bauer Data Breach would have on financial  
14 institutions like Plaintiff and other members of the Class, Eddie Bauer stated that “[i]f a  
15 customer believes his or her payment card may have been affected, the customer should  
16 immediately contact their bank or card issuer.”

17 35. Despite notice from Krebs on Security in early July 2016, Eddie Bauer did not  
18 officially confirm the Eddie Bauer Data Breach until it released a statement on August 18,  
19 2016, over six weeks later, saying that Defendant had found malware on its registers at  
20 approximately 350 stores, and that there was reason to believe that credit and debit cards used  
21 at these stores between January 2 and July 17, 2016 “may have been compromised.”

22 36. In a communication to KrebsOnSecurity, Eddie Bauer said that they had been  
23 working with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and an outside computer forensics firm,  
24

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>5</sup> Federal Trade Commission, *Protecting Personal Information: A Guide for Business* (Nov. 2011),  
27 [https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136\\_proteting-personal-information.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/plain-language/pdf-0136_proteting-personal-information.pdf) (last  
visited Mar. 7, 2017).

1 and they had detected and removed card-stealing malware from cash registers at *all* of Eddie  
2 Bauer's locations in the United States and Canada.

3 37. Eddie Bauer further stated that it believed the malware was capable of capturing  
4 credit and debit card information from customer transactions made at *all* Eddie Bauer stores in  
5 the United States and Canada from January 2, 2016 to July 17, 2016.

6 38. Eddie Bauer offered to its customers whose credit and debit card information  
7 were potentially captured by the malware, 12 months of identity protection services from Kroll,  
8 a global leader in risk mitigation and response.

9 39. Eddie Bauer setup a website for customers whose payment card information  
10 may have been accessed during the Eddie Bauer Data Breach, <http://cardnotification.kroll.com/>.  
11 On this website, Eddie Bauer stated that "unauthorized parties [were able] to access payment  
12 card account information." Specifically, these unauthorized parties took "cardholder name,  
13 payment card number, security code and expiration date" information. However, despite these  
14 facts, Eddie Bauer has not offered Financial Institutions any compensation for the fraud losses  
15 or reissuance costs associated with credit and debit cards that were potentially captured by the  
16 malware.

17 40. On August 18, 2016, the Company issued a press release regarding the breach:  
18 "We have been working closely with the FBI, cyber security experts, and payment card  
19 organizations, and want to assure our customers that we have fully identified and contained the  
20 incident and that no customers will be responsible for any fraudulent charges to their accounts.  
21 In addition, we've taken steps to strengthen the security of our point of sale systems to prevent  
22 this from happening in the future."

23 41. The press release went on to state that it was working with payment card  
24 networks to identify and monitor the breach: "Eddie Bauer has notified payment card networks  
25 so that they can coordinate with card issuing banks to monitor for fraudulent activity on cards  
26 used during the timeframe in which cards may have been compromised."  
27

1           42.     Additionally, on August 18, 2016, the Company’s CEO, Mike Egeck issued an  
2 open letter acknowledging that credit and debit card data had been compromised similar to  
3 many other merchants throughout the United States:

4                     Unfortunately, malware intrusions like this are all too common in  
5 the world that we live in today. In fact, ***we learned that the malware found on our systems was part of a sophisticated attack directed at multiple restaurants, hotels, and retailers, including Eddie Bauer.*** We are conducting a comprehensive review of our  
6 IT systems to incorporate recommended security measures in order  
7 to strengthen them and prevent this from happening again. We  
8 have been working closely with payment card organizations and  
9 customers will not be responsible for any fraudulent charges to  
10 their accounts. We also have been working with the FBI to identify  
11 the perpetrators and provide whatever cooperation is necessary to  
12 hold them accountable.<sup>6</sup>

13           43.     Even now, many months after the Eddie Bauer Data Breach ended, the website  
14 still says that Eddie Bauer has only “started the process of notifying customers whom we have  
15 confirmed may have been affected,” so the impact of the Eddie Bauer Data Breach is likely to  
16 continue to grow.

17           44.     The deficiencies in Eddie Bauer’s security system include a lack of elementary  
18 security measures that even the most inexperienced IT professional could identify as  
19 problematic.

20           45.     Had Eddie Bauer remedied the deficiencies in its IT systems, it could have  
21 prevented the Eddie Bauer Data Breach because virtually all data breaches are preventable. In  
22 fact, the *Online Trust Alliance*, a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance online  
23 trust, user empowerment, and innovation, in its 2014 annual report, estimated that 740 million  
24 records were stolen in 2013, and that 89% of data breaches occurring in that year were  
25 avoidable.

26           46.     The security flaws outlined above, along with many others, were explicitly  
27 highlighted by Visa as early as 2009, when it issued a Data Security Alert describing the threat

---

<sup>6</sup> <http://cardnotification.kroll.com/> (last visited Mar. 7, 2017).

1 of RAM scraper malware.<sup>7</sup> The report instructs companies to “secure remote access  
2 connectivity,” “implement secure network configuration, including egress and ingress filtering  
3 to only allow the ports/services necessary to conduct business” (*i.e.*, segregate networks),  
4 “actively monitor logs of network components, including intrusion detection systems and  
5 firewalls for suspicious traffic, particularly outbound traffic to unknown addresses,” “encrypt  
6 cardholder data anywhere it is being stored and [] implement[] a data field encryption solution  
7 to directly address cardholder data in transit” and “work with your payment application vendor  
8 to ensure security controls are in place to prevent unauthorized modification to the payment  
9 application configuration.” *Id.*

10 47. In addition to ignoring explicit warnings from Visa, Eddie Bauer’s security  
11 flaws also run afoul of industry practices and standards. More specifically, the security  
12 practices in place at Eddie Bauer are in stark contrast and directly conflict with the Payment  
13 Card Industry Data Security Standards. All merchants are required to adhere to the PCI DSS as  
14 members of the payment card industry.

15 48. Furthermore, mere compliance with the PCI DSS is insufficient to establish  
16 reasonably strong data security practices. For example, Georgia Weidman, CTO and founder  
17 of Shevirah (a company that tests data security for retailers and other merchants), stated that  
18 “Every company that has been spectacularly hacked in the last three years has been PCI  
19 complaint . . . . Obviously, based on that evidence, while a good step in the right direction, PCI  
20 is not sufficient to protect against breaches.”<sup>8</sup>

---

24 <sup>7</sup> *Visa Security Alert* (Nov. 6, 2009), <http://go.mercurypay.com/go/visa/targeted-hospitality-sector-vulnerabilities-110609.pdf> (last visited Mar. 7, 2017).

26 <sup>8</sup> Sean Michael Kerner, *Eddie Bauer Reveals It Was the Victim of a POS Breach*, EWEEK (Aug. 19, 2016),  
27 <http://www.eweek.com/security/eddie-bauer-reveals-it-was-the-victim-of-a-pos-breach.html> (last visited Mar. 7, 2017).

1           49. As a result of industry warnings, industry practice, the PCI DSS, and multiple  
2 well-documented data breaches, Defendant was alerted to the risk associated with failing to  
3 ensure that its IT systems were adequately secured.

4           50. Defendant was not only aware of the threat of data breaches, generally, but was  
5 aware of the specific danger of malware infiltration. Malware has been used to access POS  
6 terminals since at least 2011, and specific types of malware, including RAM scraper malware,  
7 have been used recently to infiltrate large retailers such as Target, Sally Beauty, Neiman  
8 Marcus, Michaels Stores, and Supervalu. As a result, Defendant was aware that malware is a  
9 real threat and is a primary tool of infiltration used by hackers.

10           51. Defendant received additional warnings regarding malware infiltrations from the  
11 U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, a government unit within the Department of  
12 Homeland Security, which alerted retailers to the threat of POS malware on July 31, 2014, and  
13 issued a guide for retailers on protecting against the threat of POS malware, which was updated  
14 on August 27, 2014.<sup>9</sup>

15           52. Despite the fact that Defendant was put on notice of the very real possibility of  
16 consumer data theft associated with its security practices and despite the fact that Defendant  
17 knew or, at the very least, should have known about the elementary infirmities associated with  
18 the Eddie Bauer security systems, it still failed to make necessary changes to its security  
19 practices and protocols.

20           53. Defendant knew that failing to protect customer card data would cause harm to  
21 the card-issuing institutions, such as Plaintiff and the Class, because the issuers are financially  
22 responsible for fraudulent card activity and must incur significant costs to prevent additional  
23 fraud.

24  
25  
26 <sup>9</sup> See United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team, *Alert (TA14-212A): Backoff Point-of-Sale Malware*  
27 (Aug. 27, 2014), <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA14-212A> (last visited Mar. 7, 2017).

1           54.     Indeed, Defendant's public statements to customers after the data breach plainly  
2 indicate that Defendant believes that card-issuing institutions should be responsible for  
3 fraudulent charges on cardholder accounts resulting from the data breach. Eddie Bauer has  
4 made no overtures to the card-issuing institutions that are left to pay for damages as a result of  
5 the breach.

6           55.     Defendant, at all times relevant to this action, had a duty to Plaintiff and  
7 members of the Class to: (a) properly secure payment card magnetic stripe information at the  
8 point of sale and on Defendant's internal networks; (b) encrypt Payment Card Data using  
9 industry standard methods; (c) use and deploy up to date EMV technology properly; (d) use  
10 available technology to defend its POS terminals from well-known methods of invasion; and  
11 (e) act reasonably to prevent the foreseeable harms to Plaintiff and the Class which would  
12 naturally result from Payment Card Data theft.

13           56.     Defendant negligently allowed payment card magnetic stripe information to be  
14 compromised by failing to take reasonable steps against an obvious threat.

15           57.     In addition, in the years leading up to the Eddie Bauer Data Breach, and during  
16 the course of the breach itself and the investigation that followed, Eddie Bauer failed to follow  
17 the guidelines set forth by the FTC. Furthermore, by failing to have reasonable data security  
18 measures in place, Eddie Bauer engaged in an unfair act or practice within the meaning of §5 of  
19 the FTC Act.

20           58.     As a result of the events detailed herein, Plaintiff and members of the Class have  
21 been and continue to be forced to protect their customers and avoid fraud losses by cancelling  
22 and reissuing cards with new account numbers and magnetic stripe information.

23           59.     The cancellation and reissuance of cards resulted in significant damages and  
24 losses to Plaintiff and members of the Class, all of which were proximately caused by  
25 Defendant's negligence. As a result of the events detailed herein, Plaintiff and members of the  
26 Class suffered losses resulting from the Eddie Bauer Data Breach related to: (a) reimbursement  
27

1 of fraudulent charges or reversal of customer charges; (b) lost interest and transaction fees,  
2 including lost interchange fees; and (c) administrative expenses and overhead charges  
3 associated with monitoring and preventing fraud, as well as cancelling compromised cards and  
4 purchasing and mailing new cards to their customers.

5 60. These costs and expenses will continue to accrue as additional fraud alerts and  
6 fraudulent charges are discovered and occur.

### 7 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

8 61. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all other financial  
9 institutions similarly situated pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The  
10 proposed Class is defined as:

11 All Financial Institutions – including, but not limited to, banks and credit  
12 unions – in the United States (including its Territories and the District of  
13 Columbia) that issue payment cards, including credit and debit cards, or perform,  
14 facilitate, or support card issuing services, whose customers made purchases from  
15 Eddie Bauer stores from January 2, 2016 to the present (the “Class”).

16 62. Excluded from the Class are Defendant and its subsidiaries, franchises, and  
17 affiliates; all employees of Defendant; all persons who make a timely election to be excluded  
18 from the Class; government entities; and the judge to whom this case is assigned, including  
19 his/her immediate family and court staff.

20 63. Plaintiff is a member of the Class it seeks to represent.

21 64. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.

22 65. The members of the Class are readily ascertainable.

23 66. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of all members of the Class.

24 67. The conduct of Defendant has caused injury to Plaintiff and members of the  
25 Class in substantially the same ways.



1           68. Prosecuting separate actions by individual Class members would create a risk of  
2 inconsistent or varying adjudications that would establish incompatible standards of conduct  
3 for Defendant.

4           69. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the Class.

5           70. Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds that apply generally to the  
6 class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate respecting  
7 the class as a whole.

8           71. Plaintiff is represented by experienced counsel who are qualified to litigate this  
9 case.

10           72. Common questions of law and fact predominate over individualized questions.  
11 A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of  
12 this controversy.

13           73. There are questions of law and fact common to all members of the Class, the  
14 answers to which will advance the resolution of the claims of the Class members and that  
15 include, without limitation:

16           a) whether Defendant failed to provide adequate security and/or protection for its  
17 computer systems containing customers' financial and personal data;

18           b) whether the conduct of Defendant resulted in the unauthorized breach of its  
19 computer systems containing customers' financial and personal data;

20           c) whether Defendant's actions were negligent;

21           d) whether Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiff and the Class;

22           e) whether the harm to Plaintiff and the Class was foreseeable;

23           f) whether Defendant's actions violated RCW 19.255.020;

24           g) whether Defendants actions were unfair, deceptive, or both, in violation of RCW  
25 Ch. 19.86;

26           h) whether Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to injunctive relief; and  
27

1 i) whether Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to damages and the  
2 measure of such damages.

3 **COUNT ONE**

4 **NEGLIGENCE**

5 74. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above  
6 as if fully set forth herein.

7 75. Defendant owed – and continues to owe – a duty to Plaintiff and the Class to use  
8 and exercise reasonable and due care in obtaining and processing Plaintiff’s customers’  
9 personal and financial information.

10 76. Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiff and the Class to provide adequate security to  
11 protect their mutual customers’ personal and financial information.

12 77. Eddie Bauer has a common law duty to prevent the foreseeable risk of harm to  
13 others, including the Plaintiff and the Class. It was certainly foreseeable to Eddie Bauer that  
14 injury would result from a failure to use reasonable measures to protect Payment Card Data and  
15 to provide timely notice that a breach was detected. It was also foreseeable that, if reasonable  
16 security measures were not taken, hackers would steal Payment Card Data belonging to  
17 millions of Eddie Bauer customers; thieves would use Payment Card Data to make large  
18 numbers of fraudulent transactions; financial institutions would be required to mitigate the  
19 fraud by cancelling and reissuing the compromised cards and reimbursing their customers for  
20 fraud losses; and that the resulting financial losses would be immense.

21 78. Eddie Bauer assumed the duty to use reasonable security measures as a result of  
22 its conduct.

23 79. Eddie Bauer’s duty to use reasonable data security measures also arose under §5  
24 of the FTC Act, which prohibits “unfair . . . practices in or affecting commerce,” including, as  
25 interpreted and enforced by the FTC, the unfair practice of failing to use reasonable measures  
26 to protect Payment Card Data by businesses such as Eddie Bauer. The FTC publications and  
27

1 data security breach orders described above further form the basis of Eddie Bauer’s duty. In  
2 addition, individual states have enacted statutes based upon the FTC Act that also create a duty  
3 on the part of Eddie Bauer.

4 80. Defendant breached its duties by: (1) allowing a third-party intrusion into their  
5 computer systems; (2) failing to protect against such an intrusion; (3) failing to maintain  
6 updated EMV card systems, updated POS terminals, and secure systems and software  
7 necessary to prevent such an intrusion; and (4) allowing the personal and financial information  
8 of customers of Plaintiff and the Class to be accessed by third parties on a large scale.

9 81. Defendant knew or should have known of the risk that its POS terminals could  
10 be infiltrated using methods similar or identical to those previously used against major retailers  
11 in recent months and years.

12 82. Defendant knew or should have known that its failure to take reasonable  
13 measures to protect its POS terminals against obvious risks would result in harm to Plaintiff  
14 and the Class.

15 83. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s negligent conduct, Plaintiff and  
16 the Class have suffered substantial losses as detailed herein.

17 **COUNT TWO**

18 **NEGLIGENCE *PER SE***

19 84. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above  
20 as if fully set forth herein.

21 85. Section 5 of the FTC Act prohibits “unfair . . . practices in or affecting  
22 commerce,” including, as interpreted and enforced by the FTC, the unfair act or practice by  
23 businesses, such as Eddie Bauer, of failing to use reasonable measures to protect Payment Card  
24  
25  
26  
27

1 Data. The FTC publications and orders described above also form part of the basis of Eddie  
2 Bauer's duty.

3 86. Eddie Bauer violated §5 of the FTC Act (and similar state statutes) by failing to  
4 use reasonable measures to protect Payment Card Data and not complying with applicable  
5 industry standards, including PCI DSS, as described in detail herein. Eddie Bauer's conduct  
6 was particularly unreasonable given the nature and amount of Payment Card Data it obtained  
7 and stored and the foreseeable consequences of a data breach at an international retailer,  
8 including, specifically, the immense damages that would result to consumers and financial  
9 institutions.

10 87. Eddie Bauer's violation of §5 of the FTC Act (and similar state statutes)  
11 constitutes negligence *per se*.

12 88. Plaintiff and members of the Class are within the class of persons that §5 of the  
13 FTC Act (and similar state statutes) was intended to protect, as they are engaged in trade and  
14 commerce and bear primary responsibility for directly reimbursing consumers for fraud losses.  
15 Moreover, many of the Class members are credit unions, which are organized as cooperatives,  
16 whose members are consumers.

17 89. The harm that has occurred is the type of harm the FTC Act (and similar state  
18 statutes) was intended to guard against. Indeed, the FTC has pursued over 50 enforcement  
19 actions against businesses, which, as a result of their failure to employ reasonable data security  
20 measures and avoid unfair and deceptive practices, caused the same harm suffered by Plaintiff  
21 and the Class.

22 90. As a direct and proximate result of Eddie Bauer's negligence *per se*, Plaintiff  
23 and the Class have suffered, and continue to suffer, injury, including, but not limited to,  
24 cancelling and reissuing payment cards, changing or closing accounts, notifying customers that  
25 their cards were compromised, investigating claims of fraudulent activity, refunding fraudulent  
26 charges, increasing fraud monitoring on potentially impacted accounts, and taking other steps  
27

1 to protect themselves and their customers. They also lost interest and transaction fees, due to  
2 reduced card usage resulting from the breach, and the cards they issued (and the corresponding  
3 account numbers) were rendered worthless.

4 **COUNT THREE**

5 **DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

6 91. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above  
7 as if fully set forth herein.

8 92. Under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§2201, *et seq.*, this Court is  
9 authorized to enter a judgment declaring the rights and legal relations of the parties and grant  
10 further necessary relief. Furthermore, the Court has broad authority to restrain acts, such as  
11 here, which are tortious and which violate the terms of the federal and state statutes described  
12 herein.

13 93. An actual controversy has arisen in the wake of the Eddie Bauer Data Breach  
14 regarding its common law and other duties to reasonably safeguard Payment Card Data.  
15 Plaintiff alleges that Eddie Bauer's data security measures were inadequate and remain  
16 inadequate. Furthermore, Plaintiff continues to suffer injury as additional fraudulent charges  
17 are being made on payment cards issued to Eddie Bauer customers.

18 94. Pursuant to its authority under the Declaratory Judgment Act, this Court should  
19 enter a judgment declaring, among other things, the following:

20 (a) Eddie Bauer continues to owe a legal duty to secure its customers' personal and  
21 financial information – specifically including information pertaining to credit and debit cards  
22 used by Eddie Bauer customers – and to notify financial institutions of a data breach under the  
23 common law, §5 of the FTC Act, PCI DSS standards, its commitments, and various state  
24 statutes;

25 (b) Eddie Bauer continues to breach this legal duty by failing to employ reasonable  
26 measures to secure its customers' personal and financial information; and  
27

1 (c) Eddie Bauer's ongoing breaches of its legal duty continue to cause Plaintiff  
2 harm.

3 95. The Court also should issue corresponding injunctive relief requiring Eddie  
4 Bauer to employ adequate security protocols, consistent with industry standards, to protect its  
5 Payment Card Data. Specifically, this injunction should, among other things, direct Eddie  
6 Bauer to:

- 7 (a) utilize industry standard encryption to encrypt the transmission of cardholder  
8 data at the point-of-sale and at all other times;
- 9 (b) implement encryption keys in accordance with industry standards;
- 10 (c) implement EMV technology;
- 11 (d) engage third party auditors, consistent with industry standards, to test its systems  
12 for weakness and upgrade any such weakness found;
- 13 (e) audit, test, and train its data security personnel regarding any new or modified  
14 procedures and how to respond to a data breach;
- 15 (f) regularly test its systems for security vulnerabilities, consistent with industry  
16 standards;
- 17 (g) comply with all PCI DSS standards pertaining to the security of its customers'  
18 personal and confidential information; and
- 19 (h) install all upgrades recommended by manufacturers of security software and  
20 firewalls used by Eddie Bauer.

21 96. If an injunction is not issued, Plaintiff will suffer irreparable injury and lacks an  
22 adequate legal remedy in the event of another data breach at Eddie Bauer. The risk of another  
23 such breach is real, immediate, and substantial. If another breach at Eddie Bauer occurs,  
24 Plaintiff will not have an adequate remedy at law because many of the resulting injuries are not  
25 readily quantified and they will be forced to bring multiple lawsuits to rectify the same conduct.  
26 Simply put, monetary damages, while warranted to compensate Plaintiff and the Class for out  
27

1 of pocket damages that are legally quantifiable and provable, do not cover the full extent of  
2 injuries suffered by Plaintiff and the Class, which include monetary damages that are not  
3 legally quantifiable or provable and reputational damage.

4 97. The hardship to Plaintiff and the Class, if an injunction is not issued, exceeds the  
5 hardship to Eddie Bauer if an injunction is issued. Among other things, if another massive data  
6 breach occurs at Eddie Bauer, Plaintiff and members of the Class will likely incur hundreds of  
7 millions of dollars in damage. On the other hand, the cost to Eddie Bauer of complying with an  
8 injunction, by employing reasonable data security measures, is relatively minimal and Eddie  
9 Bauer has a pre-existing legal obligation to employ such measures.

10 98. Issuance of the requested injunction will not disserve the public interest. To the  
11 contrary, such an injunction would benefit the public by preventing another data breach at  
12 Eddie Bauer, thus eliminating the injuries that would result to Plaintiff, the Class, and the  
13 millions of consumers whose confidential information would be compromised.

#### 14 **COUNT FOUR**

#### 15 **VIOLATION OF RCW 19.255.020**

16 99. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above  
17 as if fully set forth herein.

18 100. The Washington Legislature, in an effort to combat cybercrime and to protect  
19 financial institutions from negligent practices of retailers, enacted RCW 19.255.020, which  
20 states in pertinent part:

21 If a processor or business fails to take reasonable care to guard  
22 against unauthorized access to account information that is in the  
23 possession or under the control of the business or processor, and  
24 the failure is found to be the proximate cause of a breach, the  
25 processor or business is liable to a financial institution for  
26 reimbursement of reasonable actual costs related to the reissuance  
27 of credit cards and debit cards that are incurred by the financial  
institution to mitigate potential current or future damages to its  
credit card and debit card holders that reside in the state of  
Washington as a consequence of the breach, even if the financial  
institution has not suffered a physical injury in connection with the  
breach.

1 101. Plaintiff and other Class members are “financial institutions” within the meaning  
2 of RCW 19.255.020.

3 102. Defendant is a “business” within the meaning of RCW 19.255.020.

4 103. The information compromised in the Eddie Bauer Data Breach was “account  
5 information” within the meaning of RCW 19.255.020.

6 104. Defendant failed to take reasonable care to guard against unauthorized access of  
7 account information by, *inter alia*, failing to comply with the standards put forth by the PCI  
8 DSS, which standards Defendant must abide by in order to exercise reasonable care.

9 105. Such failure to take reasonable care on the part of Defendant led to Plaintiff and  
10 other Class members to incur costs associated with mitigating against fraud affecting their  
11 customers, arising from Defendant’s wrongful acts.

12 106. Pursuant to RCW 19.255.020, Plaintiff and other Class members are entitled to  
13 reasonable actual costs related to the reissuance of credit cards and debit cards incurred to  
14 mitigate potential current or future damages to credit card and debit card holders.

15 **COUNT FIVE**

16 **VIOLATION OF RCW Ch. 19.86.**

17 107. Plaintiff incorporates and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above  
18 as if fully set forth herein.

19 108. Washington’s Consumer Protection Act, RCW Ch. 19.86 (“CPA”), protects both  
20 consumers and competitors by promoting fair competition in commercial markets for goods  
21 and services.

22 109. To achieve that goal, the CPA prohibits any person from using “unfair methods  
23 of competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce .  
24 . . .” RCW 19.86.020.



1 110. Eddie Bauer's policies and practices relating to its sub-standard security  
2 measures for the use and retention of its customers' financial information are unfair, deceptive,  
3 or both and violate the CPA.

4 111. Specifically, Eddie Bauer violated, and continues to violate, the CPA by failing  
5 to take proper precautionary measures with its payment card processing machines, evidenced,  
6 *inter alia*, by its failure to comply with the PCI DSS.

7 112. Similarly, Eddie Bauer violated, and continues to violate, the CPA by failing to  
8 put a fulsome notification policy in place, where customers' financial information is  
9 compromised as a result of a data breach.

10 113. Plaintiff and the Class seek actual damages plus interest on damages at the legal  
11 rate, as well as all other just and proper relief afforded by the CPA.

12 114. As a result of Eddie Bauer's violations of the CPA prohibiting unfair and  
13 deceptive acts and practices, Plaintiff and members of the Class have suffered monetary  
14 damages for which Eddie Bauer is liable.

15 115. As redress for Eddie Bauer's repeated and ongoing violations, Plaintiff and the  
16 Class are entitled to, *inter alia*, actual damages, exemplary damages, attorney's fees, and  
17 injunctive relief.

18 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that this Court enter a judgment against Defendant  
20 and in favor of Plaintiff and the Class and award the following relief:

21 A. That this action be certified as a class action, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23,  
22 declaring Plaintiff as representative of the Class and Plaintiff's counsel as counsel for the Class;

23 B. Monetary damages;

24 C. Injunctive relief;

25 D. Reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, including those related to experts and  
26 consultants;

- 1 E. Costs;
- 2 F. Pre- and post-judgment interest; and
- 3 G. Such other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

4 **JURY DEMAND**

5 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b), Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class,  
6 demands a trial by jury for all issues so triable.

7 DATED this 7th day of March, 2017.

8 TOUSLEY BRAIN STEPHENS PLLC

9 By: /s/ Kim D. Stephens

10 Kim D. Stephens, WSBA #11984  
11 kstephens@tousley.com

12 By: /s/ Chase C. Alvord

13 Chase C. Alvord, WSBA #26080  
14 calvord@tousley.com  
15 1700 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2200  
16 Seattle, Washington 98101  
17 Telephone: 206.682.5600  
18 Fax: 206.682.2992

19 Joseph P. Guglielmo  
20 SCOTT+SCOTT, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LLP  
21 The Helmsley Building  
22 230 Park Avenue, 17th Floor  
23 New York, NY 10169  
24 Telephone: (212) 223-6444  
25 Facsimile: (212) 223-6334  
26 jguglielmo@scott-scott.com

27 Erin G. Comite  
Stephen J. Teti  
SCOTT+SCOTT, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LLP  
156 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 192  
Colchester, CT 06415  
Telephone: (860) 537-5537  
Facsimile: (860) 537-4432  
ecomite@scott-scott.com  
steti@scott-scott.com

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27

Gary F. Lynch  
CARLSON LYNCH SWEET KILPELA  
& CARPENTER, LLP  
1133 Penn Avenue, 5th floor  
Pittsburg, PA 15212  
Telephone: (412) 322-9243  
Facsimile: (412) 231-0246  
glynch@carlsonlynch.com

Karen H. Riebel  
Kate Baxter-Kauf  
LOCKRIDGE GRINDAL NAUEN P.L.L.P.  
100 Washington Avenue S., Suite 2200  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Telephone: (612) 339-6900  
Facsimile: (612) 339-0981  
kriebel@locklaw.com  
kmbaxter@locklaw.com

Arthur M. Murray  
MURRAY LAW FIRM  
650 Poydras St., Suite 2150  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Telephone: (504) 525-8100  
Facsimile: (504) 284-5249  
amurray@murray-lawfirm.com

Brian C. Gudmundson  
ZIMMERMAN REED, LLP  
1100 IDS Center, 80 South 8<sup>th</sup> St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Telephone: (612) 341-0400  
Facsimile: (612) 341-0844  
brian.gudmundson@zimmreed.com

Bryan L. Bleichner  
CHESTNUT CAMBRONNE PA  
17 Washington Avenue North, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55401  
Telephone: (612) 339-7300  
Facsimile: (612) 336-2921  
bbleichner@chestnutcambronne.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiff Veridian Credit Union*