

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

IN RE: AT&T Inc. CUSTOMER DATA
SECURITY BREACH LITIGATION

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CASE NO. 3:24-cv-00757-E

MDL DOCKET NO. 3:24-md-03114-E

This Document Relates to All Cases

CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER #7
ORDER APPOINTING CRAIG BALL AS SPECIAL MASTER FOR ESI AND
DISCOVERY

On August 21, 2024, the Court issued Case Management Order #4 in which it noted the complexity of the issues involved in this case and gave the Parties notice of its request that Texas attorney and certified computer forensic examiner Craig Ball consider serving as Special Master for Electronically Stored Information (ESI) and discovery in this proceeding pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53(b). (ECF No. 168); *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(b). The Court noticed that “Craig Ball has agreed to serve as Special Master for ESI and Discovery, with the understanding that his appointment be done with the consent of the parties, as required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 53 (a)(1)(A).” (ECF No. 168 at 1). Case Management Order #4 detailed Craig Ball’s (i) duties as special master; (ii) communications; (iii) special master’s record; (iv) review of special master’s rulings; (v) compensation; (vi) affidavit; (vii) cooperation; and (viii) access to information and personnel. (ECF No. 168); *see generally* Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(b). For the convenience of the Parties and the purpose of this Order Appointing Craig Ball as Special Master for ESI and Discovery—**this Order incorporates by reference Case Management Order #4 and each of its according provisions.** (ECF No. 168).

On August 21, 2024, Craig Ball filed his affidavit—wherein he disclosed whether there is any ground for disqualification under 28 U.S.C. § 455. (ECF No. 168-1). Craig Ball stated, *inter alia*:

In light of my disclaimer and waiver of any interest or recovery against AT&T in connection with this litigation, I am not aware of any grounds for my disqualification under 28 U.S.C. § 455.

(ECF No. 168-1 at 3).

On September 10, 2024, Plaintiffs' Lead Counsel together with the Plaintiff's Executive and Steering Committees filed their notice of consent, which consented to the appointment of Craig Ball as special master for ESI and discovery in this multidistrict litigation proceeding. (ECF No. 184). On September 10, 2024, AT&T Inc.—on behalf of all AT&T defendants—filed its notice of consent, which consented to the appointment of Craig Ball as special master for ESI and discovery in this multidistrict litigation proceeding. (ECF No. 185).

In light of the Parties' respective consent and the Court's prior orders referenced herein, it is ORDERED that Craig Ball is appointed as special master for ESI and discovery in this multidistrict litigation action in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 53. A copy of this order will be sent by the clerk to the special master and to all counsel having appeared for the parties.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed this 24th day of September, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ada Brown', is written over a horizontal line.

ADA BROWN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE