

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE Northern District of Illinois – CM/ECF NextGen 1.8 (rev. 1.8.1)
Eastern Division**

Leon Martin, et al.

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No.: 1:22-cv-05513

Honorable Sunil R. Harjani

Robert B. Ford, et al.

Defendant.

NOTIFICATION OF DOCKET ENTRY

This docket entry was made by the Clerk on Tuesday, October 15, 2024:

MINUTE entry before the Honorable Sunil R. Harjani: Securities Fraud Plaintiffs motion to intervene [144] is granted. The Seventh Circuit has recognized that permissive intervention is procedurally appropriate for bringing a third-party challenge to unseal records in an ongoing litigation. *Grove Fresh Distr v Everfresh Juice*, 24 F.3d 893, 895–98 (7th Cir. 1994); *Jessup v. Luther*, 227 F.3d 993, 998 (7th Cir. 2000). This Court also has significant discretion under Rule 24 to grant an interested party leave to intervene. See *In re Bridgestone/Firestone Inc.*, 198 F.R.D. 654, 655 (S.D. Ind. 2001) (recognizing district court discretion on the issue, but also Seventh Circuit precedent favoring intervention in a challenge relating to the public's access to court records). The PSLRA is inapplicable, contrary to Defendants argument, as the proposed intervenors do not seek discovery in this case but rather access to public court records. Nor is the motion untimely, as the materials at issue primarily relate to the motion to dismiss briefing, a motion this Court only recently decided. The Court also sees no prejudice to the Defendants by allowing intervention, and Defendants have identified none on the issue of intervention (as opposed to the underlying unsealing claim, which of course could cause some prejudice). By granting this motion, the Court makes no finding about the merits of the anticipated motion to unseal, and the Court will consider the parties' arguments once the motion is filed and the issue is fully briefed. Mailed notice. (kp,)

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