

## Major Boston Restaurant Group That Failed to Secure Personal Data to Pay \$110,000 Penalty

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*The Briar Group, LLC, which owns and operates popular bars and restaurants in the Boston area including The Lenox, MJ O'Connor's, Ned Devine's, The Green Briar, and The Harp, settled with Massachusetts' Attorney General for allegedly "putting the payment card information of consumers at risk."*

In a March 28 press release, Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley reported that "[T]he Briar Group experienced a data breach in April 2009, when malware that was installed on [the Briar Group's] computer systems allowed hackers access to customers' credit and debit card information, including names and account numbers. The malware was not removed from the Briar Group's computers until December 2009." In addition, the Briar Group "failed to change default usernames and passwords on its point-of-sale computer system; allowed multiple employees to share common usernames and passwords; failed to properly secure its remote access utilities and wireless network; and continued to accept credit and debit cards from consumers after Briar knew of the data breach."

According to the release, the judgment requires payment of \$110,000 in civil penalties to the Commonwealth; compliance with Massachusetts data security regulations and Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards; and the establishment and maintenance of an enhanced computer network security system. The release also states that Oakley's office "will continue to take action against companies that fail to implement basic security measures on their computer systems to protect the sensitive information entrusted to them by consumers." [Click here to read the full press release.](#)

If you have questions, please contact the Pillsbury attorney with whom you regularly work, or the authors:

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