IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

Case No. 1:20-cv-03010-APM

v.

HON. AMIT P. MEHTA

GOOGLE LLC,

Defendant.

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO SANCTION GOOGLE AND COMPEL DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS UNJUSTIFIABLY CLAIMED BY GOOGLE AS ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED

Plaintiffs respectfully move the Court to sanction Defendant Google LLC (Google) and compel the disclosure of documents unjustifiably claimed by Google as attorney-client privileged. Plaintiffs have conferred with Google's counsel pursuant to Local Rule 7(m), and Google opposes this motion. Plaintiffs request an oral hearing.

Pursuant to its inherent authority, the Court should sanction Google for its intentional efforts to misuse the attorney-client privilege to shield ordinary-course business communications from discovery, harming Plaintiffs, undermining their discovery efforts, and subverting the judicial process. In a program called "Communicate with Care," Google trains and directs employees to add an attorney, a privilege label, and a generic "request" for counsel's advice to shield sensitive business communications, regardless of whether any legal advice is actually needed or sought. Often, knowing the game, the in-house counsel included in these Communicate-with-Care emails does not respond at all.

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In 2016, Google instructed employees to create artificial indicia of privilege for all written communications related to revenue-share agreements and Mobile Application Distribution Agreements (MADAs), the exclusionary agreements at the heart of this action. Google reiterated those instructions after the Department of Justice issued its first Civil Investigative Demand in the investigation preceding this case. The Court should, therefore, sanction Google for its deliberate and deceptive misuse of the attorney-client privilege and order the company to produce, unredacted, all emails between non-attorneys where included in-house counsel did not bother to reply, indicating that any request for legal advice was most likely a pretext.

Alternatively, the Court should hold that Google has not, and cannot, make the necessary showing to support its privilege claims over these communications, and order these same documents produced immediately.

Accordingly, Plaintiffs' respectfully request that this Court order that:

- No later than May 2, 2022, Google must produce all withheld or redacted communications (including attachments and linked documents) in unredacted form where an in-house attorney was included but did not respond in the chain of communications with non-attorneys.
- No later than May 2, 2022, Google must provide a single privilege log for all of the documents on which Google continues to maintain an attorney-client privilege claim. This privilege log must not include an entry for any document on which Google no longer claims attorney-client privilege, including documents produced in response to this Order.
- 3. No later than May 2, 2022, Google must provide an index of all documents that Google

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has deprivileged in this litigation, including documents deprivileged as a result of this Order. The index must include information sufficient to reasonably enable matching the original privilege log identifier with the Bates number of the newly produced deprivileged document.

4. Grant such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Dated: March 8, 2022

By: /s/ Kenneth M. Dintzer

Kenneth M. Dintzer Karl E. Herrmann U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division Technology & Digital Platforms Section 450 Fifth Street NW, Suite 7100 Washington, DC 20530 Telephone: (202) 227-1967 Kenneth.Dintzer2@usdoj.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff United States of America

By: /s/ Johnathan R. Carter Leslie Rutledge, Attorney General Johnathan R. Carter, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, State of Arkansas 323 Center Street, Suite 200 Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Johnathan.Carter@arkansasag.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Arkansas

By: /s/ Adam Miller

Rob Bonta, Attorney General Ryan J. McCauley, Deputy Attorney General Adam Miller, Deputy Attorney General Paula Blizzard, Supervising Deputy Attorney General Kathleen Foote, Senior Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, California 94102 Adam.Miller@doj.ca.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of California

By: /s/ Lee Istrail

Ashley Moody, Attorney General R. Scott Palmer, Interim Co-Director, Antitrust Division Nicholas D. Niemiec, Assistant Attorney General Lee Istrail, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, State of Florida PL-01 The Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32399 Lee.Istrail@myfloridalegal.com Scott.Palmer@myfloridalegal.com

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Florida

By:___/s/ Daniel Walsh

Christopher Carr, Attorney General Margaret Eckrote, Deputy Attorney General Daniel Walsh, Senior Assistant Attorney General Charles Thimmesch, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, State of Georgia 40 Capitol Square, SW Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1300 cthimmesch@law.georgia.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Georgia

By: /s/ Scott L. Barnhart

Theodore Edward Rokita, Attorney General Scott L. Barnhart, Chief Counsel and Director, Consumer Protection Division Matthew Michaloski, Deputy Attorney General Erica Sullivan, Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, State of Indiana Indiana Government Center South, Fifth Floor 302 West Washington Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 Scott.Barnhart@atg.in.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Indiana

By: /s/ Philip R. Heleringer

Daniel Cameron, Attorney General J. Christian Lewis, Executive Director of Consumer Protection Philip R. Heleringer, Deputy Executive Director of Consumer Protection Jonathan E. Farmer, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Kentucky 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 Philip.Heleringer@ky.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff Commonwealth of Kentucky

By: /s/ Christopher J. Alderman

Jeff Landry, Attorney General Christopher J. Alderman, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, State of Louisiana Public Protection Division 1885 North Third St. Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802 AldermanC@ag.louisiana.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Louisiana

By: /s/ Scott Mertens

Dana Nessel, Attorney General Scott Mertens, Assistant Attorney General Michigan Department of Attorney General P.O. Box 30736 Lansing, Michigan 48909 MertensS@michigan.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Michigan

By: <u>/s/ Stephen M. Hoeplinger</u> Stephen M. Hoeplinger

Assistant Attorney General Missouri Attorney General's Office 815 Olive St., Suite 200 St. Louis, Missouri 63101 Stephen.Hoeplinger@ago.mo.gov Counsel for Plaintiff State of Missouri

By: /s/ Hart Martin

Lynn Fitch, Attorney General Hart Martin, Special Assistant Attorney General Crystal Utley Secoy, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, State of Mississippi P.O. Box 220 Jackson, Mississippi 39205 Hart.Martin@ago.ms.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Mississippi

By: /s/ Rebekah J. French

Austin Knudsen, Attorney General Rebekah J. French, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Consumer Protection Office of the Attorney General, State of Montana P.O. Box 200151 555 Fuller Avenue, 2nd Floor Helena, Montana 59620-0151 Rebekah.french@mt.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Montana

By: /s/ Rebecca M. Hartner

Rebecca M. Hartner, Assistant Attorney General Alan Wilson, Attorney General W. Jeffrey Young, Chief Deputy Attorney General C. Havird Jones, Jr., Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General Mary Frances Jowers, Assistant Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, State of South Carolina 1000 Assembly Street Rembert C. Dennis Building P.O. Box 11549 Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1549 RHartner@scag.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of South Carolina

By: <u>/s/ Bret Fulkerson</u> Bret Fulkerson, Deputy Chief, Antitrust Division Kelsey Paine, Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General, Antitrust Division 300 West 15th Street Austin, Texas 78701 Bret.Fulkerson@oag.texas.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Texas

By: <u>/s/ Gwendolyn J. Lindsay Cooley</u> Joshua L. Kaul, Attorney General Gwendolyn J. Lindsay Cooley, Assistant Attorney General Wisconsin Department of Justice 17 W. Main St. Madison, Wisconsin 53701 Gwendolyn.Cooley@Wisconsin.gov

Counsel for Plaintiff State of Wisconsin