

1 Michael W. Sobol (194857)
msobol@lchb.com
2 LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN LLP
275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
3 San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 956-1000

4 Hank Bates (167688)
5 hbates@cbplaw.com
CARNEY BATES & PULLIAM, PLLC
6 519 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
7 Telephone: (501) 312-8500
Facsimile: (501) 312 8505

8 Ray E. Gallo (158903)
9 rgallo@gallo-law.com
GALLO LLP
10 1299 Fourth Street, Suite 505
San Rafael, CA 94901
11 Telephone: (415) 257-8800

12 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class*

13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
14 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

15 DANIEL MATERA and SUSAN
16 RASHKIS, as individuals, and on behalf of
other persons similarly situated,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 GOOGLE LLC,

20 Defendant.

Case No. 5:15-cv-04062 LHK

**PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF MOTION AND
MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT; AND
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

Date: February 8, 2018
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Hon. Lucy H. Koh
Courtroom: 8, Fourth Floor

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NOTICE OF MOTION

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on February 8, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., in the Courtroom of the Honorable Lucy H. Koh, located at the Robert F. Peckham Federal Building & United States Courthouse, 280 South First Street, Fourth Floor, San Jose, California, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel¹ in the above-captioned matter will and hereby do move the Court pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 for an Order granting final approval of the Class Action Settlement Agreement (“Settlement”) and entering final Judgment in this matter.

Plaintiffs’ motion is based on this Notice of Motion and Motion, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities below, the Declaration of Class Counsel filed herewith, the papers filed in support of Plaintiffs’ motion for preliminary settlement approval, the papers filed in support of Class Counsel’s application for attorneys’ fees, the record in this case, and any additional argument and evidence the Court may consider.

Dated: October 30, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Michael W. Sobol

Michael W. Sobol (CA #194857)
 msobol@lchb.com
 Melissa Gardner (CA #289096)
 mgardner@lchb.com
 LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN &
 BERNSTEIN, LLP
 275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94111-3339
 Telephone: (415) 956-1000
 Facsimile: (415) 956-1008

¹ “Class Counsel” are the firms appointed as Class Counsel pursuant to the Court’s order preliminarily approving the proposed Settlement (the “Preliminary Approval Order”): Loeff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein LLP, Carney Bates & Pulliam, PLLC, and Gallo LLP. See ECF No. 89 at 4.

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CARNEY BATES & PULLIAM, PLLC
Hank Bates (CA #167688)
hbates@cbplaw.com
Allen Carney
acarney@cbplaw.com
David Slade
dslade@cbplaw.com
519 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
Telephone: (501) 312-8500
Facsimile: (501) 312-8505

GALLO LLP
Ray E. Gallo (CA #158903)
rgallo@gallo-law.com
Dominic R. Valerian (CA #240001)
dvalerian@gallo-law.com
1299 Fourth Street, Suite 505
San Rafael, CA 94901
Telephone: (415) 257-8800

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Court’s August 31, 2017 Order Granting Preliminary Approval, Plaintiffs Daniel Matera and Susan Rashkis (“Plaintiffs”) respectfully request that the Court grant final approval of the settlement reached between Plaintiffs and Defendant Google, Inc. (the “Settlement”).

At the preliminary approval stage, this Court reviewed the parties’ Settlement and found that certification of the Settlement Class was appropriate for settlement purposes and “[t]he terms of the Agreement appear to be fair, reasonable, and adequate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.” *See* ECF No. 89 at 2. As demonstrated herein, the Notice program approved by the Court has been fully implemented, and consideration of the appropriate factors strongly weighs in favor of final approval of the Settlement.

II. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND¹

On July 21, 2017 Plaintiffs moved for preliminary approval of the Settlement, and a hearing was held on August 31, 2017. ECF Nos. 79, 88. On August 31, 2017, the Court granted preliminary approval to the Settlement; appointed the undersigned as Class Counsel; appointed KCC Class Action Services, LLC (“KCC”) as Settlement Administrator; approved the form and manner of notice to the Settlement Class (ECF No. 89); and scheduled a Final Approval hearing.

Notice was disseminated from September 21, 2017 to October 21, 2017, through banner ads on a collection of popular websites, including msn.com, yahoo.com, nytimes.com and others, which linked to the Settlement Website (www.gmailsettlement.com). Declaration of Lana Lucchesi (“Lucchesi Decl.”) ¶ 4. At the conclusion of this media campaign, over 109 million (109,356,144) unique impressions of the banner ads had been served on internet users (more than the 100 million impressions required by the approved Notice Plan), with no individual user receiving more than three impressions, and 88,742 clicks were recorded from the banner ads to

¹ Plaintiffs here provide only the procedural background of the Settlement. An extensive description of the factual and procedural background of this litigation was included in Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement (ECF No. 79), and additional detail regarding Class Counsel’s work in the litigation is included in the application for attorneys’ fees, expenses, and Plaintiff service awards filed herewith.

1 the Settlement Website. *Id.* ¶ 5. Independently, the Settlement Administrator reports that
 2 Settlement Website received 596,585 total visitor hits from September 18, 2017 to October 27,
 3 2017. *Id.* ¶ 5.

4 On the Settlement Website, Class Members were (and are) able to access and view the
 5 Court-approved Long Form Notice (Settlement Ex. B), and important case documents, including
 6 the Settlement Agreement. *Id.* ¶ 3. In accord with the Settlement and the Preliminary Approval
 7 Order, Google served notice of the Settlement, in a form and manner consistent with 28 U.S.C.
 8 § 1715, on appropriate federal and state officials. ECF No. 90. Class Counsel will post Plaintiffs'
 9 Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Incentive Awards, and any reply, to the Settlement Website
 10 shortly after such documents are filed.

11 **III. THE SETTLEMENT**

12 **A. The Settlement Class Definition**

13 The Court has certified the Settlement Classes, defined as follows:

14 CIPA Class:

15 All natural persons in the State of California who have never established a Gmail
 16 account with Google, and who have sent unencrypted emails to individuals with
 Gmail accounts.

17 ECPA Class:

18 All natural persons in the United States who have never established a Gmail
 19 account with Google, and who have sent unencrypted emails to individuals with
 Gmail accounts.²

20 **B. Benefits to the Settlement Class**

21 As described in Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class Action Settlement
 22 (ECF No. 79), the Settlement achieves significant changes to Google's practices for email
 23 communications. Pursuant to the Settlement, Google will change how it processes emails to and
 24 from non-Gmail users. Specifically, Google has agreed to the entry of a stipulated injunction—to
 25 be effective for not less than three years commencing one-hundred eighty (180) days after the
 26 Court enters final judgment³—, as follows:

² Settlement ¶ 21 (ECF No. 79-1, Ex. 1).

³ In the Settlement Agreement, Google affirmatively represents "that it has no present intention of
 27 eliminating the technical changes [required by the Settlement] after the expiration of the term of
 28 the injunction. Google believes, however, that the architecture and technical requirements for

1 First, Google will cease all processing of email content that it applies before the Gmail
2 user can retrieve the email in his or her mailbox using the Gmail interface (“pre-delivery
3 processing”) for Advertising Purposes.⁴ No information resulting from any pre-delivery
4 processing of email content will be used for any Advertising Purpose. In addition, information
5 from pre-delivery processing of email content that occurred before the date of this Settlement, or
6 that occurs before the stipulated injunction goes into effect, will not be used for Advertising
7 Purposes once the stipulated injunction becomes effective. Settlement ¶ 40(a).

8 Second, Google will continue to refrain from processing email content before the Gmail
9 user can retrieve the outgoing email in his or her mailbox using the Gmail interface (“outbound
10 processing”) for Advertising Purposes, and from using information from any outbound processing
11 of email content for any Advertising Purposes. Settlement ¶ 40(b).

12 Third, Google will implement architectural changes necessary to effectuate the Settlement
13 terms by either eliminating altogether certain scanning processes during email delivery or
14 ensuring that the outputs created from those processes are not used for any Advertising Purposes.
15 Upon execution of the required changes, Google will deliver a written certification under oath to
16 Class Counsel stating that it has made the technical changes required to comply with the
17 stipulated injunction. Settlement ¶ 40(f). Google will provide Plaintiffs with discovery sufficient
18 to verify these required changes have been made. Settlement ¶ 40(e).

19 These injunctive relief provisions of the Settlement focus on the practices challenged in
20 Plaintiffs’ operative Amended Class Action Complaint (ECF No. 58). The settlement
21 prohibitions will not prevent Google from processing incoming and outgoing email for purposes
22 other than Advertising Purposes (such as the detection and blocking of spam or malware), but
23 will prevent Google from using for Advertising Purposes any information resulting from such
24 processing, at any time. In addition, Google announced in July of 2017, consistent with the

25 *Footnote continued from previous page*

26 providing email services on a large scale evolve and change dynamically and that a longer
27 commitment may hinder Google’s ability to improve and change its architecture and technology
28 to meet changing demands.” Settlement ¶ 40(d).

⁴ Advertising Purposes are defined as “for the purpose of serving advertisements, including
advertisements served in Gmail and in other Google products and services. ‘Advertising Purposes’
includes the creation of user models for the purpose of serving advertising.” Settlement ¶ 18.

1 Settlement and the goals of this litigation, that it will stop scanning user email in its Gmail service
 2 for purposes of targeted advertising, altogether. In other words, Google has indicated it has no
 3 present intention of replacing its current architecture for scanning for Advertising Purposes
 4 during email delivery by developing and implementing new architecture that scans for
 5 Advertising Purposes post-delivery.

6 **C. The Limited Release**

7 In exchange for the foregoing, Settlement Class Members will release all claims for
 8 declaratory, injunctive, or other non-monetary equitable relief that have been or could have been
 9 asserted against the “Google Releasees” (defined below). No Settlement Class Member, with the
 10 exception of the Plaintiffs (“Class Representatives”), will release any claim for monetary
 11 damages. The specific terms of the release are:

12 Upon entry of Final Judgment, the Class Representatives and all other Class
 13 Members, on behalf of themselves and their respective heirs, executors,
 14 administrators, representatives, agents, partners, successors, and assigns
 15 (collectively, the “Class Releasees”), waive, release, forever discharge, and will
 16 not in any manner pursue the Action or any claims, complaints, actions,
 17 proceedings, or remedies of any kind (including, without limitation, claims for
 18 attorneys’ fees and expenses and costs) whether in law or in equity, under contract,
 19 tort or any other subject area, or under any statute, rule, regulation, order, or law,
 20 whether federal, state, or local, on any grounds whatsoever, arising from the
 21 beginning of time through the Effective Date, that were, could have been, or could
 22 be asserted by the Class Releasees arising out of or relating to any acts, facts,
 23 omissions or obligations, whether known or unknown, whether foreseen or
 24 unforeseen, arising out of or relating to the Action or the subject matter of the
 25 Action, against Google or any of Google’s current or former directors, officers,
 26 members, administrators, agents, insurers, beneficiaries, trustees, employee benefit
 27 plans, representatives, servants, employees, attorneys, parents, subsidiaries,
 28 affiliates, divisions, branches, units, shareholders, investors, contractors,
 successors, joint venturers, predecessors, related entities, and assigns, and all other
 individuals and entities acting on Google’s behalf (collectively, the “Google
 Releasees”).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the release provided for hereunder shall extend to
 claims for declaratory, injunctive and non-monetary equitable relief only. Without
 limiting the foregoing, no Class Member, with the exception of the Class
 Representatives, hereby releases any claim for damages under CIPA or ECPA.⁵

D. Attorneys’ Fees and Expenses and Plaintiff Service Awards

Class Counsel move concurrently for an award of attorneys’ fees and expenses, and
 service awards to the Named Plaintiffs. If approved, the fees, expenses, and service awards

⁵ Settlement ¶ 41.

1 would be paid solely by Google and would not affect any absent Settlement Class member who
2 elects to pursue money damage claims now or in the future. Google has agreed not to oppose a
3 fee request of up to \$2.2 million, reimbursement of actual out-of-pocket expenses up to \$100,000,
4 and service awards of up to \$2,000 to each of the two named plaintiffs. The parties negotiated
5 these provisions of the Settlement after reaching agreement as to class-wide relief and the release.
6 Joint Declaration of Michael Sobol, Hank Bates, and Ray Gallo (“Joint Decl.”) ¶ 6.

7 **IV. THE NOTICE AND NOTICE METHODOLOGY WERE APPROPRIATE**

8 As the Complaint seeks, and the Settlement involves, only injunctive relief, and because
9 the release does not cover any claims for monetary damages, providing the Class notice is not
10 mandated by Rule 23. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(2); *Lilly v. Jamba Juice Co.*, No. 13-2998, 2015
11 WL 1248027, at *8-9 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 18, 2015) (finding that class notice was not necessary when
12 the relief was injunctive and settlement did not release class member claims for monetary relief);
13 *In re Yahoo Mail Litig.*, No. 13-4980, 2016 WL 4474612, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 25, 2016)
14 (finding that banner ads on popular websites in injunctive relief-only settlement “fully complied
15 with the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and due process.”). Nonetheless, as
16 a way to educate the Class of the issues raised in this lawsuit and inform them of the Settlement,
17 the parties agreed to provide notice to the Class. Notice was effectuated by publishing online
18 banner ads on popular websites (Settlement ¶ 52; *id.* Ex C), which resulted in more than 109
19 million unique impressions to internet users, and 88,742 clicks through to the Settlement Website.
20 Some of the websites on which Notice was published were msn.com, nydailynews.com,
21 yahoo.com, weather.com, nytimes.com, cosmopolitan.com, tvguide.com, delish.com,
22 cbslocal.com, goodhousekeeping.com, bostonherald.com, and foxsports.com. Lucchesi Decl. ¶ 4.
23 In total, the Settlement Website received 596,585 total visitor hits from September 18, 2017 to
24 October 27, 2017. *Id.* ¶¶ 2, 5. Posted on the Settlement Website is the court-approved Long
25 Form Notice which contains a clear description of the Settlement Class and the Settlement,
26 explains how to comment or object, and how to contact the Settlement Administrator with any
27 questions. *Id.* ¶ 3. Other important case documents, including the Settlement Agreement, are
28

1 also posted on the Settlement Website. *Id.* The Notice and notice methodology were thus
2 reasonable and provide due, adequate, and sufficient notice of the Settlement.

3 **V. FINAL APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENT IS APPROPRIATE**

4 The Ninth Circuit has identified “an overriding public interest in settling and quieting
5 litigation” and has noted that “[t]his is particularly true in class action suits.” *Van Bronkhorst v.*
6 *Safeco Corp.*, 529 F.2d 943, 950 (9th Cir. 1976); *see also In re Netflix Privacy Litig.*, No. 11-379,
7 2013 WL 1120801, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 18, 2013) (Davila, J.). In evaluating a proposed class
8 action settlement under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e), the standard is whether
9 the settlement “is fundamentally fair, adequate, and reasonable.” *Officers for Justice v. Civil Serv.*
10 *Comm’n*, 688 F.2d 615, 625 (9th Cir. 1982) (citations omitted); *accord Torrissi v. Tucson Elec.*
11 *Power Co.*, 8 F.3d 1370, 1375 (9th Cir. 1993).

12 A district court may consider some or all of the following factors when making the
13 determination: “the strength of plaintiffs’ case; the risk, expense, complexity, and likely duration
14 of further litigation; the risk of maintaining class action status throughout the trial; the amount
15 offered in settlement; the extent of discovery completed, and the stage of the proceedings; the
16 experience and views of counsel; the presence of a governmental participant; and the reaction of
17 class members to the proposed settlement.” *Officers for Justice*, 688 F.2d at 625. The Court
18 should find that the Settlement is fair, adequate, and reasonable in light of these factors.

19 **A. The Litigation Risks, Expenses, Complexity, and Duration Favor Approval**

20 The Settlement provides swifter and more certain benefits to the Settlement Class than
21 they would achieve through continued litigation. Plaintiffs’ Amended Class Action Complaint
22 (ECF No. 58) seeks class-wide declaratory, injunctive, and non-monetary equitable relief under
23 ECPA and CIPA based on Google’s processing of email content in a manner and to an extent that
24 Plaintiffs allege, is prohibited by these statutes. As described above, including by enjoining
25 Google from both pre-delivery processing for Advertising Purposes, and from using content from
26 other pre-delivering processing for Advertising Purposes, the proposed Settlement achieves
27 meaningful and certain relief that is tailored to addressing the conduct challenged by this action.
28

1 In contrast to the tangible, immediate benefits of the Settlement, the outcome of continued
2 litigation, trial and likely appeals is uncertain and could add years to this litigation, or could result
3 in no prospective benefits to the Settlement Class. Class Counsel strongly believe in the merits of
4 this case, but recognize that unsettled legal and factual questions about ECPA's and CIPA's
5 application to Google's handling of electronic messages present risks, which would have been
6 tested on a motion for summary judgment, at trial, and/or on appeal. Some such risks include
7 uncertainty around the interpretation of the terms "in transit" and "storage," and the fact that the
8 Ninth Circuit has not yet ruled on how Courts should interpret the statutory term "ordinary course
9 of [] business" in ECPA.

10 Google also would almost certainly have contested class certification, most likely on the
11 grounds that injury and consent are inherently individualized issues. *See Fraley v. Facebook, Inc.*,
12 966 F. Supp. 2d 939, 942-43 (N.D. Cal. 2013) (Seeborg, J.) (granting final approval of class-wide
13 settlement of the UCL and Cal. Civ. Code § 3344 claims, recognizing "substantial burden" of
14 quantifying class-wide injury, and "significant risk . . . that class certification would prove
15 unwarranted in light of consent issues."). Had this litigation reached trial on behalf of a certified
16 litigation class, it would have presented a costly, expert-intensive and technically complicated
17 jury trial that could have spanned weeks and necessitated extensive and costly trial preparation.
18 Appeals would likely have followed the trial, resulting in further delay and added costs.

19 Thus, the tangible prospective relief obtained through this Settlement, balanced against the
20 length, expense, and uncertainty of further litigation, weighs in favor of final approval. *See*
21 *Johnson v. Quantum Learning Network, Inc.*, No. 15-5013, 2017 WL 747462, at *1 (N.D. Cal.
22 Feb. 27, 2017) (Koh, J.) ("Courts have noted that uncertainty favors approval of a settlement.");
23 *Rodriguez v. West Publ'g Corp.*, 563 F.3d 948, 966 (9th Cir. 2009); *Nat'l Rural Telecomms.*
24 *Coop. v. DIRECTV, Inc.*, 221 F.R.D. 523, 526 (C.D. Cal. 2004) ("The Court shall consider the
25 vagaries of litigation and compare the significance of immediate recovery by way of the
26 compromise to the mere possibility of relief in the future, after protracted and expensive
27 litigation.") (citation omitted); 4 Alba Conte & Herbert B., *Newberg on Class Actions* § 11.50
28

1 (4th ed. 2002) (“In most situations, unless the settlement is clearly inadequate, its acceptance and
2 approval are preferable to lengthy and expensive litigation with uncertain results.”).

3 **B. The Extent of Discovery and Stage of Proceedings Favor Approval**

4 Class Counsel negotiated on behalf of the class with significant information about the case
5 and after years of litigation. This factor thus favors final approval. *See Slezak v. City of Palo*
6 *Alto*, No. 16-3224, 2017 WL 2688224, at *4 (N.D. Cal. June 22, 2017) (Koh, J.) (“So long as the
7 parties have ‘sufficient information to make an informed decision about settlement,’ this factor
8 will weigh in favor of approval.”) (quoting *Linney v. Cellular Alaska P’ship*, 151 F.3d 1234,
9 1239 (9th Cir. 1998)); *Bellinghausen v. Tractor Supply Co.*, 306 F.R.D. 245, 257 (N.D. Cal. 2015)
10 (Corley, J.) (“[T]he court’s focus is on whether the parties carefully investigated the claims before
11 reaching a resolution.”)

12 Class Counsel conducted a thorough investigation of Plaintiffs’ claims and Google’s
13 defenses prior to filing the action on September 4, 2015. Joint Decl. ¶ 5. Class Counsel
14 continued that investigation thereafter, and up to the present day, including with the benefit of
15 more than 130,000 pages of documents and deposition testimony from the related consolidated
16 multi-district litigation *In re Google Inc. Gmail Litigation* (“*Gmail*”), 13-MD-02430, which was
17 pending before this Court from 2012 until 2014,⁶ and which involved factual allegations that
18 overlap significantly with those in this action. In addition, Google produced more than 103,000
19 additional pages of documents in response to Plaintiffs’ targeted discovery requests concerning
20 Google’s email processing practices, as well as testimony from two Google witnesses deposed in
21 July and August 2017 in their individual and Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 30(b)(6) capacities. Further,
22 including in opposing Google’s Motion to Dismiss and Motion to Stay, and in briefing standing
23 issues related to the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins*, 136 S. Ct.

24 _____
25 ⁶ The *Gmail* litigation was initiated by a complaint filed November 17, 2010 in the Eastern
26 District of Texas (*Dunbar v. Google, Inc.*, No. 10-CV-00194), which was transferred to the
27 Northern District of California on June 27, 2012 and subsequently centralized along with other
28 actions involving substantially similar allegations by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation
on April 1, 2013. *See* No. 13-MD-02430, ECF No. 1. Following the Court’s March 18, 2014
order denying class certification in the *Gmail* MDL (No. 13-MD-02430, ECF No. 158), the
individual plaintiffs in the MDL dismissed their individual claims with prejudice, and the last
action pending in the MDL was dismissed on July 14, 2014. No. 13-MD-02430, ECF No. 177.

1 1540 (2016). (ECF Nos. 41, 45), Class Counsel thoroughly researched and analyzed legal issues
2 raised by this action, and gained meaningful information about the defenses that Google was
3 likely to advance on summary judgment.

4 As a result of this discovery and investigation, both parties were able to negotiate the
5 Settlement on a fully informed basis and with a thorough understanding of the merits and value of
6 the parties' respective claims and defenses. Google, moreover, has agreed to provide
7 confirmatory discovery following implementation of the Settlement that will allow Class Counsel
8 to confirm that the agreed-upon prospective relief is implemented timely, and in full.
9 Accordingly, the extent of discovery completed and the stage of the proceedings weigh strongly
10 in favor of final approval of the Settlement. *DIRECTV*, 221 F.R.D. at 528 (“the proposed
11 settlement was reached only after the parties had exhaustively examined the factual and legal
12 bases of the disputed claims” and “[t]his fact strongly militates in favor of the Court’s approval of
13 the settlement.”).

14 **C. The Recommendation of Experienced Counsel Favors Approval**

15 The judgment of experienced counsel, that final approval is appropriate here, “should be
16 given considerable weight.” *Slezak*, 2017 WL 2688224, at *5 (quoting *Larsen v. Trader Joe’s*
17 *Co.*, No. 11-cv-05188-WHO, 2014 WL 3404531, at *5 (N.D. Cal. July 11, 2014)). *See also*
18 *Bellinghausen*, 306 F.R.D. at 257 (citation omitted) (“The trial court is entitled to, and should,
19 rely upon the judgment of experienced counsel for the parties.”) “The recommendations of
20 plaintiffs’ counsel should be given a presumption of reasonableness.” *Boyd v. Bechtel Corp.*, 485
21 F. Supp. 610, 622 (N.D. Cal. 1979). Here, based on their analyses of the risks, burdens, and
22 expense of continued litigation as well as their experience litigating other complex class actions,
23 including under ECPA and CIPA, Class Counsel firmly believe the Settlement is fundamentally
24 fair, adequate and reasonable, and in the best interest of the Class. Joint Decl. ¶ 9.

25 **D. The Parties’ Non-Collusive Arms-Length Negotiations Favor Approval**

26 The Court “must reach a reasoned judgment that the proposed agreement is not the
27 product of fraud or overreaching by, or collusion among, the negotiating parties.” *Class Plaintiffs*
28 *v. City of Seattle*, 955 F.2d 1268, 1290 (9th Cir. 1992) (citations omitted). Where, as here, a

1 settlement “is the product of arms-length negotiations conducted by capable and experienced
2 counsel, the court begins its analysis with a presumption that the settlement is fair and reasonable.”
3 *Wakefield v. Wells Fargo & Co.*, No. 13-05053, 2015 WL 3430240, at *4 (N.D. Cal. May 28,
4 2015).

5 The parties participated in mediations before the highly respected mediator, Randall Wulff
6 on August 31, 2016 and November 4, 2016. Those mediations resulted in a proposed settlement,
7 executed on November 22, 2016, which was not granted preliminary approval. ECF No. 71.
8 Subsequently, with the benefit of guidance from the Court, the parties resumed arms-length
9 negotiations regarding the remaining terms of the Settlement, and submitted the revised
10 Settlement to the Court on July 21, 2017. ECF No. 79-1, Ex. 1.

11 The participation of respected and neutral mediator Randall Wulff, across two in-person
12 mediation sessions, and the fact that the Settlement as revised was negotiated with the benefit of
13 input from the Court, underscore that the proposed Settlement here is not the product of collusion.
14 *In re Immune Response Sec. Litig.*, 497 F. Supp. 2d 1166, 1171 (S.D. Cal. 2007) (involvement of
15 mediator was “highly indicative of fairness”); *Satchell v. Fed. Express Corp.*, No. 03-cv-2659-SI,
16 2007 WL 1114010, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 13, 2007) (“The assistance of an experienced mediator
17 in the settlement process confirms that the settlement is non-collusive.”). This factor weighs in
18 support of final approval.

19 **E. The Class Response Favors Approval**

20 A court may appropriately infer that a class settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate
21 when few Class members object to it. *See Marshall v. Holiday Magic, Inc.*, 550 F.2d 1173, 1178
22 (9th Cir. 1977); *In re Omnivision Techs., Inc.*, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036, 1043 (N.D. Cal. 2008)
23 (“[T]he absence of a large number of objections to a proposed class action settlement raises a
24 strong presumption that the terms of a proposed class settlement are favorable to the class
25 members.”) (quotation marks and citation omitted). Notice was disseminated from September 21,
26 to October 21, 2017, resulting in 109,356,144 impressions by internet users. As of this filing, no
27
28

objector has come forward to contest the terms of the Settlement.⁷ “By any standard, the lack of objection of the Class Members favors approval of the Settlement.” *Destefano v. Zynga, Inc.*, No. 12-4007, 2016 WL 537946, at *13 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 11, 2016) (Corley, J.).⁸

VI. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs and Class Counsel respectfully request that the Court enter an Order granting final approval of the Settlement.

Dated: October 30, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Michael W. Sobol

Michael W. Sobol (CA #194857)
msobol@lchb.com
Melissa Gardner (CA #289096)
mgardner@lchb.com
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN &
BERNSTEIN, LLP
275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-339
Telephone: (415) 956-1000
Facsimile: (415) 956-1008

CARNEY BATES & PULLIAM, PLLC
Hank Bates (CA #167688)
hbates@cbplaw.com
Allen Carney
acarney@cbplaw.com
David Slade
dslade@cbplaw.com
519 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
Telephone: (501) 312-8500
Facsimile: (501) 312-8505

⁷ The Court’s Preliminary Approval Order provided that all comments and objections be mailed no later than “90 days after the dissemination of notice.” (ECF No. 89 at 5.) To ensure that Class Members have the full benefit of this 90-day period, the parties have agreed that the objection period will remain open for 90 days after the end of the notice campaign on October 21, 2017, or until January 19, 2018.

⁸ In addition, while there is no governmental entity party to this action, neither state nor federal officials lodged any objection after receiving notice of the Settlement Agreement. *See generally Schuchardt v. Law Office of Rory W. Clark*, 314 F.R.D. 673, 685 (N.D. Cal. 2016) (finding that failure of governmental entity to file objection favored settlement approval).

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GALLO LLP
Ray E. Gallo (CA #158903)
rgallo@gallo-law.com
Dominic R. Valerian (CA #240001)
dvalerian@gallo-law.com
1299 Fourth Street, Suite 505
San Rafael, CA 94901
Telephone: (415) 257-8800

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class

1 Michael W. Sobol (194857)
msobol@lchb.com
2 LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN LLP
275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
3 San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone: (415) 956-1000

4 Hank Bates (167688)
5 hbates@cbplaw.com
CARNEY BATES & PULLIAM, PLLC
6 519 West 7th Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
7 Telephone: (501) 312-8500
Facsimile: (501) 312 8505

8 Ray E. Gallo (158903)
9 rgallo@gallo-law.com
GALLO LLP
10 1299 Fourth Street, Suite 505
San Rafael, CA 94901
11 Telephone: (415). 257-8800

12 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Settlement Class*

13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
14 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

16 DANIEL MATERA and SUSAN
17 RASHKIS, as individuals, and on behalf of
other persons similarly situated,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 v.

20 GOOGLE LLC,

21 Defendant.

Case No. 5:15-cv-04062 LHK

**JOINT DECLARATION OF MICHAEL
SOBOL, HANK BATES, AND RAY
GALLO IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF
CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT**

Date: February 8, 2018
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Hon. Lucy H. Koh
Courtroom: 8, Fourth Floor

1 We, Michael Sobol, Hank Bates, and Ray Gallo declare as follows:

2 1. Michael Sobol is a member in good standing of the California State Bar and a
3 partner in the law firm Lief, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein, LLP (“LCHB”), counsel for
4 Plaintiffs and the Class in this proceeding. He is the LCHB attorney principally responsible for
5 overseeing LCHB’s work in this proceeding.

6 2. Hank Bates is a member in good standing of the California and Arkansas State
7 Bars and a partner in the law firm Carney Bates & Pulliam PLLC (“CBP”), counsel for Plaintiffs
8 and the Class in this proceeding. He is the CBP attorney principally responsible for overseeing
9 CBP’s work in this proceeding.

10 3. Ray Gallo is a member in good standing of the California State Bar and a partner
11 in the law firm Gallo LLP (“GALLO”), counsel for Plaintiffs and the Class in this proceeding.
12 He is the Gallo LLP attorney principally responsible for overseeing GALLO’s work in this
13 proceeding.

14 4. We have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, and if called to testify
15 thereto, could and would do so competently, including with respect to the information provided
16 regarding our respective law firms. We submit this declaration jointly in support of Plaintiffs’
17 Motion for Final Approval of Class Action Settlement.

18 5. Class Counsel conducted a thorough investigation of Plaintiffs’ claims and
19 Google’s defenses prior to filing the action on September 4, 2015, as described in the Joint
20 Declaration in support of Motion for Attorneys’ fees, Expenses, and Service Awards filed
21 herewith.

22 6. This Settlement was negotiated at arms-length and without collusion. The parties
23 negotiated the provisions of the Settlement relating to attorneys’ fees, expenses, and Plaintiff
24 service awards after reaching agreement as to class-wide relief and the release.

25 7. Consistent with the Court’s Order Granting Preliminary Approval of Class Action
26 Settlement (ECF No. 89), and in accordance with the Notice plan, the Settlement Administrator
27 has confirmed, including through regular updates between September 21, 2017 and October 21,
28

1 2017, that it disseminated notice to Settlement Class members via banner advertisements shown
2 on a collection of popular websites.

3 8. Class Counsel will provide the following documents to the Settlement
4 Administrator shortly after such documents are filed, to post on the Settlement Website:
5 Plaintiffs’ Motion for Attorneys’ Fees and Incentive Awards, Plaintiffs’ Motion for Final
6 Approval of Settlement, and any reply papers filed in connection with the same.

7 9. Based on our analyses of the risks, burdens, and expense of continued litigation as
8 well as our experience litigating other complex class actions, including under ECPA and CIPA,
9 we firmly endorse the Settlement is fundamentally fair, adequate and reasonable, and in the best
10 interest of the Class.

11
12 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this
13 30th day of October, 2017 in San Francisco, California.

14
15 /s/ Michael W. Sobol
16 Michael W. Sobol

17 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this
18 30th day of October, 2017 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

19
20 /s/ Hank Bates
21 Hank Bates

22 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this
23 30th day of October, 2017 in San Rafael, California.

24 /s/ Ray Gallo
25 Ray Gallo

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ATTESTATION

I, Michael W. Sobol, am the ECF user whose identification and password are being used to file this Joint Declaration. I hereby attest that Hank Bates and Ray Gallo have concurred in this filing.

/s/ Michael W. Sobol
Michael W. Sobol, Esq.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DANIEL MATERA and SUSAN
RASHKIS, as individuals, and on behalf of
other persons similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

GOOGLE, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 5:15-cv-04062 LHK

**DECLARATION OF LANA LUCCHESI
ON BEHALF OF SETTLEMENT
ADMINISTRATOR REGARDING NOTICE**

1 I, Lana Lucchesi, hereby declare:

2 1. I am employed as a senior project manager by at Kurtzman Carson Consultants
3 LLC (“KCC”). I am over 21 years of age and am not a party to this action. I have personal
4 knowledge of the facts set forth herein and, if called as a witness, could and would testify
5 competently thereto.

6 2. KCC was retained by the parties and appointed by the Court to serve as the
7 Settlement Administrator in this case, and as the Senior Project Manager, I, along with Jonathan
8 D. Carameros, Vice President, and Angelique Dizon, Project Manager, oversaw the
9 administrative services provided.

10 3. On September 18, 2017, KCC established a website (www.gmailsettlement.com)
11 dedicated to this settlement to provide information about the settlement to Class Members and to
12 answer frequently asked questions. Visitors of the website can download a Long-Form Notice, the
13 Preliminary Approval Order, and the Settlement Agreement.

14 4. In accordance with the Notice plan, KCC disseminated notice via banner
15 advertisements shown on a collection of popular websites (such as msn.com, nydailynews.com,
16 yahoo.com, weather.com, nytimes.com, cosmopolitan.com, tvguide.com, delish.com,
17 cbslocal.com, goodhousekeeping.com, bostonherald.com, and foxsports.com). The ads stated “If
18 You Sent Emails To Individuals With Gmail Accounts, But Never Had A Gmail Account With
19 Google, A Class Action Settlement May Affect Your Rights.” These banner ads directed internet
20 users to the settlement website through a link. The banner ads also included the web address of
21 the settlement website, so an internet user could find the settlement website even if they chose not
22 to click on the ad.

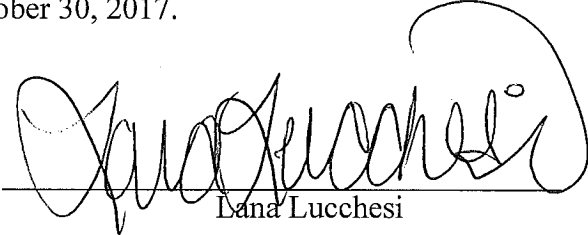
23 5. The notice campaign was conducted from September 21, 2017 until October 21,
24 2017 and succeeded in making 109,356,144 impressions, with no single user receiving more than
25 three impressions. Over the course of the notice campaign, the Parties received multiple, periodic
26 updates on the number of ad impressions served and the overall progress of the notice
27 dissemination and response. As of October 27, 2017, the settlement website has received 596,585
28 total visitor hits, of which 88,742 were visits linking directly from the banner ads.

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6. The deadline for Class Members to object to the settlement is a received or filed by deadline of January 19, 2018. As of the date of this declaration, KCC has not received any objections to the settlement.

7. KCC estimated its notice and administration costs at a flat cost of \$123,500.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this Declaration was signed in San Rafael, CA on October 30, 2017.



Lana Lucchesi