

THE HONORABLE ROBERT S. LASNIK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

KAELI GARNER, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

AMAZON.COM, INC., a Delaware
Corporation, and AMAZON.COM SERVICES
LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company,

Defendants.

) Case No. 2:21-cv-00750-RSL

) **PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL**
) **DISCOVERY RESPONSES**

) NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:
) June 17, 2022

PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO COMPEL
DISCOVERY RESPONSES

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TABLE OF CONTENTS**PAGE(S)**

I.	INTRODUCTION	1
II.	LEGAL STANDARD.....	2
III.	ARGUMENT	3
A.	PLAINTIFFS ARE ENTITLED TO “ALL DOCUMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS” RESPONSIVE TO THEIR REQUESTS.....	3
B.	PLAINTIFFS ARE ENTITLED TO A RELEVANT TIME PERIOD FROM JULY 17, 2013 TO THE PRESENT.....	4
C.	PLAINTIFFS ARE ENTITLED TO DISCOVERY REGARDING DEFENDANTS’ CONTRACTORS AS THIRD PARTIES.....	6
IV.	CONCLUSION.....	7

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**Page(s)****Cases**

<i>Allstate Ins. Co. v. Hughes</i> , 2002 WL 34420338 (W.D. Wash. Mar. 11, 2002)	6
<i>In re Bofl Holding, Inc. Sec. Litig.</i> , 2021 WL 1812822 (S.D. Cal. May 6, 2021).....	5
<i>Connex R.R. LLC v. AXA Corp. Sols. Assurance</i> , 2017 WL 3433542 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 22, 2017).....	4
<i>Everest Indem. Ins. Co. v. QBE Ins. Corp.</i> , 980 F. Supp. 2d 1273 (W.D. Wash. 2013).....	3
<i>Gsouri v. Farwest Steel Corp.</i> , 2011 WL 3471437 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 8, 2011)	3
<i>Hall v. Marriott Int'l, Inc.</i> , 2021 WL 1906464 (S.D. Cal. May 12, 2021).....	3, 5
<i>Hatamian v. Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.</i> , 2015 WL 7180662 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 16, 2015)	5
<i>HP Tuners, LLC v. Sykes-Bonnett</i> , 2018 WL 10398220 (W.D. Wash. Nov. 13, 2018)	3, 5
<i>Puget Soundkeeper All. v. BNSF Ry. Co.</i> , 2011 WL 13233167 (W.D. Wash. Feb. 15, 2011).....	3, 5

Other Authorities

Discovery Pending Decision on Amazon's Motion to Dismiss. ECF No. 73	1
Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).....	2, 5
Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(b)(2)(B)	2, 3, 5
Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(b)(2)(C)	3
<i>Third Party</i> , Merriam-Webster Dictionary, available at https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/third-party	6

1 Plaintiffs Kaeli Garner, Mark Fladd, Stephanie Fladd, Jodi Brust, John Dannelly, Diane
 2 McNealy, Michael McNealy, Lisa Hovasse, Sandra Mirabile, Ricky Babani, Susan Lenehan,
 3 Jeffrey Hoyt, Lorlie Tesoriero, James Robinson, Rosa Comacho, Eric Dlugoss, Julie Dlugoss,
 4 Ronald Johnson, Selena Johnson, Caron Watkins, and Kelly Miller (collectively, “Plaintiffs”)
 5 respectfully submit this memorandum of law in support of this motion, pursuant to L.C.R. 37(a),
 6 to compel discovery responses from Amazon.com, Inc. and Amazon.com Services LLC
 7 (collectively, “Defendants”).

8 Pursuant to L.C.R. 37(a)(1), Plaintiffs met and conferred with Defendants to discuss their
 9 responses and objections to Plaintiffs’ First Set of Requests for Production on April 12, 2022, April
 10 19, 2022, and May 18, 2022. Counsel for Plaintiffs and Defendants (collectively, “the Parties”)
 11 met and conferred by telephone in an effort to efficiently resolve Defendants’ objections to every
 12 request without the need for Court intervention. After over six hours of telephonic conferences,
 13 and several rounds of e-mails and letters, the Parties were able to make some progress. However,
 14 there are several ongoing disputes regarding Defendants’ remaining objections, which the Parties
 15 have been unable to resolve. Now at an impasse, Plaintiffs seek an Order from the Court overruling
 16 Defendants’ improper objections and compelling Defendants to properly respond to Plaintiffs’
 17 Requests.

18 **I. INTRODUCTION**

19 As this case enters its second year, Defendants have yet to provide almost any discovery
 20 in this matter. The Court’s Order Setting Discovery and Pretrial Dates (ECF No. 72), entered on
 21 February 18, 2022, calls for a close of fact discovery on December 16, 2022. Given that this
 22 deadline is just six and a half months away, time is of the essence.

23 Plaintiffs view the need for efficient discovery as a critical component of this litigation and
 24 have diligently sought relevant documents from Defendants and third-parties. Defendants,
 25 however, have taken a contrary position from the start. Defendants first sought to delay discovery
 26 by filing a Motion to Stay all Discovery Pending Decision on Amazon’s Motion to Dismiss. ECF

No. 73. The Court denied this motion signaling that discovery should proceed in full force. ECF No. 79.

Despite the Court's Order, Defendants continue to improperly cause delay. For example, on February 4, 2022, Plaintiffs served their first Requests for Production ("RFPs" or "Requests" or "RFP Set 1"), seeking relevant information tied to the claims and potential defenses in this action. *See* Shelquist Decl. Ex. A. Waiting until March 7, 2022, Defendants served their responses and objections ("R&Os") to RFP Set 1, in which they refused to provide any responsive documents to any of Plaintiffs' Requests, and asserted approximately fifteen objections, generally and specifically, to every Request. *See* Shelquist Decl. Ex. B.

Defendants' R&Os are deficient for several reasons, which Plaintiffs highlighted in a letter to Defendants dated March 28, 2022. *See* Shelquist Decl. Ex. C. Additionally, Plaintiffs requested to meet and confer with Defendants in an attempt to resolve these issues. Defendants provided their reply to Plaintiffs' March 28, 2022 letter on April 11, 2022 ("Defendants' April 11, 2022 letter"), in which they revised some of their objections. *See* Shelquist Decl. Ex. D.

For over three months, the Parties have engaged in numerous, lengthy discussions concerning RFP Set 1. While some progress has been made, several foundational issues remain. The issues include: (i) Plaintiffs' entitlement to "all documents and communications" responsive to relevant Requests; (ii) the relevant time period ("Relevant Time Period") governing the Requests; and (iii) the definition of third parties. Plaintiffs seek Court intervention to resolve these issues to allow discovery to go forward.

II. LEGAL STANDARD

A party may obtain discovery regarding any non-privileged matter that is relevant to any claim or defense. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). In responding to a request for the production of documents, the responding party "must either state that inspection and related activities will be permitted as requested or state with specificity the grounds for objecting to the request, including the reasons." Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(b)(2)(B). If the responding party objects, the objection "must

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