

COPY

1 Bobbie J. Wilson, Bar No. 148317
2 BWilson@perkinscoie.com
3 PERKINS COIE LLP
4 Four Embarcadero Center, Suite 2400
5 San Francisco, CA 94111-4131
6 Telephone: 415.344.7000
7 Facsimile: 415.344.7050

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff
9 Google Inc.

ORIGINAL FILED
2010 SEP 21 P 3:27
RICHARD W. WICKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

E-filing

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
12 SAN JOSE DIVISION

HRL

13 GOOGLE INC., a Delaware corporation,
14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 OMAR JACKMAN, an individual; JOHN
17 DOE "SIMON," an individual; JOHN
18 DOES 2-50, individuals,
19 Defendants.

CV 10

Case No.

4264

COMPLAINT

20 This action seeks to stop rogue online pharmaceutical sellers from using plaintiff
21 Google Inc.'s ("Google") AdWords advertising network ("AdWords") for unauthorized purposes,
22 in violation of Google's stated policies and the Terms and Conditions to which the advertisers
23 agreed.

24 I. PARTIES

25 1. Google is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at
26 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, California 94043.
27
28

1 2. Defendant Omar Jackman is an individual who, on information and belief, resides
2 at 950 Rutland Road, Apartment 405, Brooklyn, New York 11212, which is the billing address he
3 supplied to Google when he opened an AdWords account.

4 3. Defendant John Doe "Simon" is an individual who, on information and belief,
5 resides at 123 Church Street, New York, New York 10007, which is the billing address he
6 supplied to Google when he opened an AdWords account.

7 4. Defendants John Does 2-50 are other individuals whose true identities and
8 locations are unknown. Google will amend its complaint to name these individuals as their
9 identities are determined.

10 II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

11 5. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332
12 because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties and the matter in
13 controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

14 6. The Court has personal jurisdiction over defendants because the Terms and
15 Conditions governing the contractual relationship between Google and defendants state that each
16 defendant consents to personal jurisdiction in the federal and state courts of Santa Clara County,
17 California.

18 7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(2) in that a substantial
19 part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District, or under
20 *id.* § 1391(a)(3) in that defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

21 III. FACTS AND BACKGROUND

22 A. Google's AdWords Program

23 8. Google operates AdWords. AdWords is an innovative online advertising service
24 in which advertisers bid on keywords which may trigger the presentation of advertising on the
25 Google search results page. Whether a particular advertisement appears depends on the keyword
26 bids, along with other factors. Because of its volume and scale, AdWords is largely self-service,
27 with advertisers placing bids and submitting proposed ads over the Internet using automated
28 tools.

1 9. To participate in AdWords, an advertiser must have an AdWords account. An
2 advertiser creates an account online, and through the sign-up process the advertiser agrees to
3 certain Terms and Conditions that govern the account. These Terms and Conditions provide that
4 the advertiser must comply with Google's AdWords policies, and they further provide that the
5 advertiser will not use AdWords to advertise anything illegal or engage in any illegal or
6 fraudulent business practice.

7 10. In its content policies governing AdWords, Google prohibits the promotion of
8 online pharmacies and prescription drugs except under specific circumstances. Google allows ads
9 targeting the United States to promote online pharmacy websites *only* if the advertised website is
10 verified by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's Verified Internet Pharmacy
11 Practice Sites ("VIPPS") program. VIPPS is a third-party verification program with stringent
12 criteria to ensure that the website complies with applicable laws regarding the handling, sale, and
13 shipping of prescription drugs. *See* www.vipps.nabp.net.

14 **B. Defendants' Unlawful and Unauthorized Efforts to Use AdWords to Promote**
15 **Prescription Drugs**

16 11. In recent years, the number of advertisers who purport to sell prescription drugs
17 online has grown exponentially. Some advertisers have circumvented Google's policies and
18 practices, Google's third-party certification requirements, and Google's efforts to identify and
19 remove offending ads. The degree of sophistication has increased and these rogue
20 pharmaceutical advertisers continue to attempt to advertise using AdWords, notwithstanding
21 Google's use of VIPPS verification and, prior to its use of VIPPS, other third-party certification
22 services. Rogue advertisers also have defied Google's prohibition on the use of prescription-
23 drug-related keywords by non-approved advertisers. These rogue advertisers continue to find
24 ways around the technological measures Google has put in place to stop them, including tools to
25 flag ads for pharma review and a block on the use of thousands of prescription-drug-related
26 keywords by non-approved advertisers in the AdWords auction.

27 12. Defendants purport to advertise on behalf of online pharmacies, or website
28 businesses that offer prescription drugs for sale online.

1 13. Defendant Jackman registered the domain name www.4rx-online.com and opened
2 an AdWords account that he used to run ads for, among other websites, www.4rx-online.com.

3 14. Defendant John Doe “Simon” opened an AdWords account that he used to run ads
4 for www.onlinedrpharmacy.com.

5 15. Defendants John Does 2-50 are other individuals who opened AdWords accounts
6 and used them to run ads for websites that offer prescription drugs for sale online. Google
7 continues to investigate these and other rogue pharmaceutical advertisers.

8 16. Defendants are not verified by VIPPS. Nonetheless, they have attempted to and
9 have used AdWords to advertise prescription drugs for sale to consumers in the United States. To
10 get their ads running, defendants violated Google’s policies and circumvented technological
11 measures Google takes to enforce its policies.

12 17. For example, Jackman ran an ad that stated:

13 Generic {keyword:Stuff}?
14 You spelled it wrong but we know
15 what you meant. You can buy it here
 www.4rx-online.com

16 Jackman’s ad used keyword insertion, meaning that when it appeared on a user’s screen, the word
17 in the user’s search query that triggered the display of Jackman’s ad would appear after “Generic”
18 in the top line of the ad or, if the keyword were too long, the word “Stuff” would appear. The
19 keywords Jackman selected to trigger the display of this ad were misspellings of prescription drug
20 terms, such as “sildennafil” instead of Sildenafil. Although Google has created a system to block
21 thousands of prescription-drug-related terms—including misspellings—Jackman and other
22 advertisers, including the Doe defendants, continue to create new misspellings. The combination
23 of possible misspellings of drug terms is virtually limitless. Through the use of generic ad text
24 and misspelled keywords, Jackman was able to evade Google’s detection systems and, for a short
25 time, get this ad into the AdWords program.

26
27
28

1 18. As another example, John Doe “Simon” ran an ad that stated:

2 Buy Online {KeyWord:Now \$36 NoRx}
3 {KeyWord:Buy Now Online} \$36 NoRx
4 Next Day Delivery {KeyWord:- Buy Now 50% off}
 OnlineDrPharmacy.com/1-877-8899-309

5 John Doe “Simon’s” ad also used keyword insertion. Like Jackman, John Doe “Simon” selected
6 keywords to trigger the display of this ad consisting of misspellings of prescription drug terms—
7 such as “TRAM a dol” and “tamadol” instead of Tramadol—that evaded Google’s systems. For a
8 short time, this ad also was included in the AdWords program.

9 19. Defendants’ ads were identified in Google’s “sweeps,” which is a process used to
10 identify and inspect ads that originally passed Google’s automated systems but may actually
11 violate Google’s policies and therefore should not run. Within a short time, the ads described
12 above were caught and disapproved, so that they no longer could appear to any users.

13 20. Google suspended the AdWords accounts used by defendants for the
14 aforementioned ads, and other ads. However, advertisers frequently create new accounts,
15 sometimes using different or false contact information, and engage in the same practices in
16 violation of Google’s stated policies and the Terms and Conditions for the AdWords programs.

17 **IV. CAUSE OF ACTION**
18 **BREACH OF CONTRACT**

19 21. Google realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, the
20 allegations in paragraphs 1 to 20 above.

21 22. Google and each defendant entered into a valid contract, including the AdWords
22 Terms and Conditions.

23 23. Each defendant violated the contract through the actions described above and
24 others.

25 24. Google performed each and every obligation it has under the contract, or is
26 excused from doing so.

27
28

1 25. Defendants' breaches have damaged Google in that, among other things, Google
2 has been forced to take significant steps to implement systems designed to prevent, detect, and
3 take action against defendants' actions.

4 **V. JURY DEMAND**

5 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), Google requests a trial by jury as to all
6 issues so triable in this action.

7 **VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

8 WHEREFORE, Google prays for the following relief:

9 A. For an injunction barring defendants and their agents from advertising or
10 attempting to advertise the sale of prescription drugs or other pharmaceutical products through
11 Google's AdWords advertising network, without regard to contact name, address, or email
12 address and without regard to what URL or website is advertised.


13 B. For judgment in favor of Google, and against defendants, for damages in such
14 amounts as may be proven at trial;

15 C. For judgment against defendants for Google's costs of suit; and

16 D. For such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

17
18 DATED: September 21, 2010

PERKINS COIE LLP

19
20 By: 
21 Bobbie J. Wilson, Bar No. 148317
22 BWilson@perkinscoie.com

23 Attorneys for Plaintiff
24 Google Inc.

25
26
27
28
41063-0123/LEGAL19101989.1