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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

AMAZON.COM, INC., a corporation,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:23-cv-01495-JHC

**LCR 37 JOINT SUBMISSION FOR A  
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

NOTING DATE: February 5, 2024

The parties respectfully move for the Court to enter a Protective Order. The parties met and conferred regarding a Protective Order on December 7, December 14, 2023, and January 4, 2024, with further exchanges by email, and have resolved all but two related issues, on which they are at an impasse. Exhibit A is a proposed Protective Order reflecting the remaining disagreements between the parties. Pursuant to L.C.R. 26(c)(2), a redlined version of the proposed Protective Order compared to this Court’s model order is attached as Exhibit B.

**I. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENTS**

**A. Plaintiffs’ Introductory Statement**

Amazon is a monopolist engaged in a widespread course of anticompetitive conduct. Third parties in this case will include Amazon’s rivals and potential rivals in the markets for

1 online superstores and online marketplace services, online sellers (Amazon’s customers for  
2 marketplace services), and other market participants. Discovery from those third parties will  
3 involve competitively sensitive documents and information, including information regarding  
4 third parties’ assessments of the impact of Amazon’s conduct on competition, their dealings with  
5 Amazon, their business plans and strategic assessments, commercial agreements, and more.  
6 Third parties reasonably fear that Amazon will use this information for business purposes or to  
7 stifle sellers who speak out against Amazon. For example, many third-party sellers on Amazon’s  
8 platform are beholden to Amazon to reach their customers and, because of that, may fear reprisal  
9 from Amazon if Amazon learned of any cooperation with Plaintiffs or fear that Amazon would  
10 have access their competitively sensitive material.

11       The parties have agreed to a two-tiered Protective Order that allows third parties to  
12 designate materials as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS  
13 EYES ONLY.” Amazon’s proposed Protective Order, however, would allow Amazon in-house  
14 counsel involved in competitive decision-making to see all “CONFIDENTIAL” material and  
15 would allow at least four Amazon in-house counsel to see all “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—  
16 ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY” material, which does not adequately protect third parties from  
17 potential competitive harm. Plaintiffs’ proposed Protective Order, on the other hand, would limit  
18 “CONFIDENTIAL” information to Amazon in-house counsel who do not have any involvement  
19 in competitive decision-making (Section 5.2), and would allow in-house counsel to see  
20 “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY” material only after a showing of  
21 particularized need (Section 5.3). Plaintiffs respectfully submit that their proposal strikes an  
22 appropriate balance between protections for third parties and Amazon’s need to review discovery  
23 materials in this case.

1           **B.       Amazon’s Introductory Statement**

2           Plaintiffs’ Complaint assails commonplace, procompetitive retail practices, using novel  
3 interpretations of the antitrust laws in an effort to hobble one of America’s most consumer-  
4 focused businesses. To manage that attack, the company has a designated in-house litigation  
5 team that actively manages and collaborates with outside counsel in the litigation. For  
6 information designated Highly Confidential, Amazon seeks access for four members of this  
7 team, none of whom is involved in Competitive Decision-Making, as confirmed in their  
8 accompanying Declarations. Plaintiffs contend that this small group of in-house lawyers should  
9 not be permitted to see the full discovery record, critical documents in this case, or even  
10 Plaintiffs’ sealed complaint allegations. That is inequitable and unreasonable in an action that  
11 seeks structural relief that could fundamentally alter Amazon’s business and ability to innovate  
12 and serve customers. The four in-house attorneys are heavily involved in the defense of this  
13 case. To prevent them from reviewing or discussing critical record evidence—or motions or  
14 briefs discussing such evidence—would impair Amazon’s ability to supervise the litigation,  
15 understand the available evidence, coordinate multiple lawsuits covering similar subject matters,  
16 and evaluate outside counsel’s recommendations. And it would provide no countervailing  
17 benefit because these in-house lawyers are not involved in Competitive Decision-Making.

18           Courts in other antitrust cases (including those filed by the FTC) have not imposed such  
19 restrictions. *See Whaleco Inc. v. Shein Tech. LLC*, 2024 WL 324238, at \*2 (D.D.C. Jan. 29,  
20 2024) (“But requesting that a lawyer may not share these types of materials with his client is an  
21 extraordinary request.”). For example, in the FTC’s pending case against Meta, *FTC v. Meta*  
22 *Platforms, Inc.*, No. 1:20-cv-03590 (D.D.C. Mar. 25, 2022), the protective order permits  
23 disclosure of highly confidential information to designated in-house counsel. Protective Order  
24

1 § D.1(d), ECF No. 134. In *FTC v. Shire Viropharma Inc.*, No. 1:17-cv-00131 (D. Del. Aug. 3,  
2 2017), the protective order permitted disclosure of confidential information to “in-house counsel  
3 actively involved in the prosecution or defense of this Litigation.” Protective Order § 3(b), ECF  
4 No. 27. Similarly, in *FTC v. Thomas Jefferson University*, No. 2:20-cv-01113 (E.D. Pa. Apr. 17,  
5 2020), the protective order permitted disclosure of confidential information to “counsel for the  
6 parties and employees of counsel who have responsibility for this action.” Protective Order § 10,  
7 ECF No. 55. And in *FTC v. Advocate Health Care Network*, No. 1:15-cv-11473 (N.D. Ill. Jan.  
8 8, 2016), the protective order permitted disclosure of confidential information to the parties’  
9 employees “to the extent counsel determines in good faith that the employee’s assistance is  
10 reasonably necessary to the conduct of the litigation.” Agreed Confidentiality Order § 5(b)(3),  
11 ECF No. 36; *see also Anova Applied Elecs., Inc. v. Precision Appliance Tech., Inc.*, 2022 WL  
12 17338875, at \*3 (W.D. Wash. Nov. 30, 2022) (permitting in-house counsel access to highly  
13 confidential material, where counsel was not involved in “strategic business and competitive  
14 decisions” and party would be prejudiced by denying access because such information would  
15 “bear on his advice and counsel ... in this litigation”).

16 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), a protective order may be entered only  
17 upon a showing of “good cause.” “For good cause to exist, the party seeking protection bears the  
18 burden of showing specific prejudice or harm will result if no protective order is granted.”  
19 *Phillips ex rel. Ests. of Byrd v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1210-11 (9th Cir. 2002).  
20 Here, it is Plaintiffs who seek additional restrictions on disclosure to Amazon’s in-house counsel,  
21 and thus Plaintiffs bear the burden to show that such restrictions are necessary. “This burden  
22 cannot be met by conclusory statements,” but “must be [satisfied] on a case-by-case basis,  
23 according to the specific facts and circumstances.” *Pac. Coast Feather Co. v. Ohio Mattress Co.*

1 *Licensing & Components Grp.*, 2012 WL 13024710, at \*1 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 28, 2012);  
2 *Whaleco*, 2024 WL 324238, at \*2-4 (Plaintiff must show “substantial, serious harm;” allegations  
3 of potential harm in complaint and counsel’s declaration did not justify “extraordinary request”  
4 that arguably infringed on constitutional interests of defendant); *see also Doe v. Reed*, 2010 WL  
5 3947501, at \*1 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 6, 2010) (similar).

6 Plaintiffs never even acknowledge their burden, much less have they sought to meet it.  
7 Their arguments rest on speculative, generalized, and unsupported assertions that third parties  
8 “may fear reprisal from Amazon” or that limited in-house counsel access “would chill third  
9 parties’ willingness to cooperate” in unspecified future government proceedings. All antitrust  
10 actions involve third-party discovery, so Plaintiffs’ stated concern would broadly preclude in-  
11 house counsel from reviewing the record in such cases. This is not the law, and Plaintiffs’  
12 hypotheses cannot overcome the real prejudice that would be caused to Amazon by shutting out  
13 the group of in-house lawyers who actively participate in, and make strategic decisions about,  
14 Amazon’s defense across this and multiple related cases.

15 Plaintiffs also ignore that the terms of Amazon’s proposed protective order are  
16 substantially similar to the protective order in the pending related case *California v.*  
17 *Amazon.com, Inc.*, No. CGC-22-601826 (Cal. Super. Ct.) (the “California Action”), which has  
18 been governing discovery there for the past year. The small group of in-house lawyers who seek  
19 access to protected information in this case have already been granted access in the California  
20 Action. That case overlaps with the facts and issues here, and many third parties (for example,  
21 competing retailers) will be producing many of the same documents in both cases. Indeed, many  
22 of those third parties have already produced documents in the California Action subject to the  
23 protective order entered there. Plaintiffs do not and cannot explain why the Amazon in-house  
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1 lawyers who have access to such information in the California Action cannot be trusted or  
2 permitted to have knowledge of the same information here, or what practical benefit could result  
3 from denying access to duplicates of the same documents, or to reviewing unredacted copies of  
4 briefs, discovery responses, and other filings that they would be able to review if they were  
5 instead prepared for the California Action.

6       Regarding material designated “Confidential” (the lower level of designation under the  
7 protective order), the parties agree that such material may only be disclosed to in-house counsel  
8 when such “disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose of litigating this Action.”

9 Plaintiffs seek to impose the additional restriction that in-house counsel may not receive such  
10 material if they have any involvement in Competitive Decision-Making. This would, again,  
11 prejudice Amazon’s defense. “Confidential” is the default minimum designation for third-party  
12 document productions; few documents are produced with no confidentiality designation.  
13 Plaintiffs’ position means that Amazon would not be able to confer with the in-house attorneys  
14 who are most knowledgeable about particular issues raised by third-party documents, even when  
15 those documents contain information that is, by definition, not the most highly sensitive.

16       Regarding material designated “Highly Confidential,” Amazon seeks access for four in-  
17 house counsel who are not involved in Competitive Decision-Making, as defined in the draft  
18 Protective Order. The Four Designees were granted access over a year ago to Highly  
19 Confidential material under the California protective order and can see much of the same  
20 information as will be produced here. Plaintiffs, by contrast, would burden the Court by  
21 requiring Amazon to file a detailed motion each time in-house counsel has need for access to  
22 particular material in this case. That would prejudice Amazon’s ability to prepare its defense,  
23 and Plaintiffs do not make the required showing of any countervailing, non-speculative harm,  
24

1 that would result from allowing these four lawyers to continue to participate in the defense of  
2 this lawsuit.

3 **II. SECTION 5.2: “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL**

4 **A. Plaintiffs’ Proposed Section 5.2**

5 5.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Material. Unless otherwise ordered by the  
6 Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any  
7 material designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

8 . . .

9 (c) the Receiving Party’s In-House Counsel, who have no involvement in  
10 Competitive Decision-Making, and to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for the purpose  
11 of litigating this Action;

12 **B. Plaintiffs’ Arguments Regarding Section 5.2**

13 Amazon in-house counsel who are engaged in competitive decision making should not  
14 have access to materials third parties have designated “CONFIDENTIAL”—which may include  
15 “commercially sensitive information, trade secrets, or competitive or strategic initiatives” and  
16 “commercially sensitive information” such as “research, technical, financial or accounting  
17 information,” “commercially sensitive internal communications or information,” “internal  
18 business planning documents,” and “documents reflecting business negotiations, transactions,  
19 dealings and/or competition with Non-Parties.” (Ex. A, §4.1).

20 Plaintiffs’ proposed Protective Order would limit in-house counsel who can access  
21 “CONFIDENTIAL” material to counsel who have no involvement in competitive decision-  
22 making. Amazon objects to that limitation.

23 Third parties are protected from “‘undue burden’ in discovery, including protection from  
24

1 misuse of trade secrets by competitors.”<sup>1</sup> *See Brown Bag Software v. Symantec Corp.*, 960 F.2d  
2 1465, 1470 (9th Cir. 1992) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c)). Disclosure of such confidential  
3 business information risks “competitive harm from disclosure of [third parties’] trade secrets  
4 relating to research and development, pricing policies, and other confidential business practices.”  
5 *See Seiter v. Yokohama Tire Corp.*, 2009 WL 2461000, at \*2 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 10, 2009).

6 Courts routinely distinguish between in-house counsel and outside counsel for purposes  
7 of access to sensitive materials. *See Brown Bag*, 960 F.2d at 1470. Whether counsel are  
8 engaged in competitive decision making is a “crucial factor” in determining whether they should  
9 be permitted access to sensitive information because protective orders alone cannot adequately  
10 prevent inadvertent or accidental disclosure. *Id.*; *see U.S. Steel*, 730 F.2d at 1468 (“Inadvertent  
11 or accidental disclosure may or may not be predictable. To the extent that it may be predicted,  
12 and cannot be adequately forestalled in the design of a protective order, it may be a factor in the  
13 access decision.”). Importantly, courts have recognized that counsel cannot “lock-up trade  
14 secrets in [their] mind[s], safe from inadvertent disclosure to [their] employer once [they] had  
15 read the documents.” *Brown Bag*, 960 F.2d at 1471.

16 Amazon’s proposal to allow in-house counsel who are engaged in competitive decision-  
17 making to access highly sensitive third-party materials would unreasonably burden third parties.  
18 Amazon inappropriately seeks to allow in-house counsel to access “CONFIDENTIAL” third-  
19 party information even when those counsel are “advising on decisions about pricing or design  
20 ‘made in light of similar or corresponding information about a competitor.’” *Id.* at 1470 (quoting  
21 *U.S. Steel*, 730 F.2d at 1468 n.3). At the very least, this proposal poses a significant risk of  
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23 <sup>1</sup> The Ninth Circuit has stated that “[a] trade secret may consist of any formula, pattern, device or  
24 compilation of information which is used in one’s business, and which gives him an opportunity  
to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it.” *Clark v. Bunker*, 453 F.2d  
1006, 1009 (9th Cir. 1972) (quoting Restatement of Torts, § 757).



1 accidental disclosure of highly sensitive third-party information for the purposes of Amazon’s  
2 own competitive decision-making. Before disclosing “CONFIDENTIAL” material to in-house  
3 counsel, Amazon should be required to first ensure that its in-house counsel cannot either  
4 intentionally or unintentionally use this confidential information to the detriment of producing  
5 third parties. These type of protections are common in antitrust cases such as this that involve  
6 allegations of exclusionary conduct by a monopolist. *See, e.g., FTC v. Meta Platforms LLC*, No.  
7 20-cv-3590-JEB (D.D.C. Mar. 25, 2022), Dkt. #134 at 16-17 (providing that in-house counsel  
8 with access to confidential material must not be engaged in competitive decision-making);  
9 *United States v. Google LLC*, No. 20-cv-3010-APM (D.D.C. Dec. 14, 2020), Dkt. #72-1 at 15  
10 (same); *FTC v. Qualcomm, Inc.*, No. 17-cv-220-LHK (N.D. Cal. May 1, 2017), Dkt. #81 at 10  
11 (same).

### 12 C. Amazon’s Proposed Section 5.2

13 Section 5.2 is preceded by a definition of “Competitive Decision-Making” and an agreed-  
14 upon basic principle, as follows:

15 2.2 Competitive Decision-Making. Participation in decision-making regarding  
16 a firm’s business operations, including the development or implementation of  
17 competitive strategies, business plans, and third-party negotiations, or other decisions  
18 made in light of similar corresponding information about a competitor, except when such  
19 participation is for the purpose of rendering legal advice as to litigation or antitrust issues.

20 \* \* \*

21 5.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is  
22 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this Action  
23 only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action.  
24

1 \* \* \*

2 5.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Material. Unless otherwise ordered by  
3 the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may  
4 disclose any material designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

5 . . .

6 (c) the Receiving Party’s In-House Counsel to whom disclosure is  
7 reasonably necessary for the purpose of litigating this Action;

8 . . . .

9 **D. Amazon’s Arguments Regarding Section 5.2**

10 A designation of discovery material as “Confidential” is the lower level designation  
11 under the proposed protective order. Based on experience in the California Action, Plaintiffs and  
12 third parties have applied the “confidential” designation to nearly all third-party documents and  
13 information they have produced. Given the overlap with the California Action, including many  
14 of the same third-party witnesses, Amazon expects that most of the discovery produced in this  
15 action will also be designated “Confidential” or higher. Accordingly, what is at stake is whether  
16 most of the third-party information produced in discovery can be shared with in-house counsel  
17 who are best positioned to help outside counsel understand the context surrounding information  
18 contained in third-party documents.

19 Plaintiffs’ proposal would treat lower-level “Confidential” information the same as  
20 higher “Highly Confidential” designation, by making it available only to lawyers who are not  
21 involved in Competitive Decision-Making. But, as noted above, Amazon is proposing that only  
22 four of its in-house lawyers have access to “Highly Confidential” information. The result will be  
23 that Amazon defense counsel cannot share even the less sensitive information with other in-

1 house lawyers who are most knowledgeable about subjects that are important and necessary to  
2 the defense. This may include lawyers other than the Four Designees, including lawyers who  
3 may have business responsibilities. But this is appropriate for information bearing the lower-  
4 level “Confidential” designation, and barring outside counsel from conferring with  
5 knowledgeable in-house counsel prejudices Amazon’s defense.

6 For example, Paragraph 337 of Plaintiffs’ Complaint contains sealed information  
7 concerning allegations about how Amazon’s practices supposedly prevent sellers from offering  
8 lower prices on the Amazon Store. Under Plaintiffs’ proposal, Amazon’s outside counsel could  
9 not ask in-house counsel responsible for seller and pricing policies about the accuracy of that  
10 allegation, or to provide any additional relevant facts. Plaintiffs’ proposal would make it so that  
11 Amazon could not even tell a knowledgeable in-house attorney what the specific allegation was,  
12 in order to ask whether they are aware of evidence or information corroborating, explaining, or  
13 contradicting the alleged facts. *See* Compl. ¶ 337, ECF No. 114. Plaintiffs’ position would  
14 deprive the defense of this crucial, relevant source of information and would severely prejudice  
15 Amazon’s defense, all for the purported goal of protecting information that is, by definition, not  
16 the most sensitive.

17 This is a remarkable and novel restriction, particularly as to in-house attorneys who are  
18 subject to ethics rules and will abide by the protective order. Indeed, many protective orders  
19 allow “Confidential”-level information to be shared with non-lawyer employees. *See* Agreed  
20 Confidentiality Order § 5(b)(3), *Advocate Health*, No. 1:15-cv-11473, ECF No. 36 (permitting  
21 disclosure to “employees of a party . . . to the extent counsel determines in good faith that the  
22 employee’s assistance is reasonably necessary to the conduct of the litigation”); Protective Order  
23 § 10, *Thomas Jefferson Univ.*, No. 2:20-cv-01113, ECF No. 55 (similar); Protective Order § 3,  
24

1 *Seiter v. Yokohama Tire Corp.*, No. 3:08-cv-05578 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 10, 2009), ECF No. 27.

2 Plaintiffs wrongly suggest that barring in-house counsel's access to third-party  
3 information is necessary to protect third parties from harm. First, although Plaintiffs suggest that  
4 documents designated "Confidential" will consist of "highly sensitive third-party information,"  
5 in fact, that is exactly what the higher tier of the Protective Order ("Highly Confidential") is  
6 designed for; third parties that believe in good faith that a document contains "highly sensitive"  
7 information can make that designation and render it unavailable to most of Amazon's in-house  
8 counsel. *See* Ex. A § 4.2 ("HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL" applies to "materials that qualify as  
9 'CONFIDENTIAL' and that the Designating Party reasonably believes contain *highly sensitive*  
10 *business or personal information*") (emphasis added). In contrast, the "Confidential"  
11 designation can apply to any "commercially sensitive information that [the designating party] has  
12 maintained as confidential." *Id.* § 4.1. And in practice, third parties designate nearly all  
13 documents as "Confidential."

14 Second, the case Plaintiffs principally rely upon, *Brown Bag Software v. Symantec Corp.*,  
15 960 F.2d 1465 (9th Cir. 1992), is nothing like this one. In *Brown Bag*, the Ninth Circuit  
16 considered whether in-house counsel could access a specifically identified set of trade secrets,  
17 including computer source code that the plaintiff alleged infringed its copyright and trademark.  
18 960 F.3d at 1469-70. That narrow restriction is unlike the near-total ban on access to third-party  
19 materials that Plaintiffs seek here. Further, the court in *Brown Bag* relied on specific factual  
20 circumstances not present here, including that the source code was irrelevant to the plaintiff's  
21 principal claim and that in-house counsel's review of the information could not lead to  
22 discoverable evidence because the discovery deadline had passed. *Id.* at 1471.

23 Finally, Plaintiffs are incorrect in suggesting that it is commonplace to bar in-house  
24

1 counsel from accessing “Confidential” documents. In *U.S. Steel Corp. v. United States*, cited by  
2 Plaintiffs, the Federal Circuit held that “status as in-house counsel cannot alone create that  
3 probability of serious risk to confidentiality and cannot therefore serve as the sole basis for  
4 denial of access.” 730 F.2d 1465, 1469 (Fed. Cir. 1984). In the other case cited by Plaintiffs,  
5 *Seiter v. Yokohama Tire Corp.*, the protective order allowed confidential information to be  
6 inspected both by “counsel of record for the parties” and by “employees of the parties.”  
7 Protective Order § 3, *Seiter*, No. 3:08-cv-05578, ECF No. 27. That, of course, is even less  
8 restrictive than the in-house counsel access that would be permitted under Amazon’s proposed  
9 version of Section 5.2. Nor are such restrictions invariably imposed in antitrust cases or cases  
10 where the FTC is involved. Protective Order § 3(b), *Shire Viropharma*, No. 1:17-cv-00131, ECF  
11 No. 27 (permitting disclosure of confidential information to “in-house counsel actively involved  
12 in the prosecution or defense of this Litigation”); Protective Order § 10, *Thomas Jefferson Univ.*,  
13 No. 2:20-cv-01113, ECF No. 55 (permitting disclosure of confidential information to “counsel  
14 for the parties and employees of counsel who have responsibility for this action”); Agreed  
15 Confidentiality Order § 5(b), *Advocate Health*, No. 1:15-cv-11473, ECF No. 36 (permitting  
16 disclosure of confidential information to employees of the parties “to the extent counsel  
17 determines in good faith that the employee’s assistance is reasonably necessary to the conduct of  
18 the litigation”).

19 **E. Plaintiffs’ Reply Regarding Section 5.2**

20 Amazon claims its proposals are substantially similar to the protective order entered in  
21 the California Action. Amazon fails to acknowledge, however, that it has made non-public side  
22 agreements with select third parties that include greater protections than the protective order in  
23 that case. *See California Action*, (Oct. 25, 2023), at 42-45 (transcript attached as Exhibit D).

1 Amazon’s proposals here will foster a system of more protection for some third parties and lesser  
 2 protections for others, even though Amazon’s side deals show that Amazon *can* work with  
 3 greater protections—when it is convenient for Amazon. *Id.* at 43. Plaintiffs’ proposals provide  
 4 equitable treatment for all third parties without the need for side agreements.

5 Amazon is also incorrect in suggesting that Plaintiffs seek a wholesale bar against in-  
 6 house counsel from accessing “CONFIDETNIAL” material. Plaintiffs seek only to ensure that  
 7 the in-house counsel who access such material are not engaged in competitive decision-making,  
 8 thus reassuring third parties that their sensitive materials will not be used against them for  
 9 competitive purposes. *See Brown Bag*, 960 F.2d at 1471.

10 **III. SECTION 5.3: “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”**  
 11 **MATERIAL**

12 **A. Plaintiffs’ Proposed Section 5.3**

13 5.3 Disclosure of “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”  
 14 Material. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating  
 15 Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any material designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—  
 16 ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” only to:

17 (a) those individuals listed in Section 5.2(a)-(b), and 5.2(d)-(i);<sup>2</sup>

18 **B. Plaintiffs’ Arguments Regarding Section 5.3**

19 The parties’ second dispute concerns the extent to which Amazon in-house counsel can  
 20 access information designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY.”

21 That designation applies to “[e]xtremely competitively sensitive materials that qualify as

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
 23 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs’ proposal would allow access to “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’  
 24 EYES ONLY” by Plaintiffs’ counsel, Amazon’s outside counsel, retained experts, professional  
 vendors, the Court, authors and recipients of documents, witnesses who had access to such  
 material, and any other person that the designating party consents to disclosure.

1 ‘CONFIDENTIAL’ and that the Designating Party reasonably believes contain highly sensitive  
2 business or personal information, the disclosure of which . . . would create a substantial risk of  
3 serious competitive or commercial harm to the Designating Party,” including “trade secrets,”  
4 “technical details concerning proprietary technology,” “current or forward-looking internal  
5 business strategy documents concerning direct competition with [Amazon],” “current or forward  
6 looking intellectual property and product development documents,” and “documents that reflect  
7 negotiating positions with respect to [Amazon].” (Ex. A, §4.2).

8 Amazon advocated for heightened protections such as these when it was a third party.  
9 *See United States v. Google LLC*, No. 20-cv-3010-APM (D.D.C. Dec. 4, 2020), Dkt. # 66 at 35-  
10 38 (arguing in favor of proposed protective order because Amazon’s documents were “very  
11 highly sensitive documents,” and characterizing materials as the “playbook” for competing with  
12 the defendant) (transcript attached as Exhibit C); *see also United States v. Google LLC*, No. 20-  
13 cv-3010-APM (D.D.C. Dec. 14, 2020), Dkt. # 72-1 at 13-14 (protective order entered in same  
14 case barring in-house counsel from accessing highly confidential information).

15 Plaintiffs proposed—and Amazon accepted—a process in Section 6 of the Protective  
16 Order through which Amazon can seek in-house counsel access to “HIGHLY  
17 CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” on an as-needed basis. This process affords  
18 relevant third parties the opportunity to meet and confer with Amazon, and object to in-house  
19 counsel access to materials as appropriate. Similar provisions have been adopted in other  
20 significant antitrust cases where in-house counsel access to highly confidential information was  
21 presumptively barred to protect the rights of third parties. *See United States v. Google LLC*, No.  
22 23-cv-108-LMB-JFA (E.D. Va. May 11, 2023), Dkt. # 203 at 24 (providing process for obtaining  
23 access to highly confidential material to in-house counsel on an as-needed basis); *United States*  
24 *v. Google LLC*, No. 20-cv-3010-APM (D.D.C. Dec. 14, 2020), Dkt. # 72-1 at 18-19 (same).

1 Amazon, however, wants more. Amazon’s proposal would allow four designated in-  
2 house counsel to see all “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY” material  
3 in this case, and would allow Amazon to designate replacements for those in-house counsel on a  
4 rolling basis. Third parties, who were not targets of the investigation, should be afforded extra  
5 safeguards from having their sensitive material disclosed within Amazon. Courts have  
6 recognized that third parties are differently situated than parties to a litigation, and should be  
7 protected from unnecessary disclosure of their materials, especially when those materials were  
8 submitted in response to a government subpoena. *See United States v. Aetna Inc.*, No. 16-CV-  
9 01494-JDB (D.D.C. Sept. 5, 2016), 2016 WL 8738420, at \*6 (“[W]e are not talking about an  
10 exchange of documents between two sides in a lawsuit. We are talking about a number of third  
11 parties, not targets of any [government] action, who had to give up exceedingly confidential  
12 information in response to a government subpoena.” (quoting *FTC v. Advoc. Health Care*  
13 *Network*, 162 F. Supp. 3d 666, 671 (N.D. Ill. 2016)).

14 To avoid risk of irreparable harm to third parties, access to “HIGHLY  
15 CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” should be presumptively limited to outside  
16 counsel and other outside entities. The information that will be produced in this case and  
17 designated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY” is likely to involve  
18 Amazon’s rivals and customers’ highly competitively sensitive information. As with a  
19 competitive decision-making bar for in-house counsel that access confidential information,  
20 protections against in-house counsel accessing highly confidential information are routine in  
21 major antitrust cases brought by government enforcers. *See, e.g., United States v. Google LLC*,  
22 No. 23-cv-108-LMB-JFA (E.D. Va. May 11, 2023), Dkt. # 203 at 18-19; *United States v. Google*  
23 *LLC*, No. 20-cv-3010-APM (D.D.C. Dec. 14, 2020), Dkt. # 72-1 at 13-14; *FTC v. Vyera*



1 *Pharmaceuticals, et al.*, No. 20-cv-00706 (S.D.N.Y. April 20, 2020), Dkt. No. 92 at 10; *FTC v.*  
2 *Qualcomm, Inc.*, No. 17-cv-220 (N.D. Cal. June 28, 2017), Dkt. # 136 at 18 (ruling that  
3 circumstances of government monopolization case justified departure from court’s model  
4 protective order with respect to in-house counsel access to third-party confidential information);  
5 *United States v. Anthem, Inc.*, No. 16-cv-1493-ABJ (D.D.C. Sept. 15, 2016), 2016 WL  
6 11164026, \*4 (observing that the protective order “does not permit disclosure to Defendants’ in-  
7 house counsel or to any direct employee of either of the Defendant companies”); *United States v.*  
8 *Microsoft Corp.*, No. 98-cv-1232-TPJ (D.D.C. May 27, 1998), Dkt. # 928-4 at 9. Amazon has in  
9 fact advocated for these same protections when it was a third party. *See United States v. Google*  
10 *LLC*, No. 20-cv-3010-APM (D.D.C. Dec. 4, 2020), Dkt. # 66 at 35-38 (arguing in favor of  
11 proposed protective order because Amazon’s documents were “very highly sensitive  
12 documents,” and characterizing materials as the “playbook” for competing with the defendant)  
13 (transcript attached as Exhibit C); *see also United States v. Google LLC*, No. 20-cv-3010-APM  
14 (D.D.C. Dec. 14, 2020), Dkt. # 72-1 at 13-14 (protective order entered in same case barring in-  
15 house counsel from accessing highly confidential information).

16 Amazon has not shown that in-house counsel need access to “HIGHLY  
17 CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS EYES ONLY” materials to assist in the defense of this  
18 lawsuit. *See Brown Bag*, 960 F.2d at 1470 (“[T]he nature of the claims and of a party’s  
19 opportunity to develop its case through alternative discovery procedures factors into decisions on  
20 the propriety of such protective orders.”). Amazon has at least four highly experienced outside  
21 law firms currently representing it in this litigation. Those firms are fully capable of representing  
22 Amazon. *See Aetna*, No. 16-CV-01494-JDB (D.D.C. Sept. 5, 2016), 2016 WL 8738420, at \*9  
23 (finding defendants could not demonstrate need for in-house counsel to access confidential  
24

1 material, “[g]iven the quality of retained outside counsel”).<sup>3</sup> Moreover, although there should be  
2 a competitive decision-making bar, Amazon’s in-house counsel will have access to  
3 “CONFIDENTIAL” material.

4 Finally, adopting Amazon’s proposal would chill third parties’ willingness to cooperate  
5 with government investigations and enforcement actions. *Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int’l Trade Comm’n*,  
6 808 F.2d 1471, 1483 (Fed. Cir. 1986) (“Disclosure of sensitive materials to an adversary would  
7 undoubtedly have a chilling effect on the parties’ willingness to provide the confidential  
8 information essential to the Commission’s fact-finding processes. The Commission has resolved  
9 the difficult and controversial question of the role of in-house counsel by taking a conservative  
10 position on the side of optimum shielding of business information.”). Unlike private plaintiffs,  
11 government enforcers have an interest in not deterring third-party cooperation in future  
12 investigations and actions, thus counseling in favor of adopting Plaintiffs’ position here. *See*  
13 *Aetna*, No. 16-CV-01494-JDB (D.D.C. Sept. 5, 2016), 2016 WL 8738420, at \*9 (finding  
14 “persuasive Plaintiffs’ argument that granting Defendants’ in-house counsel access to the  
15 information at issue may deter non-parties from producing information to the government in  
16 future cases”).

17 Consistent with the precedent, Plaintiffs’ proposal strikes the appropriate balance  
18 between the rights of third parties and Amazon’s access to their highly sensitive materials.  
19 Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court enter a Protective Order adopting  
20 Plaintiffs’ proposals.

21  
22 <sup>3</sup> The *Aetna* court later entered an amended protective order allowing defendants to move for a  
23 limited number of in-house counsel to have access to confidential information, adopting a  
24 procedure similar to Section 6.1, which allows some in-house counsel to have access to  
“HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” material based on a showing of  
need. *Aetna*, No. 16-cv-1494 (D.D.C. Sept. 30, 2016), Dkt. # 132 at 10-11.

1 **C. Amazon’s Proposed Sections 5.3 and 5.4**

2 5.3 Disclosure of “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’ EYES  
3 ONLY” Material. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the  
4 Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any material designated “HIGHLY  
5 CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” only to:

6 (a) those individuals listed in Section 5.2(a)-(b), and 5.2(d)-(i)

7 (b) the following Designated In-House Counsel, who Amazon certifies are not  
8 involved in Competitive Decision-Making and are not reasonably likely to become  
9 involved in Competitive Decision-Making: (i) Nate Sutton; (ii) Bryson Bachman; (iii)  
10 Larry Reicher; and (iv) Cristina Fernandez;

11 (c) additional Designated In-House Counsel of any Receiving Party substituted  
12 for an individual listed in 5.3(b): (i) who have no involvement in Competitive Decision-  
13 Making; (ii) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for the litigation of this Action;  
14 (iii) who have been disclosed under Section 5.4 of this Order; and (iv) who are not  
15 subject to an objection by a Designating Party under Section 5.4, unless the court  
16 overrules such objection.

17 5.4 Procedure for Identifying Designated In-House Counsel Pursuant to  
18 Section 5.3(c). Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Designating Party or  
19 otherwise ordered by the court, material designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—  
20 ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” can be disclosed to Designated In-House Counsel of the  
21 Receiving Party contemplated by Section 5.3(c) and not identified in Section 5.3(b) only  
22 after:

23 (a) The Receiving Party notifies the Designating Party of: (i) the name(s) of the  
24

1 additional Designated In-House Counsel; (ii) the title and a general description of the  
2 responsibilities of those Designated In-House Counsel; and (iii) a certification that (1) the  
3 Designated In-House Counsel are not involved in Competitive Decision-Making; and (2)  
4 it is not reasonably foreseeable that the Designated In-House Counsel will become  
5 involved in Competitive Decision-Making.

6 (b) If the Designating Party fails to object within twenty-one (21) days, the  
7 Receiving Party may disclose “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL—ATTORNEYS’ EYES  
8 ONLY” material to the Designated In-House Counsel identified pursuant to Section  
9 5.4(a).

10 (c) If the Designating Party objects, it must do so in writing and set forth in detail  
11 the grounds on which the objection is based. Upon a written request by the Receiving  
12 Party, the Receiving Party and the Designating Party shall meet and confer on the  
13 objection to try and resolve the objection. Except by agreement of both the Receiving  
14 Party and the Designating Party, such meet and confer should be conducted promptly,  
15 and, in any event, within no later than ten (10) days of the written request from the  
16 Receiving Party. If the Receiving Party and the Designating Party are unable to reach a  
17 resolution after a good faith effort to meet and confer, then either Party may seek any  
18 appropriate order following the applicable procedures for such requests from the court. A  
19 good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

20 **D. Amazon’s Arguments Regarding Section 5.3**

21 For material designated “Highly Confidential,” Amazon seeks access for only four  
22 members of the Competition team within Amazon’s Litigation Department. This very small  
23 group of in-house lawyers focuses specifically on competition issues, and is responsible for  
24

1 managing litigation and for litigation counseling—including management of this case, the  
2 California Action, and related private cases. Sutton Decl. ¶ 7 & n.1; Bachman Decl. ¶ 7 & n.1;  
3 Reicher Decl. ¶ 7 & n.1. Three of the Four Designees have submitted a declaration  
4 accompanying this submission.<sup>4</sup> As they explain, these Four Designees actively direct and make  
5 strategic decisions in this significant antitrust litigation that seeks the restructuring of Amazon.  
6 Sutton Decl. ¶ 8; Bachman Decl. ¶ 8; Reicher Decl. ¶ 8. Absent access to the discovery record,  
7 they will not be able to be informed as to the pertinent evidence, or review filings that discuss  
8 that evidence, and thus cannot effectively make decisions or direct outside counsel. Moreover,  
9 these Four Designees do not participate in day-to-day decision-making about Amazon’s business  
10 operations, including the development or implementation of competitive strategies, business  
11 plans, third-party negotiations, or other decisions made in light of information about a  
12 competitor, except to provide legal advice as to litigation or regulatory competition issues.  
13 Sutton Decl. ¶¶ 8,10; Bachman Decl. ¶¶ 8,10; Reicher Decl.¶¶ 8, 10.

14 Plaintiffs’ suggestion that in-house counsel are invariably denied access to “Highly  
15 Confidential” material is wrong. Courts routinely permit access to in-house counsel who are not  
16 involved with Competitive Decision-Making, especially when they are responsible for  
17 overseeing the litigation. *See, e.g., Anova*, 2022 WL 17338875, at \*3 (permitting in-house  
18 counsel access to highly confidential material, where counsel was not involved in “strategic  
19 business and competitive decisions” and party would be prejudiced by denying access because  
20 such information would “bear on his advice and counsel ... in this litigation”); *Pac. Coast*  
21 *Feather*, 2012 WL 13024710, at \*1 (“Plaintiff has not met its burden of showing that the need to  
22 prevent inadvertent disclosure of trade secrets outweighs the hardship to Defendants caused by

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 <sup>4</sup> The fourth Designee is currently on parental leave and will submit a substantially similar  
declaration upon her return.

1 excluding in-house counsel, who has the responsibility of acting as the client to give direction to  
2 outside counsel.”); *Amgen, Inc. v. Elanex Pharms., Inc.*, 160 F.R.D. 134, 139 (W.D. Wash. 1994)  
3 (permitting in-house counsel access to highly confidential material, where they were “not  
4 involved in making competitive decisions”).

5 Consistent with this precedent, the Court in the California Action has approved each of  
6 these Four Designees to view “Highly Confidential” Material. Sutton Decl. ¶ 11; Bachman Decl.  
7 ¶ 11; Reicher Decl. ¶ 11. Courts in this district and in large competition cases regularly follow  
8 this same approach, recognizing that even as to material designated “Highly Confidential,”  
9 limiting access to a small number of attorneys not involved in Competitive Decision-Making is  
10 sufficient to protect the interests of third parties. *E.g., Anova*, 2022 WL 17338875, at \*4  
11 (permitting in-house counsel access to highly confidential information is “hardly  
12 ‘unprecedented’ in the Ninth Circuit”); Protective Order § D.1(d), *Meta*, No. 1:20-cv-03590,  
13 ECF No. 134 (permitting disclosure of highly confidential information to in-house counsel  
14 uninvolved in Competitive Decision-Making); Protective Order § 4(c), *FTC v. Surescripts, LLC*,  
15 No. 19-cv-01080 (D.D.C. Mar. 9, 2020), ECF No. 57 (same); Protective Order § 4(b), *Shire*  
16 *Viropharma*, No. 1:17-cv-00131, ECF No. 27 (permitting disclosure of highly confidential  
17 information to in-house attorneys with primary responsibility for the litigation); *see also United*  
18 *States v. AB Electrolux*, 139 F.Supp.3d 390, 393-94 (D.D.C. 2015) (permitting disclosure of  
19 protected material to in-house attorneys who received protected material in other “litigation and  
20 investigation matters”).

21 Plaintiffs suggest that Amazon’s in-house counsel may be granted access to “Highly  
22 Confidential” documents on an “as-needed basis,” but their actual proposal is that no in-house  
23 counsel may be provided access unless either (1) the designating party consents or (2) this Court  
24

1 grants a motion to permit disclosure—which would require a highly specific showing and the  
2 identification of precisely which information outside counsel believe is most critical for in-house  
3 counsel to review. This procedure is burdensome and unworkable—Plaintiffs’ Joint Scheduling  
4 Report proposes that up to 100 third party witnesses could be subpoenaed and deposed in this  
5 case, ECF No. 135, at 27, creating the prospect of countless requests and motions. More  
6 importantly, Plaintiffs’ proposed procedure would interfere with Amazon’s ability to supervise  
7 the litigation, understand the available evidence, and evaluate outside counsel’s  
8 recommendations. In this complex and fast-moving litigation, it will be practically impossible to  
9 negotiate third-party consent or brief a detailed motion every time a draft filing or piece of  
10 correspondence cites a document designated “Highly Confidential.” And it would improperly  
11 invade Amazon’s attorney-client relationship, and reveal its litigation strategy, by requiring  
12 Amazon’s outside counsel to identify specific documents to Plaintiffs—and their reasons for  
13 needing to discuss them with their client—and request Plaintiffs’ consent to share them with  
14 their in-house clients if Plaintiffs or third parties have marked the documents (whether properly  
15 or not) as “Highly Confidential.”

16 Plaintiffs contend that no in-house counsel should be permitted to access “Highly  
17 Confidential” material because Amazon “has not shown that in-house counsel need access” to  
18 assist in defense of the litigation. This argument turns the Rule 26(c) standard on its head; as the  
19 party seeking limitations on disclosure, it is Plaintiffs who must substantiate the harms they  
20 allege. *Beckman Indus., Inc. v. Int’l Ins. Co.*, 966 F.2d 470, 476 (9th Cir. 1992) (“Broad  
21 allegations of harm, unsubstantiated by specific examples or articulated reasoning, do not satisfy  
22 the Rule 26(c) test.”); *Suture Exp., Inc. v. Cardinal Health, 200, LLC*, 2013 WL 6909158, at \*8  
23 (D. Kan. Dec. 31, 2013) (permitting in-house counsel access to highly-confidential material  
24

1 when plaintiff “failed to show that Defendants’ in-house counsel are competitive decisionmakers  
2 or present an unacceptable risk of” disclosure). In any event, Amazon has shown that the Four  
3 Designees need access here. Amazon’s in-house competition lawyers have actively supervised  
4 and directed the litigation and the investigation that preceded it, and they cannot continue to do  
5 so if they are barred from seeing or discussing the evidence in the case or else must engage in a  
6 highly burdensome process for seeking such access—while necessarily divulging their strategy  
7 to their litigation adversaries. *See* Sutton Decl. ¶ 8; Bachman Decl. ¶ 8; Reicher Decl. ¶ 8.

8 Plaintiffs speculate that permitting a limited number of in-house counsel access to highly  
9 confidential information would “chill [unidentified] third parties’ willingness to cooperate with  
10 government investigations and enforcement actions” in “future investigations.” Such speculative  
11 and unsupported assertions provide no basis on which to issue a Protective Order substantively  
12 hampering Amazon’s ability to defend itself. For example, in the recent *Whaleco Inc. v. Shein*  
13 *Tech. LLC*, decision, the District Court for the District of Columbia rejected plaintiffs’ argument  
14 that an outside-counsel’s eyes-only protective order was justified by third parties’ alleged fear of  
15 retaliation from defendant or a potential chilling effect on cooperation from third party witnesses.  
16 2024 WL 324238, at \*2-4 (D.D.C. Jan. 29, 2024). The court found that mere assertions of such  
17 speculative harms by plaintiffs’ counsel were insufficient to back up “an unusual request” to bar  
18 in-house counsel from access to relevant information. *Id.* at \*4. In any event, Plaintiffs’ concern  
19 is unjustified. In the investigative phase, Plaintiffs were not reliant on voluntary cooperation;  
20 they made use of the pre-complaint compulsory processes to obtain information from various  
21 witnesses. During litigation both Plaintiffs and Amazon will similarly use subpoenas to obtain  
22 information from witnesses. Like any defendant, Amazon should have the right to develop the  
23 record and defend itself against misinformed allegations, and should not be denied the ability to  
24



1 do so based on unsupported speculation about future investigations.

2 Plaintiffs argue that in-house counsel’s participation is unnecessary because Amazon has  
3 “at least four highly experienced outside law firms currently representing it.” But the defendants  
4 in *Meta*, *Amgen*, and *Anova*, among other cases cited herein, were also represented by outside  
5 counsel, and this did not prevent the courts from also granting access to designated in-house  
6 attorneys. Indeed, the complexity of this litigation underscores the need for in-house counsel to  
7 coordinate and direct the activities of outside counsel. Sutton Decl. ¶¶ 12-13; Bachman Decl. ¶¶  
8 12-13; Reicher Decl. ¶¶ 12-13. Amazon’s legal department is structured so that some of its  
9 counsel, such as the Four Designees, can supervise and assist in litigation and not be focused on  
10 day-to-day legal advice to the business. *See AB Electrolux*, 139 F.Supp.3d at 392-93 (granting  
11 access to Highly-Confidential material to in-house competition counsel who worked within the  
12 legal team, which “function[ed] independently” from their company’s business team).

13 Under Plaintiffs’ version of the protective order, outside counsel would have to identify  
14 and explain in-house counsel’s particularized need for access to documents, without ever being  
15 able to show the documents to in-house counsel. *See* Ex. A § 6.1 (prohibiting disclosure of  
16 material to in-house counsel prior to issuance of particularized Court order). As explained by  
17 their declarations, the Four Designees need access to the documents produced by third parties to  
18 effectively supervise and strategize with outside counsel. Sutton Decl. ¶¶ 12-13; Bachman Decl.  
19 ¶¶ 12-13; Reicher Decl. ¶¶ 12-13.<sup>5</sup> *See Whaleco*, 2024 WL 324238, at \*5 (Plaintiff “makes

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20 <sup>5</sup> Plaintiffs criticize Amazon’s proposal that allows it to substitute one of the four designated in-  
21 house attorneys, derisively describing it as a means to seek access for in-house counsel on a  
22 “rolling basis.” In fact, Amazon’s proposal requires it to give written notice to the parties that  
23 designated material “Highly Confidential,” and only enables Amazon to share materials with the  
24 substituted attorney after twenty-one days passes without objection from the designating party.  
Ex. A, §§ 5.3(c), 5.4. And Plaintiffs ignore the real reason for this provision, which counsel for  
Amazon explained to them during the meet-and-confer process: In the California Action, one of  
the four designated attorneys took parental leave; Amazon was able to avail itself of a provision

1 essentially no attempt to explain how outside counsel for [defendant] could investigate and rebut  
2 these allegations without consulting their client”).<sup>6</sup>

### 3 E. Plaintiffs’ Reply Regarding Section 5.3

4 The circumstances of this case are more than sufficient to warrant the Court adopting  
5 Plaintiffs’ proposals. *See* Local Rules, W.D. Wash. LCR 26(c)(2). Amazon has acknowledged  
6 that third parties in the California Action were concerned about Amazon in-house counsel  
7 accessing their sensitive information. *See California Action*, No. CGC-22-601826 (Oct. 25,  
8 2023), at 43 (Exhibit D). There, Amazon struck side deals with third parties on a case-by-case  
9 basis; here, Plaintiffs’ proposal would provide the same protections for all third parties.

10 The fact that Amazon has accepted more restrictions on in-house counsel access in the  
11 California Action (for some third parties), is also at odds with Amazon’s claim that its in-house  
12 counsel need access to third parties’ most highly sensitive documents. *See id.* at 44 (“The upshot  
13 to us is outside counsel can get the documents and they can start making productive use of them.  
14 The limitation is we have less support internally as a consequence of it.”). Plaintiffs’ proposals  
15 strike the appropriate balance for all third parties and should be adopted by the Court.

16  
17  
18 like the one it seeks here to substitute in other counsel without needing to ask the Court to amend  
19 the protective order in that case. Amazon’s proposed provision offers a pragmatic solution to  
20 such eventualities that would not require the Court to change the text of the protective order if  
21 Amazon needs to substitute personnel in a similar manner.

22 <sup>6</sup> Plaintiffs suggest there is somehow something inconsistent about Amazon’s seeking access  
23 here for critical in-house attorneys while seeking different levels of protection in a different case  
24 involving different claims and different discovery material. In so doing, Plaintiffs ignore that in  
other cases, Plaintiffs themselves have permitted in-house counsel precisely the sort of access  
Amazon’s in-house counsel seek here. *See, e.g.*, Protective Order § D.1(d), *Meta*, No. 1:20-cv-  
03590, ECF No. 134 (permitting disclosure of highly confidential information to two in-house  
counsel without involvement in Competitive Decision-Making); Protective Order § 4(c),  
*Surescripts, LLC*, No. 19-cv-01080, ECF No. 57 (same); Protective Order § 4(b), *Shire*  
*Viropharma*, No. 1:17-cv-00131, ECF No. 27 (similar).

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 For the reasons above, the parties respectfully request that the Court enter a Protective  
3 Order resolving the parties' disputes.

4  
5 Dated: February 5, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

*s/ Daniel A. Principato*

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**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that Amazon’s total text in this submission contains 4,094 words, in compliance with the Local Civil Rules. I further certify that this motion complies with the requirements of LCR 37.

DATED: February 1, 2024

s/ Kevin M. Hodges  
Kevin M. Hodges

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the full response by the responding party has been included in this submission, and that prior to making this submission the parties conferred to attempt to resolve this dispute in accordance with LCR 37(a). I further certify that Plaintiffs’ total text in this submission contains 2,472 words, and that Plaintiffs’ replies are 175 words or fewer with respect to each issue in dispute, in compliance with the Local Civil Rules.

DATED: February 5, 2024

s/ Daniel A. Principato  
Daniel A. Principato