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19	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE	E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
20	COUNTY OF SA	N FRANCISCO
21	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF	Case No. CGC-22-601826
22	CALIFORNIA,	JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT
23	Plaintiff / Cross-Defendant,	STATEMENT REDACTED VERSION
24	V.	Date: October 25, 2023
25	AMAZON.COM, INC.,	Time: 10:00 AM Dept.: 304
26	Defendant / Cross-Complainant.	Judge: Hon. Ethan P. Schulman Case Filed: September 15, 2022
27		Trial Date: August 10, 2026
28		DER SEALREDACTED VERSION om Conditionally Sealed Record
	JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT STAT	EMENT; CASE NO. CGC-22-601826

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2	JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT
3	Pursuant to the Order After August 3, 2023 Case Management Conference entered by the
4	Court on August 3, 2023, counsel for Plaintiff, The People of the State of California ("The People"),
5	and Defendant, Amazon.com, Inc. ("Amazon") submit this Joint Case Management Statement in
6	the above-captioned action ("Action"). The Parties submit this Joint Statement for the purpose of
7	apprising the Court as to the status of the litigation (Part I), the status of discovery (Part II), the
8	status of coordination (Part III), the compendium of pleadings from other pending antitrust actions
9	against Amazon (Part IV), and the potential for early dispositive motions to resolve claims or issues
10	in the case (Part V), issues that The People seek to address with the Court even though Amazon
11	disagrees that there is any impasse (Part VI); and a proposed date for the next Case Management
12	Conference (Part VII).
13	I. STATUS OF LITIGATION
14	The People filed the Complaint on September 15, 2022. On December 6, 2022, Amazon
15	filed a demurrer challenging the Complaint. The Court heard oral argument on March 15, 2023
16	and entered an order overruling Amazon's demurrer on March 30, 2023.
17	On May 30, 2023, Amazon filed a Verified Answer to the Complaint, including sixteen
18	affirmative defenses, together with a Cross-Complaint for Declaratory Relief. On July 14, 2023,
19	The People filed a demurrer to Amazon's Cross-Complaint. On October 5, 2023, the Court entered
20	an order sustaining The People's demurrer as to the first count and overruling the demurrer as to
21	the remaining eight counts of Amazon's Cross-Complaint. The People's answer to the remaining
22	claims asserted in the Cross-Complaint is presently due on November 15, 2023.
23	The Court held an initial Case Management Conference on January 4, 2023, and Case
24	Management Conferences on May 5, 2023 and August 23, 2023. Following the Case Management
25	Conference on May 5, 2023, the Court adopted the pretrial schedule as proposed by the Parties,
26	including the following milestone dates:
27	October 11, 2024 Close of fact discovery
28	October 25, 2025 Close of expert discovery
	April 24, 2026 Deadline to file dispositive motions
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 July 17, 2026
 Final pretrial conference

 August 10, 2026
 Trial

 Both Parties have commenced fact discovery, including third-party discovery. The status

 of fact discovery is addressed in Section II.

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II.

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STATUS OF DISCOVERY

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A. Discovery Requested by The People

8 **Document Requests** – The People have served four sets of requests for production of 9 documents on Amazon: Set 1 (18 requests, served in October 2022), Sets 2 and 3 (15 requests, 10 served in March 2023), and Set 4 (91 requests, served in May 2023). Amazon represents that it has 11 completed production of documents and data in response to Sets 1 through 3, with the exception of 12 5 requests for which it agreed to produce documents subject to an agreement on custodians and 13 search terms. Amazon has commenced production of documents and data in response to certain 14 Set 4 requests. The People are evaluating the documents and data produced to date in response to 15 Sets 1-4, and the Parties are continuing to meet and confer on various Set 4 requests. Amazon is 16 also continuing to investigate what responsive documents and data may exist in response to certain 17 Set 4 requests, the feasibility of producing such documents and data, and the burden associated 18 with doing so. The Parties continue to meet and confer on these requests.

The Parties have continued to meet and confer regarding custodians and search terms as
ordered by the Court; however, the Parties have not yet reached agreement. The Parties' respective
statements regarding custodians are set forth in Section VI below.

On October 5, 2023, The People asked Amazon to prioritize producing documents responsive to the Set 4 requests from a centralized repository that contains internal and external emails related to Amazon's vendors, and to commit to substantially completing that production by November 30, 2023. The People also seek dates for Amazon to complete its custodial and noncustodial productions of documents and privilege logs. Amazon represents that because its investigation as to outstanding requests is ongoing, and because the Parties are continuing to confer on the custodians and search terms to be used in responding to The People's requests, Amazon is not presently in a position to estimate a timetable for the substantial completion of documents in

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response to The People's requests.¹ Amazon has, and will continue, to make rolling productions of documents responsive to the requests.

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B. Discovery Requested by Amazon

5 Document Requests - Amazon served its first set of requests for production of documents 6 on The People on October 4, 2022 (31 requests). The People began producing documents 7 responsive to these requests in March 2023 after the entry of the Stipulated Protective Order and 8 notification to third parties required thereunder. On September 19, 2023, The People represented 9 that they had completed their production of documents in response to the first set of requests, with 10 the exception of documents from one third-party witness who continued to object to production 11 under the Stipulated Protective Order. After conferring with Amazon, that third-party witness 12 consented last week to production of his communications, and The People expect to produce the 13 two documents not previously produced before the Case Management Conference this week.

On September 21, 2023, Amazon served a second set of requests for production of
documents (4 requests). The People's responses and objections to this second set of requests are
currently due on November 6, 2023.

Interrogatories – Amazon served its first set of form interrogatories on February 17, 2023.
The People served their objections and responses on March 21, 2023. The People subsequently
served supplemental responses on April 17, 2023 and September 29, 2023.

On September 21, 2023, Amazon served its first set of special interrogatories and its second
set of form interrogatories on The People. The People's responses and objections are currently due
November 6, 2023.

September 21, 2023. The People's responses and objections are due November 6, 2023.

Requests for Admission - Amazon served its first set of requests for admission on

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¹ As to the centralized repository, Amazon has explained that any uncertainty is a result of the fact that the centralized collection of such materials is not supported in the ordinary course, that Amazon has engaged outside contractors to assist with the collection, and that the volume of documents is unknown when the Parties are continuing to confer on search terms.

C. Discovery on Third Parties

3 The Parties have commenced third-party deposition and document discovery. The People 4 have served six (6) document subpoenas on third parties, and Amazon has served thirty-six (36) 5 document subpoenas. To date, the Parties have completed three (3) third-party depositions, and 6 have identified twenty-five (25) additional depositions to occur later this year and the first quarter 7 of next year. The Parties have continued to provide at least sixty (60) days' notice of proposed 8 deposition dates when a new third-party deponent is identified, and to confer with third parties 9 regarding scheduling deposition dates to provide sufficient time for the third party to respond to 10 any document subpoena.

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III. COORDINATION

12 On July 19, 2023, Amazon proposed a stipulated deposition protocol to The People in an 13 effort to coordinate party and third-party discovery in this case with other pending actions that also 14 include antitrust claims asserted against Amazon arising from alleged anticompetitive agreements 15 between Amazon and its third-party sellers and/or wholesale suppliers. While The People do not 16 believe that any formal stipulation or coordination order is necessary, the Parties have subsequently engaged in multiple meet and confers and exchanged drafts of a proposed coordination order. The 17 18 Parties have not yet reached agreement, and it remains unclear whether the Parties will be able to 19 agree on a coordination order. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement, Amazon anticipates 20 that it will be necessary to seek the Court's assistance.

The Parties have not had any discussions regarding any potential coordination with the action recently filed by the Federal Trade Commission and other state attorneys general, *see FTC et al. v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, No. 2:23-cv-1495 (W.D. Wash.) (the "*FTC* Action"), which also involves antitrust claims asserted against Amazon. The Parties expect to confer in the coming weeks and months on whether and to what extent coordination with the *FTC* Action is appropriate, including in light of any pretrial schedule in the *FTC* Action, which has yet to be entered.

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IV. COMPENDIUM OF PLEADINGS FROM OTHER PROCEEDINGS

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As requested by the Court at the last Case Management Conference, the Parties have prepared a joint compendium of pleadings from other antitrust cases currently pending against

Amazon. A copy of the index of the compendium is attached as Appendix A. At the upcoming Case Management Conference, the Parties intend to seek guidance from the Court on the most helpful format for subsequent updates, as well as any further guidance from the Court on the contents as set forth in Appendix A. Unless requested by the Court on a more frequent basis, the Parties propose to provide an updated compendium in conjunction with each subsequent Joint Case Management Statement.

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V. EARLY DISPOSITIVE MOTION PRACTICE

As discussed at the August 3, 2023 Case Management Conference, and as reflected in the
Court's Order following that Conference, the Parties have met and conferred on the issue of
potential early dispositive motions. The Parties have set forth below their respective positions on
the opportunities for early dispositive motions, and look forward to discussing this issue with the
Court.

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A. The People's Position

Stipulations as to Facts and Admissibility – As an initial matter, The People believe that the parties can and should work together to stipulate to those facts which are not in dispute, and the evidence whose admissibility is not in dispute, and that such effort will streamline any future early motion practice. This effort would also assist the Court in managing the case by apprising the Court as to the facts and evidence developed during discovery, where there is agreement, and what facts and evidence are in dispute, which, in turn, will streamline any dispositive motion.

21 While Amazon disputes that its concerted activity with third-party sellers and wholesale 22 suppliers impairs competition and leads to higher prices for consumers on and off Amazon, many 23 material facts are not in dispute. For example, Amazon does not dispute that generally every third-24 party seller who sells products on Amazon's online marketplace enters into a Business Solutions 25 Agreement ("BSA") with Amazon. (Defendant Amazon.com, Inc.'s Answer to Plaintiff's 26 Complaint ("Answer") at \P 4.) Likewise, Amazon admits that through March 2019, the BSA 27 included an express "Price Parity" clause. (Id.) And, that the BSA expressly incorporates by 28 reference Amazon "Program Policies," including the Amazon Standard for Brands, Marketplace Fair Pricing Policy, and Seller Code of Conduct. (Id. at ¶ 5.)

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More specifically, The People propose that during fact discovery, the parties should exchange, and meet and confer as necessary, in an effort to stipulate to (1) as many undisputed facts as possible and (2) the admissibility of as much evidence as possible. Where the parties are unable to reach agreement, they should be encouraged to seek guidance from the Court. If the parties still cannot reach agreement after guidance from the Court, the parties should be encouraged to consider further requests for admission and interrogatories. The ultimate goal would be the filing of an agreed-to set of stipulated facts and admissible evidence shortly after the close of fact discovery that the parties and the Court could utilize to streamline any dispositive motion practice.

10 *Concerted Activity/Unilateral Action* – At or before the close of fact discovery, The People 11 envision filing a motion for summary adjudication that concerted activity is established by the 12 undisputed facts (including admissions by Amazon) as a matter of law. The People contend that 13 the undisputed facts will demonstrate that Amazon's wholesale price parity (minimum margin 14 agreement) activity with wholesale suppliers is concerted activity under the Cartwright Act. 15 Similarly, as to retail price parity, The People believe that the undisputed facts concerning 16 Amazon's BSA, the Program Policies discussed above, and the "escalating disincentives" (including Buy Box suppression and search results demotion) that Amazon has imposed to coerce 17 18 compliance with price parity collectively show, as a matter of law, that Amazon has gone far 19 beyond merely announcing a unilateral "competitive price" policy and refusing to deal with third-20 party sellers who do not comply. As Amazon itself affirmatively alleges in its Cross-Complaint, 21 these are policies explicitly incorporated into the BSA which, "[a]s a condition to selling their 22 products on Amazon, third-party sellers agree to," and "pursuant to which third-party sellers 23 should operate and subject to which they may face penalties if they violate the policy." (Cross-Complaint at ¶¶ 21, 107, 64, 72, 94, emphases added; see Order on Amazon's Demurrer to the 24 25 Complaint at p. 14 ["As Kolling explained, 'an illegal combination may be found where a supplier 26 secures compliance with announced policies in restraint of trade by means which go beyond mere 27 announcement of policy and the refusal to deal.' (137 Cal.App.3d at 721.) 'If, for example, the 28 supplier takes "affirmative action" to bring about the involuntary acquiescence of its dealers, an unlawful combination exists.' (Id.)"].)

If The People's motion for summary adjudication on the issue of concerted activity is granted, then the "restraints" element of the Cartwright Act claim will be disposed of, and the only element remaining will be whether the restraints were unreasonable under *In Re Cipro*'s sliding scale between the per se rule and the full-blown rule of reason. (See *In re Cipro Cases I & II* (2015) 6 1 Cal.4th 116, 147.)

7 Rules, Structure, and Presumptions for Cartwright Analysis - In overruling Amazon's 8 demurrer, the Court recognized that "[t]he appropriate analytic approach involves a 'continuum,' 9 with the 'circumstances, details, and logic of a particular restraint dictating how the courts that 10 confront the restraint should analyze it," and that courts do not apply "an undifferentiated one-size-11 fits-all rule of reason," but rather "may devise rules for offering proof, or even presumptions where 12 justified." (Order on Amazon's Demurrer to the Complaint at p. 9, citing In re Cipro, 61 Cal.4th 13 at p. 147.) After the close of fact discovery, the parties can and should brief and resolve the issue 14 of the rules and presumptions that apply to the Cartwright Act analysis of Amazon's retail and 15 wholesale price parity restraints, potentially including the following issues:

• Whether the conduct, in light of all of the evidence, including evidence produced for the first time in the litigation such as Amazon's direct communications with wholesale suppliers and third-party sellers regarding resale prices, is so manifestly anticompetitive and unreasonable that it falls at or near the per se end of the "sliding scale";²

- Whether the direct evidence of Amazon's market power and the anticompetitive effects of its conduct obviates the need for an elaborate market analysis; and
- The evidentiary showing required before the unreasonableness of the restraints is presumed and/or the burden is shifted to Amazon to prove that its conduct was not
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² While the Court held in its order overruling Amazon's demurrer to the Complaint that "[t]he Court cannot conclude *on the face of the Complaint* that the challenged agreements are *per se* illegal under California law" (p. 10, emphasis added), the Court left open the possibility that The People could "convince [the Court] later in this case that there's a per se violation here." (Hearing Tr. (Mar. 15, 2023) at p. 64:16-18.)

anticompetitive, and/or that the alleged procompetitive benefits outweigh the resulting harm to competition.

Jury Instructions – Finally, The People suggest that the Court consider ordering the parties to meet and confer and present proposed jury instructions after the close of fact discovery. This could be done in conjunction with, or following, resolution of the appropriate Cartwright Act framework(s) for analyzing the claims. Again, this exercise would streamline the briefing on dispositive motions and assist the Court in managing the case.

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Amazon's "shot gun" proposal would not foster efficient resolution – When the parties
met and conferred as ordered by the Court, Amazon did not present any concrete proposal for
specific motions nor timing.

12 Instead, then as here, Amazon has only generally stated that it contemplates filing an 13 undisclosed number of motions on an undisclosed number of its eight (8) remaining cross-claims 14 and sixteen (16) affirmative defenses. Then, as here, the only motion Amazon referenced was a 15 possible motion on its Twelfth Defense for Umbrella Damages. But, such a motion is premature 16 because the Parties have not completed fact discovery much less expert discovery on damages, so 17 there is no concrete claim for damages for the Court to evaluate. Moreover, such a limited motion 18 on a limited issue will not have any meaningful impact on litigation of the case, serving only as a 19 distraction from the Parties' efforts to timely complete fact discovery. In short, Amazon's proposal 20 does not appear designed to streamline resolution of key issues that will facilitate efficient case 21 management but, rather, to clear the path for Amazon to file a series of potentially a dozen motions 22 or more without forewarning and with little likely actual impact but to impede progress of the case.

Specifically with regard to Amazon's proposal to file some undisclosed number of motions on individual cross-claims, as The People have previously explained, separate early dispositive motions on policies all incorporated by reference in Amazon's Business Solutions Agreement with third-party sellers, and implemented through a series of escalating disincentives, would not lead to efficient resolution of The People's claims. First, as the Court recognized in its order on the demurrer to Amazon's Cross-Complaint, the "piecemeal determinations" sought by Amazon in the Cross-Complaint do not preclude action against Amazon if the same conduct "as a whole" violates

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2	the antitrust laws. ³ Thus, separate motions on individual policies would only lead to piecemeal
3	litigation, introducing differing burdens of proof on Amazon's affirmative declaratory claims,
4	without advancing resolution of The People's claims against Amazon. ⁴
5	Further, the potential legal "uncertainty" that Amazon argued, and the Court agreed, would
6	make it difficult for Amazon to conduct its business, and thereby entitled Amazon to pursue
7	declaratory judgment, only arises if The People are unsuccessful. ⁵ Put another way, if The People
8	meet their burden to prove that Amazon's conduct, taken as a whole, violates the Cartwright Act
9	and UCL, then there is no legal uncertainty – Amazon's conduct would be unlawful. By Amazon's
10	own argument then, the potential legal uncertainty only arises if The People are unsuccessful.
11	As such, Amazon's proposed approach is not only a piecemeal, shotgun approach likely to impede
12	efficient resolution of the case, it attempts to frontload issues that may otherwise be resolved
13	through efficient management of The People's claims (and never need to be addressed separately).
14	In sum, resolving a seriatim barrage of separate, unplanned dispositive motions about a
15	dozen or more interrelated cross-claims and/or affirmative defenses would lead to an enormous
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17	³ Order Sustaining in Part and Overruling in Part Plaintiff and Cross-Defendant The People of the State of California's Demurrer to Amazon.com, Inc.'s Cross-Complaint ("Order on Demurrer to Cross-Complaint"), p.10:7-10.
18	⁴ Amazon's "monopoly broth" is a complete non sequitur. First, as has been clear from the filing of the Complaint, The People's claims arise directly from Amazon's unlawful coerced
19	concerted activity with its third-party sellers and wholesale suppliers; there is no monopoly claim. Second, the separate policies and conduct relating to third-party sellers that Amazon attempts to
20	characterize as part of a "monopoly broth" are expressly incorporated by reference in Amazon's written agreements with third-party sellers or part of Amazon's efforts to enforce that single
21	agreement and its incorporated policies (including the Business Solutions Agreement – Count 8, the Seller Code of Conduct – Count 2, the Fair Pricing Policy – Count 3, Amazon's Standards for
22	Brands Policy – Count 6, Amazon's practices to determine Featured Offer eligibility – Count 7, and Amazon's third-party seller pricing policies – Count 9). Third, the only time the California
23	Court of Appeal has addressed "monopoly broth" in the context of a Cartwright Act claim was in Fisherman's Wharf Bay Cruise Corp. v. Superior Court of San Francisco (2003) 114 Cal.App.4th
24	309, where the Court of Appeal <i>reversed</i> the trial court's grant of summary adjudication to the defendant on the plaintiff's exclusive dealing claim, in light of the trial court's <i>improper rejection</i>
25	of the plaintiff's "monopoly broth' theory" based on the defendant's "overall pattern of illegal, anti-competitive conduct." (<i>Id.</i> at p. 336.) The Court of Appeal explained that the trial court had
26	erred by "focus[ing] solely on the fixed percentage of the market locked up through <i>written</i> exclusive dealing agreements, and fail[ing] to acknowledge a substantial body of federal authority
27	(which the court expressly deemed controlling on the question), indicating that the existence of an exclusive dealing arrangement may be expressed or implied," and by ignoring "the full panoply
28	of [the defendant's] alleged exclusionary conduct, including both written exclusive dealing arrangements, tying agreements and below-cost pricing claims." (<i>Id.</i> at pp. 338-39.)
	⁵ Order on Demurrer to Cross-Complaint, p.10:12-14.
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diversion of resources by the Court and the Parties, would not promote efficient management of
the legal issues presented, and would draw the Court's attention to issues that may never need to
be addressed separately.

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B. Amazon's Position

As Amazon has previously explained, it is committed to finding opportunities for the early
resolution of issues in the case at an appropriate juncture. It is untenable that a case of this character
would wander blindly through discovery and expert discovery without an effort to adjudicate at
least elements of the allegedly anticompetitive conduct in manageable pieces.

Amazon's Proposed Motions. Amazon has identified two categories of issues that it expects
 will be ripe for adjudication over the course of the next year as the Parties continue with fact
 discovery.

13 *First*, Amazon anticipates that there will be an opportunity to resolve the counts in 14 Amazon's Cross-Complaint as to lawfulness of specific policies, agreements, and practices at Amazon.⁶ As the Court recently recognized in overruling Plaintiff's demurrer directed at these 15 16 counts, Amazon has alleged an actual controversy as to the lawfulness of its conduct in the context 17 of Plaintiff's Complaint, which includes the extent to which Amazon's conduct violated the 18 Cartwright Act or the Unfair Competition Law. See Oct. 5, 2023 Op. at 8-9. Amazon thus believes 19 that it is appropriate and efficient to address these issues as soon as there exists a sufficient record 20 on which the Court can enter judgment. Plaintiff, for its part, remains categorically opposed to 21 using Amazon's Cross-Complaint as a vehicle to simplify the case by resolving discrete 22 indisputable issues. Plaintiff argues above that the conduct underlying the counts in Amazon's 23 Cross-Complaint, even if found lawful, could still form the basis of liability for the claims in 24 Plaintiff's Complaint. While this is neither the time nor the place to litigate such issues, Amazon 25 respectfully notes that the "essential elements of an antitrust claim under the Cartwright Act are an

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⁶ As set forth in Amazon's Cross-Complaint, this includes, Amazon's selling policies and
Seller Code of Conduct (Count 2), Amazon's Marketplace Fair Pricing Policy (Count 3), Amazon's
Guaranteed Minimum Margin Agreements (Count 4), Amazon's Matching Compensation Program
(Count 5), Amazon's Standard for Brands Policy (Count 6), Amazon's practices to determine
Featured Offer eligibility (Count 7), Amazon's Business Solutions Agreement (Count 8), and
Amazon's third-party seller pricing policies since March 2019 (Count 9).

- unlawful agreement, wrongful acts committed pursuant to it, and damages." (*Ahn v. Stewart Title Guaranty Co.* (2023) 93 Cal.App.5th 168, 179-80). A finding that an agreement alleged to be unlawful, in fact is lawful, will simplify this case.
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Amazon recognizes that whether and to what extent each count of its Cross-Complaint is 6 an appropriate candidate for early resolution, and whether some or all of these counts can be 7 consolidated into a single motion, will depend on how the record develops. Because Amazon does 8 not intend to pursue such motions unless there is a meaningful opportunity to narrow issues in the 9 case, the Parties will avoid the hypothetical "diversion of resources" that Plaintiff envisions. To 10 the extent it would create efficiencies, Amazon is also open to phasing fact discovery in order to 11 focus first on the policies, agreements, and practices most amenable to resolution. Given the current 12 discovery record, however, Amazon believes that it is premature for the Parties or the Court to 13 attempt to plan for or sequence specific motions.

Second, Amazon anticipates that there will be an appropriate opportunity to litigate one or
more of Amazon's affirmative defenses that focus on predominantly legal issues, including that
Plaintiff is not entitled to umbrella damages. Amazon believes that these are appropriate candidates
for early adjudication within the next year.⁷

18 Plaintiff's Proposed Motions. The Court asked the parties to confer regarding ways to 19 prioritize certain issues for early resolution. Plaintiff's position, as set forth above, fails entirely to 20 meet this request. Instead, Plaintiff argues at length about certain motions that Plaintiff envisions, 21 including premature and inappropriate arguments on the merits of those motions. Setting aside the 22 substance of Plaintiff's positions, all of which are meritless, Plaintiff's motions do not present a 23 viable path to adjudicating this case. While Amazon will respond to any proposed factual 24 stipulations, this case is not going to be resolved via stipulation. Plaintiff's discussion of the burden 25 of proof is merely an effort to resurrect a version of its "per se" claim that the Court already rejected

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⁷ Amazon noted during its conferral with Plaintiff that there may be opportunities to resolve other issues in the case during expert discovery by prioritizing expert work as to certain issues. Amazon expects that the Parties will continue to confer on this longer-term issue, and notes that it is likely premature for discussion at the October 25, 2023 Case Management Conference.

on demurrer. And Plaintiff's proposed motion relating to unilateral conduct appears to be procedurally improper, as it would at most adjudicate one element of one cause of action.

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4 **Process for Raising Early Motions.** Amazon intends to utilize the procedure for summary 5 adjudication pursuant to Section 437c of the Code of Civil Procedure. The applicable laws and 6 rules provide that such a motion must be served at least 75 days prior to the hearing, which allows 7 sufficient time for the non-moving party to conduct additional discovery, if any, related to the 8 motion. Amazon would expect to file motions only when, considering the record as a whole, any 9 remaining discovery necessary to respond to those motions can be completed within the notice 10 period. And to the extent additional time was justified to respond to the motion, nothing would 11 preclude the non-moving party from seeking additional time—either by consent of the Parties or 12 by leave of the Court—to conduct discovery and file its response. Although Amazon also believes 13 it is appropriate for the Parties to continue apprising the Court of any anticipated motions in 14 connection with each Case Management Conference, Amazon does not think it is efficient or 15 appropriate to impose additional processes for conferral and consent prior to filing early dispositive 16 motion during discovery.

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VI. ISSUES THE PEOPLE SEEK TO ADDRESS WITH THE COURT

A. Amazon Document Production/Custodians/Search Terms

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The People's Statement

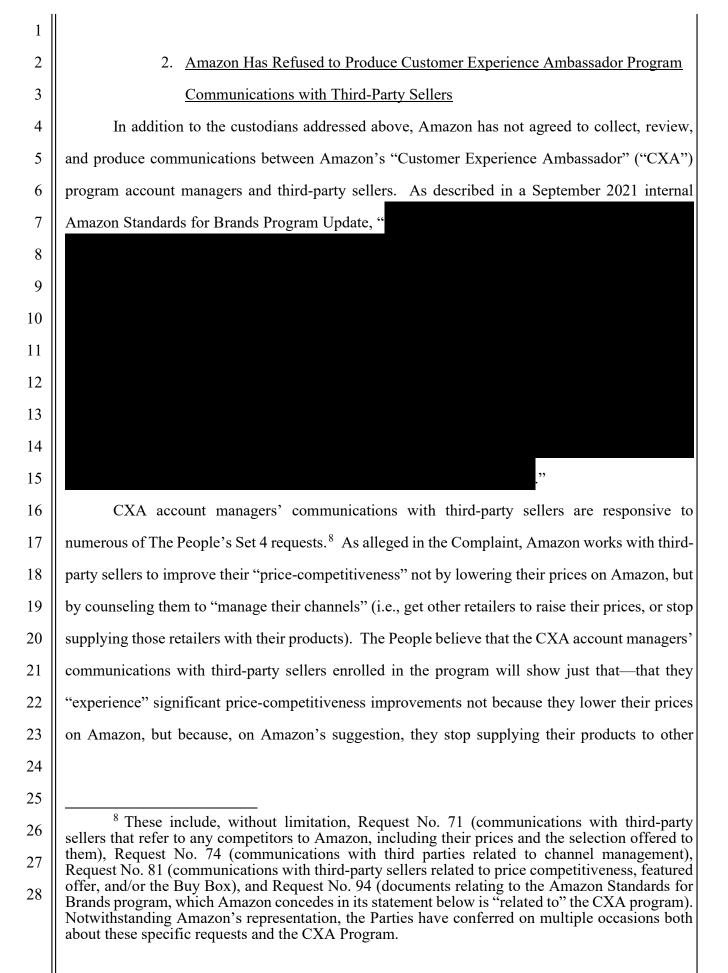
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1. Amazon Has Refused to Include Eight Custodians Identified by the People

21 As previously reported to the Court, for the last several months, the Parties have been 22 engaged in a lengthy meet and confer process regarding the custodians Amazon will search for 23 documents responsive to certain document requests served by The People. Through this process, 24 The People reduced their initial proposal of 180 custodians down to a total of 54 (as a point of 25 reference, Amazon agreed to collect documents from 131 custodians in response to the FTC's Civil Investigative Demand during the investigation). Amazon has now agreed to all but the following 26 27 eight (8) custodians, and the People seek the Court's guidance on the inclusion of these custodians 28 in Amazon's search for and production of relevant, responsive documents:

1. Jeff Bezos* - Founder, Executive Chairman, and former President and CEO

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2	2. Andrew Jassy – President and CEO
3	3. Russell Grandinetti* – SVP, International Consumer; member of "S-Team" which runs the
4	entire company and reports directly to the CEO
5	4. Neil Lindsay* – SVP, Amazon Prime and Marketing; member of "S-Team" which runs the
6	entire company and reports directly to the CEO
7	5. Jamil Ghani* – VP, Amazon Prime
8	6. James Dibbo – VP & CFO, North America Consumer; financial responsibility for all of
9	Amazon's e-commerce businesses in North America; created automated guaranteed
10	minimum margin and Matching Compensation Program mechanisms that led to record
11	profitability in 2018
12	7. Nicholas Denissen* – VP, Amazon Marketplace
13	8. Clare Bodensteiner – Principal Product Manager, Negotiations and Profitability
14	(negotiations with wholesale suppliers including minimum margin agreement and Matching
15	Compensation Program profitability mechanisms)
16	As a compromise, in exchange for inclusion of these eight disputed custodians, The People have
17	offered to forgo collection from two custodians to which Amazon has already agreed.
18	These eight individuals have been on The People's proposed list of custodians since August
19	28, 2023. In each round of counter-exchanges, Amazon has refused to include them as custodians.
20	The People met and conferred most recently with Amazon about these individuals on October 19,
21	2023. While Amazon contends that the Parties are not at an impasse, the statement that Amazon
22	intends to present a further "counterproposal" regarding these custodians demonstrates Amazon's
23	refusal to The People's "must-have" custodian list after substantial concessions. Moreover,
24	Amazon itself previously sought to raise the issue of custodians with the Court, and The People are
25	concerned that Amazon's efforts to suggest the Parties are not now at an impasse will only delay
26	progress of discovery (especially where Amazon has expressly stated that it cannot provide any
27	timeline to complete production of responsive documents based, at least in part, on the outstanding
28	custodian issue). The People seek the Court's guidance on the parties' dispute and are prepared to
	answer questions about each of these individuals' relevance at the CMC.
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retailers, or get other retailers to raise their prices, so that their on-Amazon prices look "competitive" by comparison.

4 The People have been requesting additional information about the identities of these CXA 5 account managers since August 4, 2023. Amazon has conceded the relevance of this program by 6 virtue of having already agreed to designate Jessica Reynolds (CXA Program Manager) as a 7 custodian. There is no basis for Amazon to refuse to collect the correspondence between CXA 8 account managers and third-party sellers and produce the responsive emails to The People. The 9 parties met and conferred about this issue most recently on October 19, 2023. The People seek the 10 Court's guidance on the parties' dispute and are prepared to answer questions about the CXA program at the CMC. 11

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Amazon's Statement

13 There is no ripe dispute or need for the Court's intervention, which is Custodians. 14 confirmed by the fact that Plaintiff does not (and cannot) represent that the Parties are at an impasse. 15 Plaintiff began this litigation with more than 1.7 million documents from Amazon totaling more 16 than 10 million pages that were gathered during Plaintiff's pre-Complaint investigation. 17 Nevertheless, Plaintiff served 125 discovery requests and the Parties have been conferring on the 18 appropriate scope of Amazon's response to those requests, including the individuals who will be 19 custodians for the collection of electronically stored information. When, after several meet and 20 confers, Amazon had offered 27 custodians and Plaintiff was insistent upon its entire requested set 21 of 180, Amazon understood the parties to be at an impasse and requested an IDC. Since then, 22 Plaintiff has narrowed its patently unreasonable position of 180 custodians twice. First, it reduced 23 it to 81 (the 8 mentioned above, plus an additional 46 above and beyond what Amazon had 24 previously offered). Amazon subsequently revised its proposal to include an additional 20 25 custodians, for a total of 47, on October 18, 2023. Second, on October 19, less than a day after 26 receiving Amazon's revised proposal, Plaintiff reduced its list to 53 custodians, and declared for 27 the first time that the eight remaining custodians not yet agreed to were "non-negotiable."

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On this record, Plaintiff's assertion above that Amazon has "refused to include" the eight custodians it has only recently identified as "non-negotiable" is without merit. Up to and including

2 October 18, there were another 46 requested custodians that were suggested to be "non-negotiable" 3 until Plaintiff has since agreed they are unnecessary. A changed position disclosed for the first 4 time *two* business days before filing this CMC statement does not make for an impasse, including 5 because it does not allow Amazon a meaningful opportunity to consider it and respond. Now that 6 Plaintiff has focused its demand to eight remaining disputed custodians, Amazon is evaluating that 7 demand, along with the limited information received from Plaintiff as to two of the custodians since 8 that proposal, and intends to make a counterproposal to Plaintiff prior to the Case Management 9 Conference. The parties are making progress on their own and do not require the Court's 10 intervention. Amazon can update the Court orally on the current status of negotiations at the Case 11 Management Conference.

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12 Customer Experience Ambassador Communications. Again, there is no ripe dispute 13 requiring the Court's involvement. Plaintiff alleges that Amazon has "refused to produce" 14 communications between third-party sellers and the Amazon employees who are account managers 15 within Amazon's "Customer Experience Ambassador" or "CXA" program. That is not true. 16 Instead, the Parties have been conferring as to the basis, relevance, and burden of Plaintiff's demand 17 that Amazon identify and produce these communications from additional custodians, as well as 18 why Plaintiff's purported need for such documents is not satisfied by the existing custodians 19 Amazon has agreed to provide, including the Amazon employee who oversees the CXA program 20 along with numerous others involved in related activities, including the Amazon Standard for 21 Brands ("ASB") policy. As Plaintiff concedes, the Parties last conferred about this issue most 22 recently on October 19. During that discussion, after Amazon reiterated its concerns with 23 Plaintiff's demand and asked for further clarity as to Plaintiff's position, Plaintiff unilaterally 24 declared an impasse and stated that it would raise this issue with the Court.

On the merits, it goes without saying that Plaintiff bears the burden of justifying any discovery it seeks. As to this particular demand for communications that were generated as part of the CXA program, Plaintiff cannot justify its request for such documents under any of the 125 document requests it has served to date (and Plaintiff has not sought to confer on the particular requests it identifies above), has not identified any witness who participated in such a program, and

cannot point to anything other than Plaintiff's "belief" that the communications it seeks will be relevant to issues in the case.

B. Confidentiality Side Agreements

5 The People's Statement – The People understand that Amazon has entered into side 6 agreements with certain third parties that govern the manner in which documents produced by such 7 third parties in the litigation will be handled by Amazon. The People have asked Amazon to 8 disclose these side agreements to evaluate their impact on the litigation, including the terms of the 9 Stipulated Protective Order entered by the Court governing confidentiality of materials produced 10 during the litigation. Amazon has refused. The People seek prompt disclosure of any such side 11 agreements between Amazon and any third party governing the handling of materials produced in 12 this litigation.

Amazon's Position. There is no dispute ripe for the Court's intervention. On October 12,
2023, after exchanging limited correspondence on the issue, prior to any telephonic conferral,
without even attempting to explain the basis for demanding the disclosure of any such agreements,
and notwithstanding Amazon's representations that there are no agreements limiting the AG's
access to or use of non-party information, Plaintiff declared an impasse and demanded that this
issue be brought to the Court at the Case Management Conference. On this record, Amazon
disagrees that Plaintiff has negotiated in good faith so as to justify raising this issue with the Court.

20 Even if ripe, Amazon's use of such agreements is entirely consistent with-and indeed 21 contemplated by-the January 27, 2023 Protective Order that governs the use of confidential 22 information in this Action and was extensively negotiated by the Parties before it was entered by 23 the Court. In negotiating the Protective Order, Plaintiff demanded, and Amazon agreed, to include 24 a process whereby a Non-Party could object to the disclosure of discovery material to a Requesting 25 Party (here, Amazon). In the event of a Non-Party objection, the Order (at Paragraphs 27-30) states 26 that *Amazon and the Non-Party* are to confer in an effort to resolve the dispute, and contemplates 27 that Amazon and the Non-Party may reach an agreement to resolve the Non-Party's concerns. 28 There is nothing in the Order that suggests Plaintiff is to be involved in these discussions, that Plaintiff is entitled to any resulting agreement, or that Plaintiff is empowered to approve or reject any such agreement. That makes sense because the Non-Party's objection is to Amazon's receipt of the information. Moreover, there is good reason to understand why Non-Parties may not want to disclose their unique (and sometimes commercially or otherwise sensitive) privacy interests beyond what is necessary to resolve their concerns as to Amazon.

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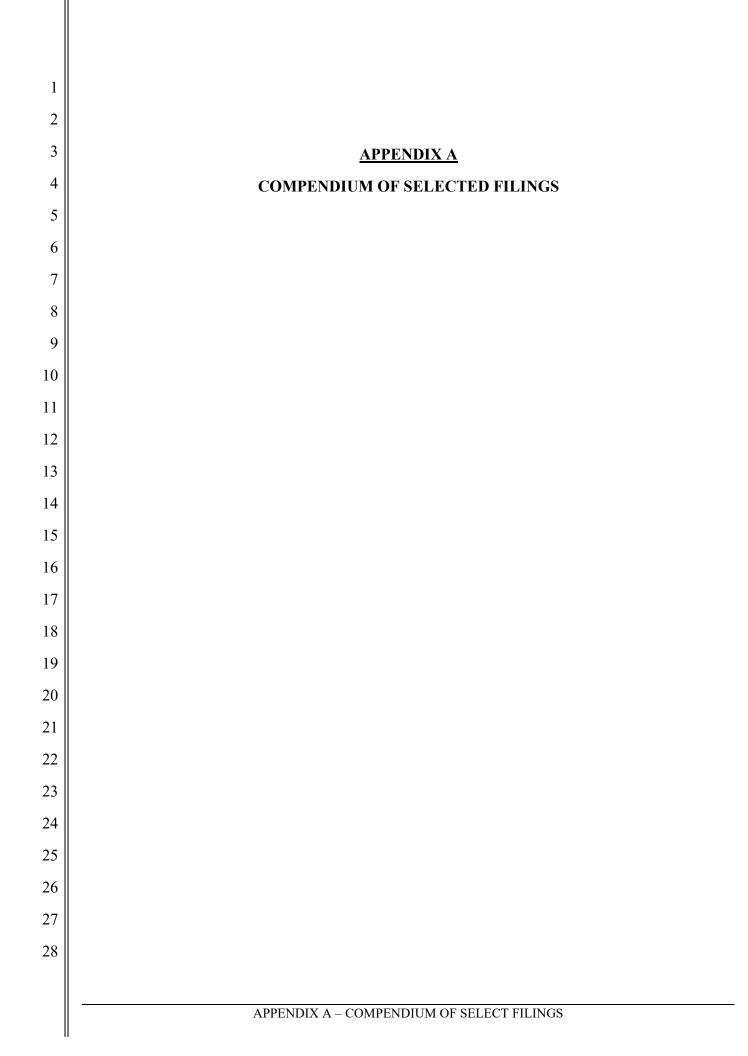
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6 Plaintiff's request is also meritless. It goes without saying that each Party has or will reach 7 agreements with third parties in the course of this Action, including with respect to the timing of 8 depositions, the individual(s) to be deposed on behalf of a corporate entity, and/or the scope of 9 documents to be produced in response to a subpoena. But there is no basis to assert that every such 10 agreement must be disclosed, which would be both burdensome and unnecessary. And that is 11 especially true here, where Amazon has confirmed that it is not party to any agreement that would 12 impose any limitation on Plaintiff's ability to access or use third-party discovery.

13 Moreover, Plaintiff has not explained any legitimate purpose motivating its request. 14 Plaintiff initially stated disclosure was necessary to "assess the confidentiality protections that 15 attach to materials *The People* have previously produced in this action." Now that Amazon has 16 explained there was no agreement limiting Plaintiff's access to or use of Non-Party information, which directly addresses Plaintiff's initial justification, Plaintiff now claims it needs any 17 18 agreements "to evaluate their impact on the litigation." Plaintiff must be more specific about its 19 intended use of these agreements. The only "impact" of the agreements Plaintiff seeks is that they 20 restrict Amazon's access to and use of discovery material that Plaintiff has (or that will be available 21 to Plaintiff without restriction). And because Plaintiff has its own separate bilateral 22 communications with third parties, it would be in a position to share with others the limitations 23 Amazon has accepted in order to gain access to the discovery otherwise available to Plaintiff. 24 Plaintiff does not need that information, which would create opportunities for considerable mischief to frustrate Amazon's third-party discovery efforts. 25

Finally, Plaintiff's demand is also procedurally deficient. Plaintiff has yet to cite any obligation on Amazon to provide the information Plaintiff seeks, much less an obligation to do so

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2	on the basis of an informal request. Plaintiff has	not, for example, served a valid discovery request
3	seeking the production of such documents. ⁹	
4	The meet-and-confer process would, of	course, provide an opportunity for the Parties to
5	better understand and potentially resolve many or	f the above issues. Plaintiff chose to short-circuit
6	the conferral process.	
7	VII. SCHEDULE FOR NEXT CASE MAN	AGEMENT CONFERENCE
8	The Parties propose that the Court set the	e next Case Management Conference for January
9	17, 2024, or as soon thereafter as reasonably prac	cticable.
10 11	DATED: October 23, 2023	Respectfully Submitted,
12	By: /s/ Stephen R. Smerek Stephen R. Smerek	By: /s/ Jeffrey M. Davidson Jeffrey M. Davidson
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 	Rob Bonta (SBN 202668) Attorney General of California Paula Blizzard (SBN 207920) Senior Assistant Attorney General Natalie S. Manzo (SBN 155655) Jamie L. Miller (SBN 271452) Supervising Deputy Attorneys General Mina Noroozkhani (SBN 281552) Robert B. McNary (SBN 253745) Stephen R. Smerek (SBN 208343) Catherine S. Simonsen (SBN 307325) Komal Patel (SBN 342765) Alan D. Romero (SBN 316323) Lauren J. Pomeroy (SBN 291604) 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Tel: (213) 269-6058 Attorneys for Plaintiff and Cross-Defendant, The People of the State of California	 Heidi K. Hubbard (pro hac vice) Kevin M. Hodges (pro hac vice) Jonathan B. Pitt (pro hac vice) Carl R. Metz (pro hac vice) Carol J. Pruski (Bar No. 275953) WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY LLP 680 Maine Ave. SW Washington, DC 20024 Tel.: (202) 434-5000 Fax: (202) 434-5029 Jeffrey M. Davidson (Bar No. 248620) Cortlin H. Lannin (Bar No. 266488) Neema T. Sahni (Bar No. 274240) COVINGTON & BURLING LLP 415 Mission Street, Suite 5400 San Francisco, CA 94105 Tel: (415) 591-6000 Fax: (415) 591-6091 Attorneys for Defendant and Cross-Claimant
25 26 27		Amazon.com, Inc.
28	⁹ Amazon would, of course, consider the questions whether these documents would be rele	propriety of any such request if served, but evant to any issue in the case.
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Frame-Wilson et al. v. Amazon.com, Inc.,

No. 2:20-cv-00424-JHC (W.D.Wash.)

Hon. John H. Chun

Docket	Date	Description of Pleading
15	Aug. 3, 2020	First Amended Class Action Complaint
48	Mar. 11, 2022	Order on Amazon's Mot. to Dismiss First Am. Compl.
55	Apr. 11, 2022	Second Amended Class Action Complaint
69	Aug. 29, 2022	Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan
94	Mar. 24, 2023	Order on Amazon's Mot. to Dismiss Second Am. Compl.
103	Apr. 13, 2023	Stipulated Motion re Class Cert. Briefing Schedule
122	May 24, 2023	Amazon's Second Correct Answer to Second Am. Compl.
123	May 26, 2023	Order Granting Stipulated Motion re Discovery
124	Jun. 27, 2023	Order Granting Mot. to Compel Production of Geographic Data
Current l	Docket Sheet as o	f October 16, 2023 also included.

De Coster, et al. v. Amazon.com, Inc.

No. 2:21-cv-00693-JHC (W.D. Wash)

Hon. John H. Chun

	Description of Pleading
Jul. 21, 2021	Consolidated Amended Complaint
Jan. 24, 2023	Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Mot. to Dismiss
Mar. 24, 2023	Amazon's Answer to Consolidated Am. Compl.
May 18, 2023	Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan
May 18, 2023	Order Granting Stipulated Motion re Discovery
Sept. 6, 2023	Order re Stipulated Motion re Class Cert. Briefing Schedule
-	Jan. 24, 2023 Mar. 24, 2023 May 18, 2023 May 18, 2023

District of Columbia v. Amazon.com, Inc..

22 No. 2021-CA-001775B (D.C. Super.)

Hon. Hiram Puig-Lugo

Date	Description of Pleading
Sept. 10, 2021	First Amended Complaint
Mar. 8, 2022	Transcript of Argument on Amazon's Motion to Dismiss
Aug. 1, 2022	Order Denying Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration
Current Docket	Sheet as of October 16, 2023 also included.

District of Columbia v. Amazon.com, Inc..

No. 22-cv-0657 (D.C. Ct. App.)

Date Description of Pleading

Current Docket Sheet as of October 16, 2023 included.

Brown, et al. v. Amazon.com, Inc.

No. 2:21-cv-00965-JHC (W.D. Wash)

6 Hon. John H. Chun

Docket	Date	Description of Pleading
1	Jul. 21, 2021	Class Action Complaint
41	Sept. 7, 2023	Order re Amazon's Motion to Dismiss
50	Oct. 16, 2023	Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan
Current I	Docket Sheet as of	October 16, 2023 also included.

Hogan v. Amazon.com, Inc.,

No. 2:21-cv-00996-JHC (W.D.Wash.)

13 Hon. John H. Chun

Feb. 2, 2022	Consolidated Amonded Class Action Complaint
, -	Consolidated Amended Class Action Complaint
Apr. 20, 2023	Order Granting Amazon's Motion to Dismiss
Jun. 26, 2023	Second Amended Class Action Complaint
Ju	1 ,

Mbadiwe, et al. v. Amazon.com, Inc.

19 No. 2:22-cv-09542 (S.D.N.Y.)

20 Hon. Vernon S. Broderick

24 Jan. 20, 2023 First Amended Class Action Complaint	
Current Docket Sheet as of October 16, 2023 also included.	

Federal Trade Commission, et al., v. Amazon.com, Inc.,

No. 2:23-cv-01495-JHC (W.D.Wash.)

Hon. John H. Chun

	Date	Docket
	Sept. 26, 2023	1
-	Sept. 26, 2023 Docket Sheet as of	

Hopper v. Amazon.com, Inc., et al., No. 2:23-cv-01523-JHC (W.D.Wash.)

Hon. John H. Chun

Docket	Date	Description of Pleading
7	Oct. 20, 2023	Amended Complaint
Current I	Docket Sheet as o	of October 20, 2023 also included
		3 DIX A – COMPENDIUM OF SELECT FILINGS

1	DECLARATION OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE			
2	Case Name: The People of the State of California v. Amazon.com, Inc.			
3	Case No. CGC-22-601826			
4	I declare:			
5	I am employed by the law firm of Shartsis Friese LLP. My business address is One Maritime			
6	Plaza, Eighteenth Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111. I am over the age of 18 years and am not a			
7	party to the within-entitled action.			
8	On October 23, 2023, I served the following document:			
9	JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT [REDACTED]			
10	on Defendant in this action by transmitting a true copy of the above by electronic mail, from the			
11	email address vkiley@sflaw.com, to Defendant's counsel addressed as follows:			
12	Attorneys for Defendant Amazon.com, Inc.:			
13	COVINGTON & BURLING, LLP			
14	Jeffrey M. Davidson, etc. Salesforce Tower			
15	415 Mission Street, Suite 5400 San Francisco, CA 94105			
16	Tel.: (415) 591-6000			
17	Email: jdavidson@cov.com Email: AmazonCA@cov.com			
18	WILLIAMS & CONNOLLY LLP			
19	Carl R. Metz, etc. 680 Maine Ave. SW			
20	Washington, DC 20024			
	Tel.: (202) 434-5000 Email: cmetz@wc.com			
21	Email: Amazon-CAAG@wc.com			
22 23	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the			
23 24	foregoing is true and correct. Executed on October 23, 2023 in San Francisco, California.			
25				
26	Virginia A. Kiley Zulan			
27	Declarant Signature			
28				
	DECLARATION OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE			