

1 Joseph M. Vanek (*pro hac vice pending*)
jvanek@sperling-law.com
2 Bruce Sperling (*pro hac vice pending*)
bss@sperling-law.com
3 Eamon Kelly (*pro hac vice pending*)
ekelly@sperling-law.com
4 Timothy Sperling (*pro hac vice pending*)
tsperling@sperling-law.com
5 **SPERLING & SLATER**
55 West Monroe Street
Suite 3200
6 Chicago, IL 60603
7 (312) 641-3200

Bonny E. Sweeney (Cal. Bar No. 176174)
bsweeney@hausfeld.com
Michael P. Lehmann (Cal. Bar No. 77152)
mlehmann@hausfeld.com
Bruce J. Wecker (Cal. Bar No. 78530)
bwecker@hausfeld.com
HAUSFELD LLP
600 Montgomery Street, Suite 3200
San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 633-1908

8
9 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class*

10 *Additional counsel on signature page*

11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

13 Left Field Holdings, a Florida limited liability
14 company, Left Field Holdings II, a Florida limited
15 liability company, Left Field Holdings III, a Florida
16 limited liability company, Left Field Holdings IV, a
17 Florida limited liability company, Left Field
18 Holdings V, a Florida limited liability company,
and Left Field Holdings VI, a Florida limited
19 liability company, on behalf of themselves and all
others similarly situated,

20 Plaintiffs,

21 v.

22 GOOGLE LLC, a Delaware limited liability
company.

23 Defendant.

Case No. _____

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION
OF THE LANHAM ACT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiffs Left Field Holdings LLC, Left Field Holdings II LLC, Left Field Holdings III LLC,
2 Left Field Holdings IV LLC, Left Field Holdings V LLC, and Left Field Holdings VI LLC (collectively,
3 “Plaintiffs”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, bring this action against Google
4 LLC and allege as follows:

5 **I. NATURE OF ACTION**

6 1. Common law, and more recently federal law under the Lanham Act, have long
7 recognized that businesses have a proprietary interest in their tradenames, reputations, and goodwill;
8 and further, that businesses may not misrepresent the nature and characteristics of their businesses in
9 commercial advertising. If it were any other way, businesses would have little incentive to build a brand
10 name because unscrupulous second-comers could immediately steal, and exploit for themselves, the
11 good name and reputation of first-movers. This case is about Google’s disregard of these long-standing
12 principles, and its attempt to trade-off of the goodwill, reputations, and tradenames of thousands of
13 restaurants throughout the United States for its benefit and the restaurants’ detriment.

14 2. Consumers rarely remember a restaurant’s website, phone number, or address. So, when
15 they want to place an order with a restaurant, they usually turn to Google—the world’s leading search
16 engine.

17 3. Prior to 2019, when Google received a user’s search for a restaurant, Google responded
18 with a “search engine results page” that displayed three categories of information. These categories
19 included: (i) information particular to the restaurant the consumer was then searching for, including the
20 restaurant’s website, phone number, and address—which Google displayed on the right-hand side of
21 the screen; (ii) a list of “natural” search results, generated from Google’s proprietary “search
22 algorithm”—displayed on the left-hand side of the screen; and (iii) 2-3 paid advertisements of
23 companies wishing to promote their own websites, brands, and service offerings—which Google
24 displayed as “Ads” just above the “natural” search results. Google made money from this activity upon
25 a user clicking on an advertisement and visiting the advertiser’s website.

26 4. For much of the last decade, Google generated revenues from restaurant searches in this
27 usual fashion without incident; but in 2019, Google dramatically shifted its tactics, giving rise to this
28 complaint.

1 5. Specifically, in 2019, Google determined it could make even more money from its
2 position as the destination-of-choice for consumers looking up restaurants by directing the user into one
3 of two new environments that it dreamed up. The first was a website designed to capture an actual order
4 for the restaurant’s food items, which Google then sold to third party food-delivery companies (herein,
5 “Delivery Providers”), like Postmates, for fulfillment. In another scenario (when Google did not have
6 a relationship with a Delivery Provider willing to accept orders for the restaurant’s food items), Google
7 directed the user into yet another webpage it owned and controlled. Within this second page, Google
8 presented the user with even more targeted (and profitable) ads than it displayed within its search engine
9 results page and did so within a format even more likely to induce a paying click.

10 6. But Google’s newest business models were not, and are not, lawful. First, Google never
11 bothered to obtain permission from the restaurants to sell their products online, and the Delivery
12 Providers to whom Google passed orders were not (and are not) permitted, by contract, to license
13 Google’s conduct. Second, Google purposefully designed its websites to appear to the user to be offered,
14 sponsored, and approved by the restaurant, when they are not—a tactic, no doubt, employed by Google
15 to increase orders and clicks. Third, Google lures consumers into its websites (to the exclusion of the
16 restaurant’s actual website) through a classically deceptive practice, known as a “bait-and-switch.”
17 Specifically, Google added a large “Order Online” button just below the tradename of the restaurant on
18 its search engine results page so that consumers searching for the restaurant form the mistaken belief
19 that the button will direct them to the restaurant, when that is not what the button delivers. Rather, it
20 leads the consumer to Google’s new, unauthorized, and deceptively branded webpages.

21 7. At issue in the case is precisely this sort of deceptive and unfair conduct. In one scenario,
22 Google’s “Order Online” button leads to an unauthorized online storefront—one owned and controlled
23 by Google—wherein consumers can place orders for the restaurant’s products, all under the restaurant’s
24 tradename. Google prominently features the restaurant’s tradename at the top of the page, above the
25 restaurant’s address and menu, to give the user the distinct impression that the storefront and products
26 are authorized and sponsored by the restaurant, when they are not. And while it would be easy for
27 Google to label its service as “Google’s unauthorized buying service,” Google does not dare do so. It
28 knows that its website is more likely to generate orders when cloaked in the imprimatur of the restaurant.

1 8. Upon capturing an order from its illicit storefront, Google routes the order, unbeknownst
2 to the restaurant, to a Delivery Provider with whom the restaurant otherwise has a relationship. The
3 Delivery Provider sends the order to the restaurant, and charges the restaurant its typical substantial fee,
4 just as if the order originated from the Delivery Provider’s own website or mobile application (when it
5 did not). And then, of course, Google demands a cut-of-the-action, which the Delivery Provider happily
6 pays to Google. But, as mentioned previously, Google never obtained permission from the restaurant
7 to sell the restaurant’s products and services, or to use the restaurant’s tradename within its website.
8 Google’s conduct damages the restaurant, because, among other reasons, had the restaurant received
9 the order directly, it would have avoided the Delivery Provider’s hefty fees altogether.

10 9. In yet another scenario—when Google does not have a Delivery Provider willing to
11 accept its illicit orders—Google’s software causes its “Order Online” button to link into another
12 deceptive webpage owned and controlled by Google. This second webpage includes links to competing
13 Delivery Providers—such as Doordash, Grubhub, and Postmates—all of whom pay Google a fee upon
14 the customer being diverted away from the restaurant and into their websites. But, like the storefront,
15 Google deliberately misbrands the webpage so that the user forms the mistaken belief that the webpage
16 and services are sponsored and approved by the restaurant, when nothing could be further from the
17 truth. The restaurant never approved of Google’s website, nor agreed to sponsor any of the Delivery
18 Providers in a dedicated webpage branded as the restaurant. The Delivery Providers, after all, are the
19 restaurant’s competitors.

20 10. In either case, Google’s motive is simple: increase orders and clicks by deliberately
21 confusing consumers into entering and interacting with its websites by prominently featuring Plaintiffs’
22 and class members’ tradenames next to its button and within its webpages. But, like everyone else,
23 Google cannot use the restaurant-class members’ hard-earned tradenames without their approval, much
24 less to suggest associations and sponsorships that do not exist; nor can it engage in false advertising by
25 misrepresenting the nature and characteristics of its own commercial activities and those of its
26 advertisers.

27 11. Google’s use of Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames in connection with its
28 unauthorized button and webpages violates Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act. The Section provides, in

1 relevant part, “[a]ny person who...uses in commerce any word, term, name, [or] symbol, or any
2 combination thereof...which (A) is likely to cause confusion...or to deceive as to the affiliation,
3 connection, or association of such person with another person, or as to...sponsorship, or approval of his
4 or her goods, services, or commercial activities by another person, or (B) in commercial advertising or
5 promotion, misrepresents the nature, characteristics, qualities or geographic origin of his or her or
6 another person’s goods, services or commercial activities...shall be liable in a civil action by any person
7 who believes that he or she is or is likely to be damaged by such act.” 15 U.S.C § 1125(a)(1)(A) and
8 (B).

9 12. On behalf of a nationwide class of restaurants subjected to Google’s deceptive practices
10 and misappropriation of their goodwill and tradenames in connection with Google’s button and
11 webpages, Plaintiffs bring this action to enjoin Google and to seek redress for Google’s deceptive and
12 unlawful conduct.

13 **II. PARTIES**

14 13. Plaintiff Left Field Holdings LLC is a Florida limited liability company which operates
15 a Lime Fresh franchise at a restaurant located at 9005 SW 72nd Place, Miami, Fl, 33156 (“Lime Fresh
16 Dadeland”). Lime Fresh Dadeland opened in 2010. Lime Fresh Dadeland operates under the
17 tradenames: Lime Fresh, and Lime Fresh Mexican Grill.

18 14. Plaintiff Left Field Holdings II LLC is a Florida limited liability company which
19 operates a Lime Fresh franchise at a restaurant located at 12516 SW 88th Street, Miami, Fl, 33186
20 (“Lime Fresh West Kendall”). Lime Fresh West Kendall opened in 2012. Lime Fresh West Kendall
21 operates under the tradenames: Lime Fresh, and Lime Fresh Mexican Grill.

22 15. Plaintiff Left Field Holdings III LLC is a Florida limited liability company which
23 operates a Lime Fresh franchise at a restaurant located at 8484 NW 36th Street, Miami, Fl, 33166 (“Lime
24 Fresh Doral”). Lime Fresh Doral opened in 2014. Lime Fresh Doral operates under the tradenames:
25 Lime Fresh, and Lime Fresh Mexican Grill.

26 16. Plaintiff Left Field Holdings IV LLC is a Florida limited liability company which
27 operates a Lime Fresh franchise at a restaurant located at 3275 NE 1st Avenue, Miami, Fl, 33137 (“Lime
28

1 Fresh Midtown”). Lime Fresh Midtown opened in 2018. Lime Fresh Midtown operates under the
2 tradenames: Lime Fresh, and Lime Fresh Mexican Grill.

3 17. Plaintiff Left Field Holdings V LLC is a Florida limited liability company which
4 operates a Lime Fresh franchise at a restaurant located at 12000 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, Fl, 33181
5 (“Lime Fresh North Miami”). Lime Fresh North Miami opened in 2020. Lime Fresh North Miami
6 operates under the tradenames: Lime Fresh, and Lime Fresh Mexican Grill.

7 18. Plaintiff Left Field Holdings VI LLC is a Florida limited liability company which
8 operates a Lime Fresh franchise at a restaurant located at 1439 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Fl, 33139
9 (“Lime Fresh South Beach”). Lime Fresh South Beach opened in 2018. Lime Fresh South Beach
10 operates under the tradenames: Lime Fresh, and Lime Fresh Mexican Grill.

11 19. Plaintiffs Lime Fresh Dadeland, Lime Fresh West Kendall, Lime Fresh Doral, Lime
12 Fresh Midtown, Lime Fresh North Miami, and Lime Fresh South Beach shall be collectively referred
13 to herein as Plaintiffs or *Lime Fresh*.

14 20. Defendant Google LLC (“Google”) is a Delaware limited liability corporation with its
15 principal place of business in Mountain View, California. Its parent, Alphabet Inc., was number 9 on
16 the 2021 U.S. fortune 500, with 2021 revenues of over \$357 billion and net income of over \$76 billion.

17 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

18 21. This Court has federal subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338, as
19 the action arises under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051, *et seq.* This Court has general jurisdiction
20 over the defendant because it has systematic and continuous contact with this District and because its
21 corporate principal place of business is within this District.

22 22. The Court also has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)
23 because this is a class action in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of
24 interest and costs; in the aggregate, there are more than 100 members in the proposed class; and at least
25 one class member is a citizen of a state different from the defendant.

26 23. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because the defendant resides
27 in this district, and because the wrongful conduct giving rise to this case occurred in and/or emanated
28

1 from this District. This case is a class action involving intellectual property rights and hence is subject
2 to district-wide assignment pursuant to N.D. Cal. General Order No. 44.

3 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

4 **A. Plaintiffs, the Class and Delivery Providers.**

5 24. Plaintiffs and class members make up one of the largest industries in the nation.¹ The
6 class is comprised of restaurants located throughout the United States, all of whom have had their
7 goodwill and tradenames misappropriated by Google as described herein. Upon information and belief,
8 Plaintiffs and class members number in the tens of thousands. The identity of all such restaurants is
9 known to Google and will be determined through discovery.

10 25. Plaintiffs are a collection of “fast casual” restaurants operating in Florida under the
11 “Lime Fresh” tradename. Although each named Plaintiff is a different physical restaurant and a separate
12 legal entity, all are under common ownership and management. In their most recent fiscal year,
13 Plaintiffs collectively generated over \$11 million in revenue.

14 26. Plaintiffs and class members offer their food products for on-premises dining, take-out,
15 and/or delivery. Generally, takeout and delivery orders may be placed on a restaurant’s website and/or
16 mobile application, but they may also be placed by phone, text, or in-person.

17 27. In addition to these conventional sources of delivery and take-out orders, many Plaintiffs
18 and class members signed agreements with various authorized Delivery Providers.

19 28. Delivery Providers typically provide two interrelated services: First, they offer
20 proprietary, independently branded websites and mobile applications (collectively, “platforms”) that
21 allow consumers to place delivery and take-out orders with restaurants made available within their
22 platforms. Second, the Delivery Providers offer scheduling and mapping technologies (usually within
23 a proprietary app) to connect and route delivery drivers to consumers requesting delivery services for
24 orders placed within the Delivery Providers’ websites and apps.

25
26 _____
27 ¹ Restaurants account for nearly 11 million jobs in the U.S. and 4% of GDP. *See* Charles Lew, *As*
28 *Restaurants Go, So Goes The Economy*, (Apr. 20, 2020) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbesbusinesscouncil/2020/04/20/as-restaurants-go-so-goes-the-economy/?sh=177c298c40cc> (last visited Dec.8, 2021).

1 29. In addition to the above-mentioned platforms and technologies, Delivery Providers often
2 provide contracting restaurants additional tools and services so that the Delivery Provider may
3 efficiently communicate orders received from their platforms in real-time to contracting restaurants.
4 These additional tools and services are usually made available to contracting restaurants via a
5 designated tablet or web interface.

6 30. Before making a restaurant available within their platforms, most Delivery Providers
7 first approach the restaurant to obtain their approval; and upon doing so, enter into a form merchant
8 agreement with the restaurant. But not all Delivery Providers do so. Some Delivery Providers are known
9 to include restaurants within their platforms without first approaching the restaurants for their approval.
10 This activity has been the subject of several lawsuits, as well as state legislative changes.²

11 31. A restaurant's motivation to partner with a Delivery Provider is almost never to make a
12 profit on orders received from the Delivery Provider—Delivery Providers' fees are simply too high,
13 often exceeding 25% of the price of an order. Rather, a restaurant's usual goal is to capture new
14 customers that may later place orders with the restaurant outside of the Delivery Providers' expensive
15 platforms. But, as this complaint alleges, Google's illicit button and webpages prevent these more
16 profitable orders from materializing.

17 32. Delivery Providers are expensive. For example, the Delivery Provider Postmates (now
18 owned by Uber Eats) charges contracting restaurants between 6%-30% of each order.³ These fees are
19 substantial relative to the typical profit margin within the restaurant industry. Accordingly, Plaintiffs
20 and class members make little (if any) profit on orders received from authorized Delivery Providers.

21 33. To avoid these substantial fees, Plaintiffs and class members vastly prefer to capture
22 orders directly through their own order-taking websites and apps, over the phone, or in-person. By doing
23 so, Plaintiffs and class members do not incur the 6-30% fee typically charged by the Delivery Providers.

24 _____
25 ² See *Lynn Scott, LLC v. Grubhub Inc.*, No. 1:20-cv-06334 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 22, 2021); *see also*
26 *City of Chicago v. DoorDash, Inc. and Caviar, LLC*, No. 2021CH04328 (Cir. Ct. Cook Cty. Ill. Aug.
27 27, 2021); *City of Chicago v. Grubhub Holdings, Inc. and Grubhub Inc.*, No. 2021CH04327 (Cir. Ct.
28 Cook Cty. Ill. Aug. 27, 2021); *see also* Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 22599 (eff. Jan. 1, 2021) (prohibiting
a food delivery platform from arranging for the delivery of an order from a food facility without first
obtaining an agreement with the food facility).

³ See 1/18/2022 Uber agreement attached as Exhibit B.

1 34. Capturing an order via a restaurant’s website or app not only saves the restaurant money
2 (because the restaurant avoids the Delivery Providers’ hefty fees), but also often fosters better customer
3 relationships. Through their own custom websites and apps, restaurants may offer customer loyalty
4 rewards and promotional programs—programs that drive increased customer engagement, and higher
5 revenues and profits for the restaurants. Orders placed directly with restaurants also allow restaurants
6 to maintain more control over the entire customer experience from order through delivery/pickup,
7 ensuring a more seamless, accountable, and enjoyable consumer experience.

8 35. Consumers too prefer to order directly with restaurants whenever possible. Numerous
9 consumer surveys demonstrate that when faced with an option, consumers prefer placing orders directly
10 with a restaurant, rather than through third-party apps and websites (such as those offered by Delivery
11 Providers).⁴

12 36. Plaintiffs, like many class members, maintain a branded order-taking website at
13 www.limefresh.com, where consumers can place delivery and take-out orders directly with Lime Fresh
14 restaurants. All orders placed by consumers on the Lime Fresh website are routed to the specific Lime
15 Fresh restaurant selected by the consumer upon check-out, and all revenues received for each order
16 flow to the designated restaurant. For take-out orders, the customer picks-up the order directly from the
17 restaurant, and the ordering process is costless to the restaurant. For orders requiring delivery, Plaintiffs
18 entered into an agreement with a delivery service (DoorDash) on a fixed-fee basis at a fraction of the
19 net-cost of the typical fee charged by Delivery Providers for the same order.⁵

20 37. To increase brand awareness and encourage consumer demand, Plaintiffs and class
21 members engage in advertising and marketing. In 2020, quick-service restaurants alone spent an
22

23 ⁴ See, e.g., poppinpay, <https://poppinpay.com/10-staggering-statistics-about-mobile-order-ahead-for-restaurants/> (last visted on Feb. 28, 2022); statista, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1170545/us-consumers-direct-vs-third-party-food-delivery-online-orders-coronavirus/> (last visited on Feb. 28,
24 2022).
25

26 ⁵ For each delivery order from Lime Fresh’s website, Plaintiffs pay their designated delivery
27 service (*i.e.* DoorDash) a net fee of approximately \$2 per order, versus \$4-6 per order as charged by the
28 typical Delivery Provider (20-30% of a typical \$20.00 order is \$4-6 per delivery order). For each take-
out order, no fee is charged to Plaintiffs from the Lime Fresh’s website; versus a fee of \$1.20-4
for similar orders processed by the typical Delivery Providers (6-20% fee of a typical \$20.00 order is \$1.20-
4 per take-out order).

1 estimated \$4 billion on advertising.⁶ These advertising expenditures contribute to the reputations and
2 goodwill of Plaintiffs and class members—which is captured by their tradenames.

3 38. While consumers will remember a restaurant’s tradename, products, and services, they
4 rarely remember a restaurant’s phone number, address, or website URL. For that information,
5 consumers today typically turn to an internet search engine; and that search engine is usually Google.

6 39. However, beginning in 2019, when a consumer searched for a particular restaurant using
7 Google’s search engine and/or mapping interface, Google began intentionally misdirecting the
8 consumer away from the restaurant’s own website, physical address, and phone number, and into one
9 of two different websites owned and controlled by Google. These websites are deceptively branded as
10 being offered, sponsored, or approved by Plaintiffs and class members, when, they are not. Additionally,
11 the method Google employs to induce consumers to enter into its websites is also deceptive and unfair.
12 The particulars of Google’s illegal and deceptive conduct are described in detail in the following
13 sections.

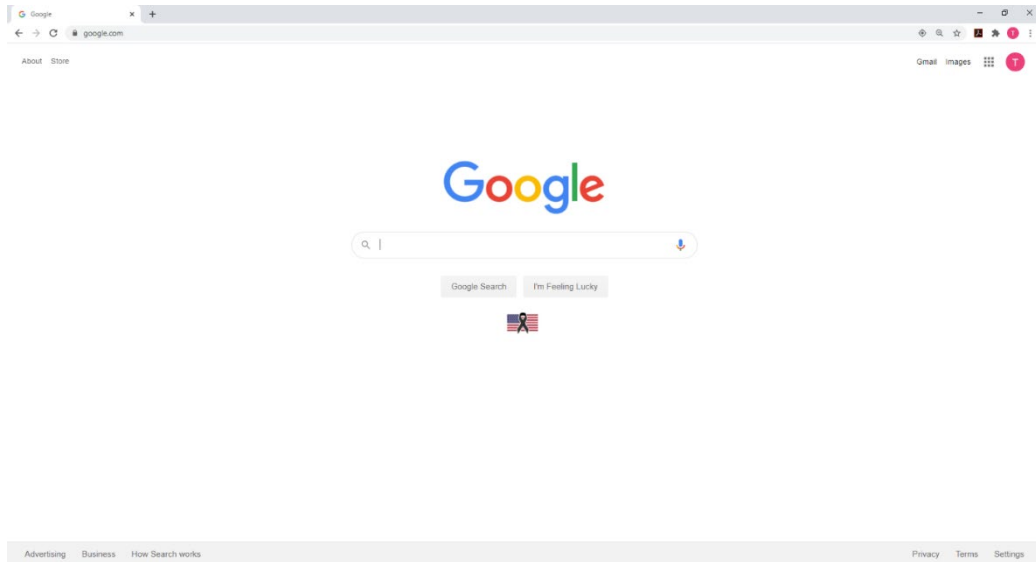
14 **B. Google’s illegal use of Plaintiffs’ and the class’s tradenames.**

15 40. Google is the world’s largest search engine. It maintains a whopping 90% market-share
16 globally of all internet searches.⁷ Within the United States, Google’s market-share is only slightly less,
17 maintaining an 87% share of all searches, including an 80% share of searches conducted on desktops,
18 and a 94% share of searches conducted on mobile devices. Put simply, Google dominates the search
19 engine market; and, thus, when someone wants to look up the phone number or website of a restaurant
20 to order food, a Google search is virtually inevitable.

21
22
23
24
25
26 ⁶ *Going Mobile: QSR Ad Spend To Grow By \$134 Million in 2020*, Inside Radio (Jan. 28, 2020),
27 http://www.insideradio.com/free/going-mobile-qsr-ad-spend-to-grow-by-134-million-in-2020/article_a86f1146-3c22-11ea-85c6-7b3ddbe1f6a4.html.

28 ⁷ StatCounter, <https://gs.statcounter.com/search-engine-market-share/mobile/united-states-of-america#monthly-200901-202111> (last visited Feb. 28, 2022)

1 41. At www.google.com, a user can enter a search term or phrase into a text field.



11 *Figure 1: Google's Search Engine and Search Text Field. (Captured approximately 1/10/2021)*

12

13 42. Upon a user submitting a search term or phrase, Google uses proprietary technology to

14 search an index of websites available on the world-wide-web for relevant and responsive results before

15 presenting the results to the user in what is often referred to as a “search engine results page” (herein

16 referred to as the "SERP”).

17 43. The SERP is a webpage designed, developed, and hosted by Google. Depending on the

18 search term or phrase entered by the user, Google may present different SERP configurations to the

19 searching-user. Typically, however, the SERP is comprised of two sections, with a third section

20 displayed once Google determines the user is searching for a particular business. The first section is a

21 list of “natural,” non-paid, responsive search results. This list is generated by Google’s proprietary

22 “search algorithm,” and is typically presented to the user on the left-hand side of the user’s browser

23 window.

24 44. The second section is a list of paid advertisements responsive to the user’s search term

25 or phrase, generated by yet another one of Google’s proprietary algorithms. This algorithm takes

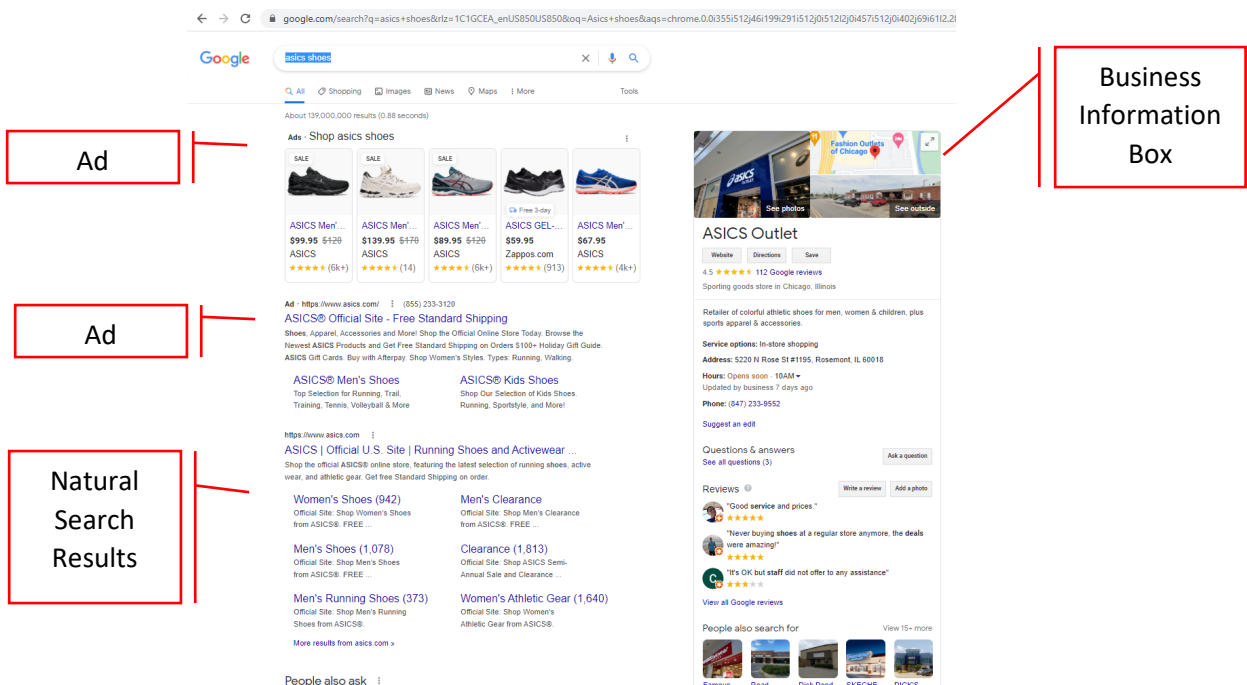
26 account of the amounts competing businesses “bid” to have their business and website featured as an

27 advertisement just above the “natural,” non-paid, search results for the particular search term or phrase

28

1 (a/k/a, a “keyword”). To minimize consumer confusion, Google’s usual practice is to identify each
2 advertisement placed within this section as an “Ad.”

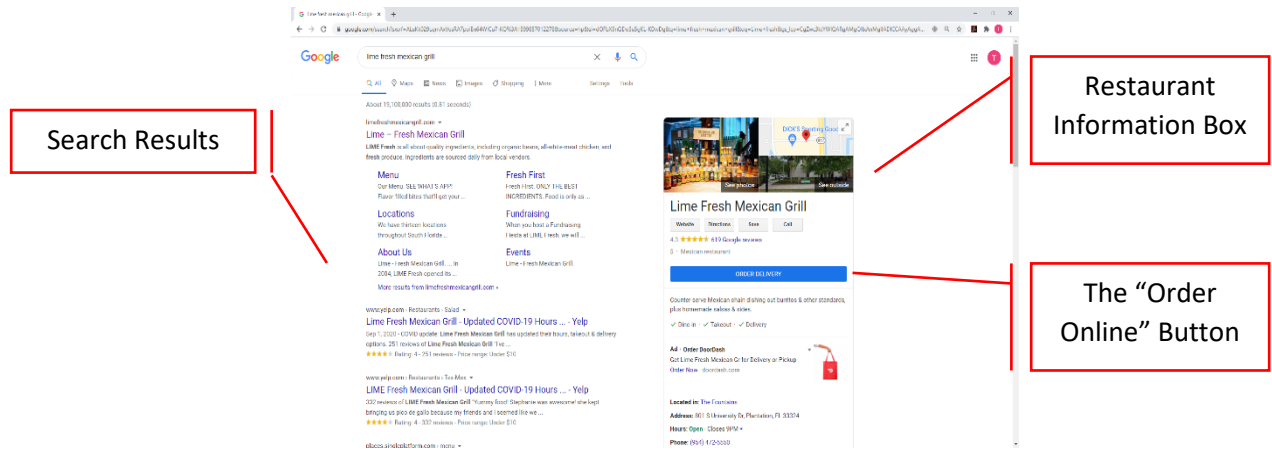
3 45. The third section, referred to herein as a “Business Information Box,” is a section that
4 only appears under certain conditions—when Google determines that the user is searching for a
5 particular business. This section appears on the right-hand side of the user’s screen. Within the Business
6 Information Box, Google displays information particular to the business that Google determines the
7 user is likely searching for, including: the business’ tradename, address, hours of operation, phone
8 number, and links to the business’ website, and directions.



19
20 Figure 2: Exemplar of SERP showing “Ads,” Natural Search Results, and Business Information Box. (Captured approximately 1/10/2021)

21 46. At issue in this complaint is a change Google recently implemented (in 2019) with
22 respect to the SERP and the Business Information Box that Google presents to users following a user’s
23 search for a specific restaurant. For purposes of this complaint, the Business Information Box pertinent
24 to the restaurant industry is referred to herein as the “Restaurant Information Box.”

1 47. Specifically, beginning in 2019, when a user searched for a restaurant, Google began
2 presenting the consumer with a Restaurant Information Box that not only included information
3 particular to the restaurant the user was then searching for, but also a large blue button entitled “Order
4 Online,” that Google placed just below the restaurant’s tradename.⁸



5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
Figure 3: Google’s SERP and Restaurant Information Box (Captured approximately 9/4/2020)

14 48. When the same search is performed on a mobile device (or a smaller screen), the
15 “Restaurant Information Box” is presented to the user in-line with the search results, rather than on the
16 right-hand-side of the users’ browser window. Exhibit A provides an exemplar of the mobile
17 experience. As reflected therein, the features of the mobile experience are substantially similar to the
18 desktop experience highlighted in the screenshots shown throughout the complaint.

19 49. The Restaurant Information Box was invented, designed, and developed by Google and
20 is hosted by Google.

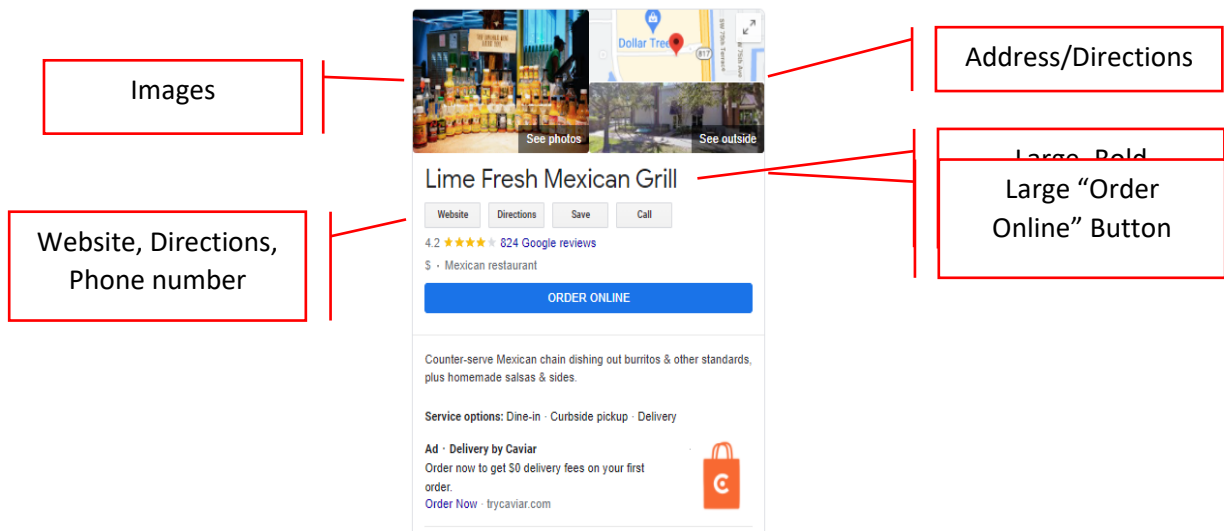
21 50. The Restaurant Information Box is consistent in design, components, and features, as
22 alleged herein, for each restaurant within the class.

23
24 ⁸ Upon information and belief, Google presents the Restaurant Information Box in response to
25 other user queries. For example, if a user searches for “nearby restaurants” within Google’s search
26 engine (at <https://www.google.com>) or mapping service (at <https://www.google.com/maps>), the results
27 page will show a list of nearby restaurants along with a map displaying the location of each restaurant
28 within a designated geographic area along with a list of the restaurants within the map on the left-hand
side of the screen. When users click on a particular restaurant location within the map, or upon a
particular restaurant within the list, they are presented with the Restaurant Information Box (or a slight
variation thereof). Plaintiffs will ascertain all available means Google employs to direct users to the
Restaurant Information Box, and/or its illicit Storefront and Landing Page when conducting discovery.

1 51. The Restaurant Information Box presents consumers with information pertinent to the
2 restaurant Google identifies as matching the searched term or phrase entered by the consumer within
3 Google’s search field.

4 52. Along with other information, the Restaurant Information Box prominently displays
5 images of the restaurant; the restaurant’s tradename, address, hours of operation, and phone number; as
6 well a series of buttons (or links) that allow the consumer to: “Call” the restaurant, obtain “Directions”
7 to the restaurant, or access the restaurant’s “Website.”

8 53. As mentioned previously, beginning in 2019, Google began placing a large blue button
9 entitled: “Order Online” within the Restaurant Information Box, directly underneath the restaurant’s
10 tradename. Google has also labeled its deceptively placed button, “Order Delivery,” and/or “Order
11 Pickup.” Plaintiffs will ascertain the various buttons used by Google to direct users into its deceptively
12 branded websites upon discovery.



13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22 *Figure 4: Google’s Restaurant Information Box (Captured approximately 11/9/2021)*

23 54. The “Order Online” button within the Restaurant Information Box was invented,
24 designed, and developed by Google and is hosted by Google.

25 55. Google placed the “Order Online” button within the Restaurant Information Box for
26 each Plaintiff and class member without their consent.

1 56. Google purposefully placed the “Order Online” button just below the restaurant’s
2 tradename to lead consumers to believe the button was sponsored, or approved, by the restaurant, when
3 it is not; and to induce a greater number of clicks.

4 57. Google also purposefully designed the “Order Online” button to be larger, brighter, and
5 more visible than other buttons or links with the Restaurant Information Box, including the buttons
6 entitled “Website,” “Directions,” and “Call” (all of which directly connect the consumer to the
7 restaurant), so that consumers would also believe the button to be sponsored, or approved, by the
8 restaurant, when it is not; and to induce a greater number of clicks.

9 58. In fact, consumers are likely to (and do) believe that the “Order Online” button is
10 sponsored, or approved, by the restaurant whose tradename (and other identifying indicia) is displayed
11 within the Restaurant Information Box.

12 59. Upon information and belief, since its release, the “Order Online” button has garnered
13 more clicks than any other button or link within the Restaurant Information Box, or more generally
14 within the broader SERP.

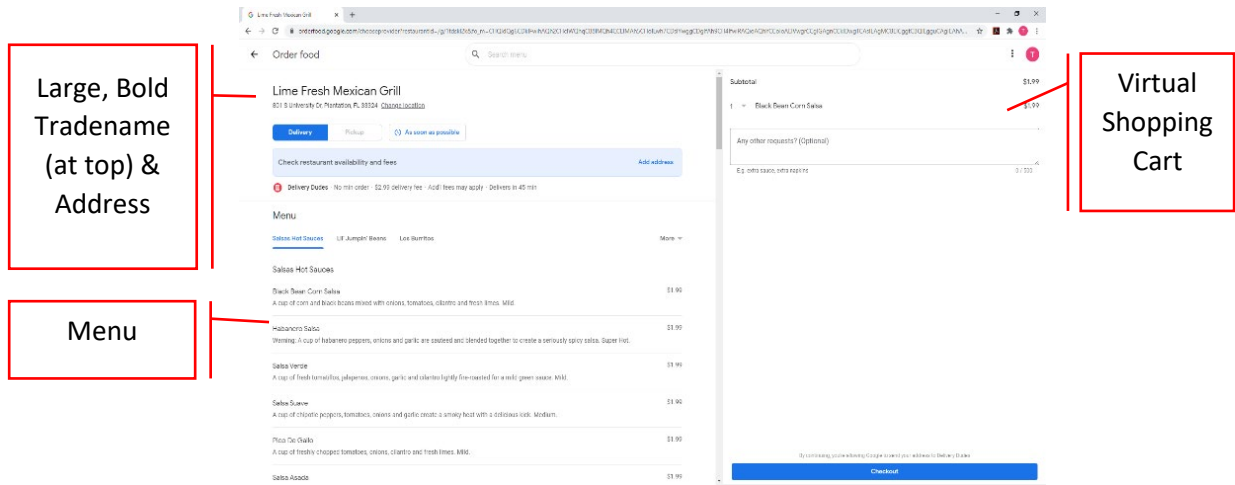
15 60. Google does not disclose to the searching consumer that the “Order Online” button is
16 not sponsored, or approved, by the restaurant whose tradename is prominently featured just above the
17 button.

18 61. When a consumer clicks the “Order Online” button in the Restaurant Information Box,
19 the consumer is directed to one of two different webpages, depending on different preconditions. These
20 webpages are described in the following sections and are referred to, respectively, as “Google’s Online
21 Storefront” and “Google’s Landing Page.”

22 62. Significantly, Google deliberately designed these webpages to also be confusing,
23 prominently labeling each of the webpages with Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames without
24 their approval, in violation of Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act. These violations are in addition to the
25 initial interest confusion caused by Google’s deceptive “Order Online” button (described above).

1 **C. Scenario 1: Google’s Online Storefront.**

2 63. The first webpage, referred to herein as “Google’s Online Storefront” (or “Storefront”),
3 is a virtual storefront, whereby consumers can place orders for the restaurant’s food items, all under the
4 restaurant’s tradename. But Google never obtained the restaurant’s consent to set-up the Storefront, or
5 to use the restaurant’s tradename.



6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Figure 5: Google’s Online Storefront landing page Component Parts (Captured approximately 9/4/2020)

64. The Storefront, like the Restaurant Information Box, is substantially similar in design, componentry, and features, for all Plaintiffs and class members.

65. The Storefront was invented, designed, and developed by Google and is hosted by Google.

66. The Storefront prominently displays the restaurant’s tradename at the top of the website, above the restaurant’s address, and menu.

67. Within Google’s Storefront, a consumer can electronically select and add food items from the restaurant’s menu to a virtual shopping cart. See Figure 7, below.

68. Once a consumer has finished adding items to his virtual shopping cart, the consumer can electronically “check-out” of the Storefront by entering and submitting payment information.

Screenshots of Google's Storefront

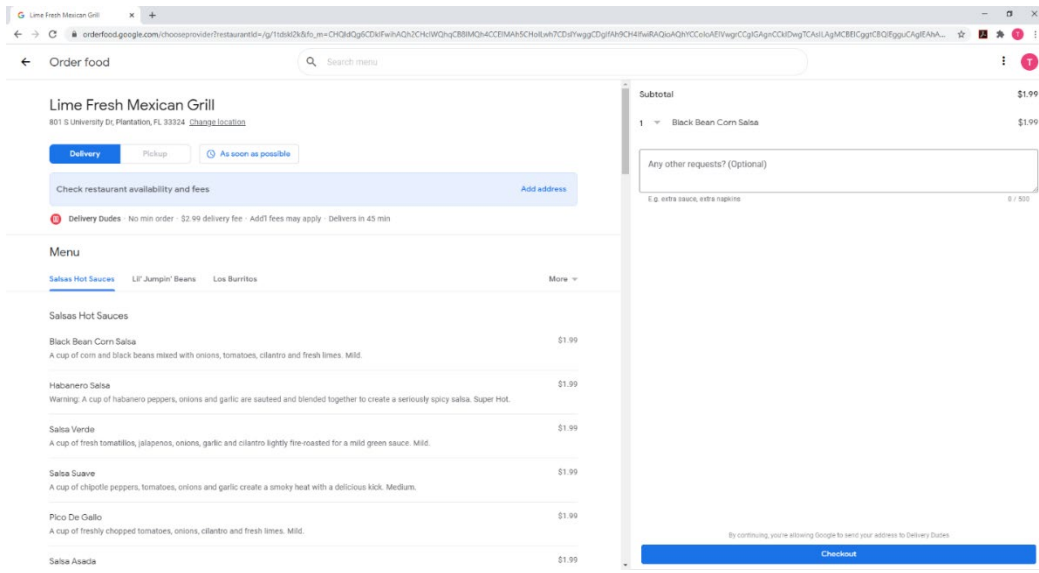


Figure 6: Google's Storefront Prominently Displays Tradename of Restaurant (Captured approximately 9/4/2020)

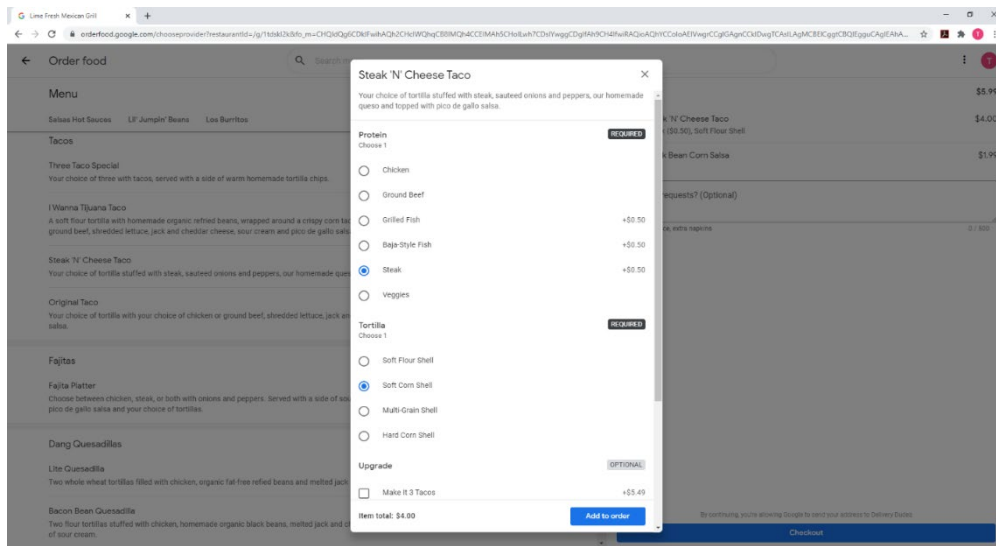


Figure 7: Google's Storefront Add Menu Item Process (Captured approximately 9/4/2020)

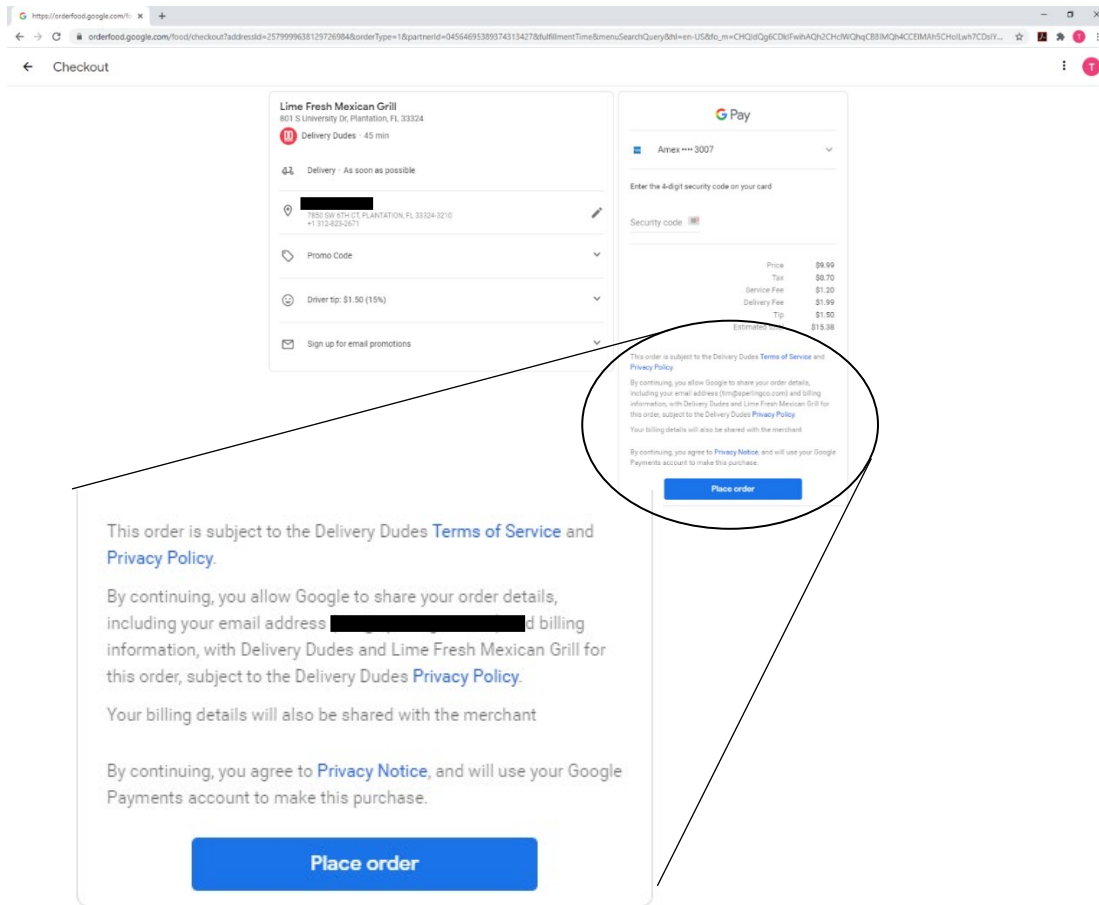


Figure 8: Google's Storefront Check-out Process (Captured approximately 9/4/2020)

69. To process orders captured from its unauthorized Storefront, and unbeknownst to the restaurant, Google contracts with one or more Delivery Providers with whom the restaurant has an existing contractual relationship.⁹

70. Upon receiving a customer order within the Storefront, Google sends the order to the Delivery Provider with whom it has contracted (and if Google has contracted with multiple Delivery Providers for a particular restaurant, then to the Delivery Provider selected by the user). The receiving Delivery Provider then: (i) routes the order to the restaurant just as if the order originated from the receiving Delivery Provider's proprietary platforms; and (ii) charges the restaurant the same exorbitant

⁹ Google may also route orders from its illicit Storefront to Delivery Providers that have no contractual relationship with the restaurant. To whom, and under what conditions, Google routes its illicit orders will be determined upon discovery. Regardless of these conditions, in each case, Google never had a license to use the Restaurant's tradenames, or permission to sell its menu items.

1 fees for the order (typically in the range of 6-30% of the total price of each order), all without the
2 restaurant having any idea that the order originated from Google’s illicit Storefront.

3 71. Google never obtained authorization or permission from Plaintiffs and class members to
4 capture orders for Plaintiffs’ and class members’ food products under their tradenames.

5 72. Google never obtained authorization or permission from Plaintiffs and class members to
6 hold itself out to the public as Plaintiffs’ and class members’ businesses.

7 73. Google is not an authorized franchisee or distributor of the Plaintiffs’ and class
8 members’ restaurants.

9 74. Just as Google may not open and operate physical storefronts under the Plaintiffs’ and
10 class members’ tradenames selling their products without their approval, it may not open and operate
11 virtual storefronts doing the same thing.

12 75. Google purposefully designed the Storefront, with Plaintiffs’ and class members’
13 tradenames prominently featured at the top of the website, to lead consumers to believe the Storefront
14 is authorized, sponsored, or approved, by the restaurant, even though it is not.

15 76. In fact, consumers are likely to (and do) believe the Storefront is authorized, sponsored,
16 or approved, by the restaurant whose tradename is displayed atop the webpage—and particularly when
17 viewed in combination with the preceding confusingly placed “Order Online” button.

18 77. Google’s Storefront competes for the same consumers as do Plaintiffs’ and class
19 members’ businesses.

20 78. Google’s Storefront sells Plaintiffs’ and class members’ own menu items.

21 79. Google’s Storefront prominently displays the exact same tradenames as Plaintiffs’ and
22 class members’ tradenames.

23 80. Like the “Order Online” button within the Restaurant Information Box, nowhere within
24 the Storefront does Google advise consumers that it is not authorized by the restaurant whose tradename
25 it prominently displays.

26 81. Worse, Google knew that its Storefront was likely to cause consumer confusion, and yet
27 it nevertheless released it to the public despite this knowledge.
28

1 82. By Google’s own admission (and as further alleged in paragraphs 83-86), Google
2 intentionally designed the Storefront, in the first instance, to appear to consumers to be “built by the
3 restaurant.”

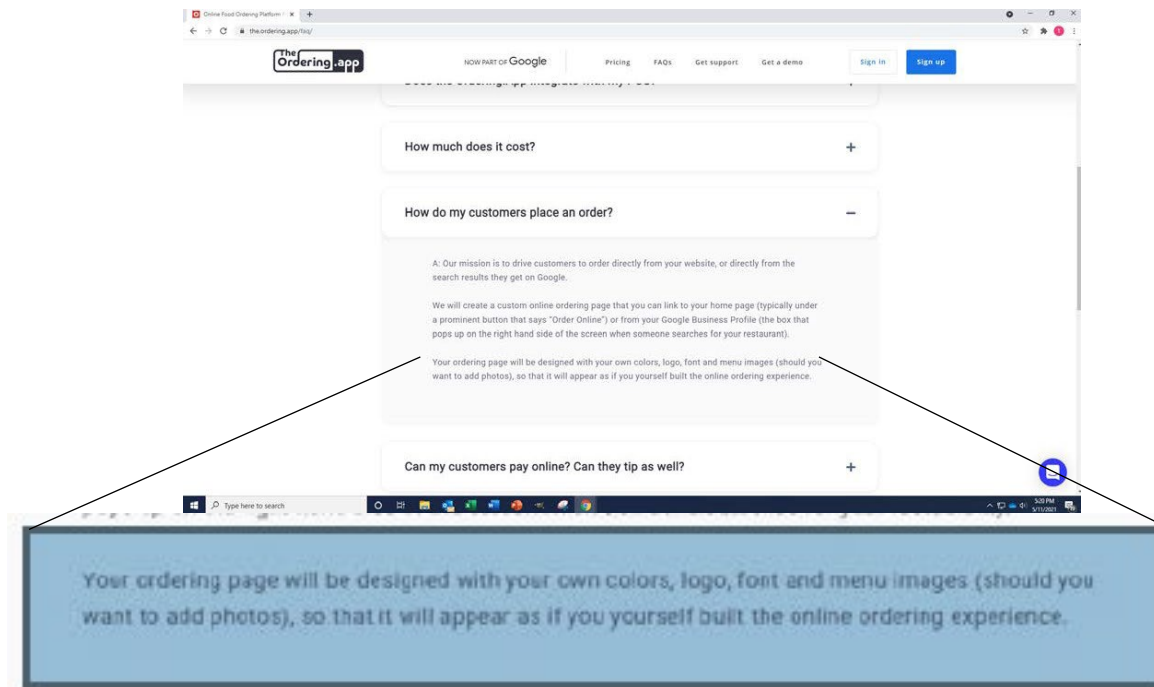
4 83. Upon information and belief, Google originally planned to market the Storefront directly
5 to restaurants (rather than to competing Delivery Providers) using a website at <https://the.ordering.app>.

6 84. At <https://the.ordering.app>, Google touted the benefits and features of its Storefront and
7 invited restaurants to contact Google to become users of the service-offering. Upon information and
8 belief, Google’s efforts to market the service-offering directly to restaurants failed; and so Google
9 “pivoted” and decided to market the Storefront to Delivery Providers instead.

10 85. Google apparently did not care that the Delivery Providers were not authorized, under
11 their agreements with the restaurants, to set up websites under the restaurants’ tradenames outside of
12 their proprietary platforms, much less authorized to pass that right onto third parties, like Google. Once
13 Google decided to contract with Delivery Providers rather than with the restaurants directly, Google
14 had no reason to market its Storefront directly to the restaurants and so it removed its website at
15 <https://the.ordering.app> from the internet in its entirety (sometime in late 2021).

16 86. Critically, however, Google acknowledged within the website at <https://the.ordering.app>
17 that it designed the Storefront to appear to consumers to be built by the restaurant whose name was
18 featured at the top of the website. Thus, Google knew that its illegal Storefront, if released to the public,
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 would likely cause consumer confusion.



13 Figure 9: Google’s Website Advertising Storefront Capabilities to Restaurants at <https://the.ordering.app> (Captured approximately 5/11/2021)

14 87. Google’s own advertising practices further confirm that Google knew its “Order Online”
15 button and linked webpages were likely to cause consumer confusion. As mentioned previously,
16 Google’s usual practice is to label advertisements placed within its SERP as advertisements (by placing
17 an “Ad” label besides each advertisement). *See, e.g.,* Figure 2, above. But its “Order Online” button is
18 not given such label.

19 88. Google derives significant sales and profits from its illegal Storefront.

20 89. Upon information and belief, Google charges Delivery Providers with whom it contracts
21 a fee to receive orders from its unauthorized Storefront.

22 90. Google also derives significant sales and profits from its illegal Storefront by forcing
23 consumers to pay for their purchases within the Storefront using Google’s “Google Pay” service (herein
24 referred to “GPay”) upon checking-out.

25 91. GPay is a digital wallet platform and online payment system developed by Google to
26 power in-app, online, and in-person contactless purchases on mobile devices. GPay makes money by
27 charging a fee to both the merchants receiving money from the service (in this case, the Delivery
28

1 Providers with whom Google contracts), and the payment processing companies that accept and process
2 payments from the service.

3 92. Once a customer signs-up for GPay, Google thereafter can (and does) derive revenue
4 and profit from that same user every time they use GPay.

5 93. With each new customer to GPay, Google increases GPay's user-base and "networking
6 effects," making the service more attractive to merchants and payment processing companies.

7 94. Finally, Google derives other sales and profits from its unauthorized Storefront. Google
8 utilizes the data accumulated from its unauthorized button and Storefront in connection with its
9 advertising businesses.

10 95. The precise sales and profits captured by Google from its unauthorized button and
11 Storefront will be determined through discovery.

12 96. Google's unauthorized use of Plaintiffs' and class members' tradenames has
13 proximately caused Plaintiffs and class members damages.

14 97. Had Google not illegally diverted consumers into its Storefront, a substantial portion of
15 consumers searching for Plaintiffs' and class members' restaurants would have placed orders directly
16 with the restaurants (either in-person, over the phone, or through the restaurants' own order-taking
17 websites or apps). In that event, Plaintiffs and class members would have avoided the substantial fees
18 charged by the Delivery Providers to whom Google routed its illicit orders.

19 98. From January 2020 through August 2020, in connection with Plaintiffs' six restaurants,
20 Google intercepted over 1,000 delivery and take-out orders from customers with its unauthorized and
21 deceptive button and Storefront, many of whom would have otherwise ordered from Plaintiffs'
22 restaurants directly. Of those orders, approximately nine out of ten orders were take-out orders, while
23 one out of ten were delivery orders.

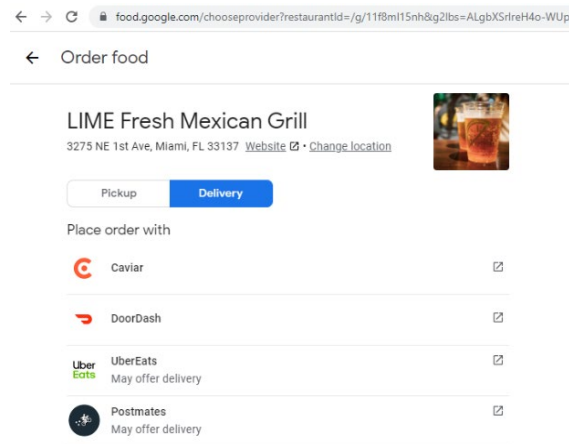
24 99. Upon information and belief, since launching its unauthorized Storefront, Google has
25 hijacked millions of customers and orders from Plaintiffs and class members.

26 100. Google's unauthorized and deceptive use of Plaintiffs' and class members' tradenames
27 has also caused Plaintiffs and class members additional irreparable harm by: (a) damaging and diluting
28 their respective reputations, goodwill, and tradenames by associating Plaintiffs and class members with

1 an ordering website that by all appearances is offered by the restaurant, but that the restaurant does not
2 own or control; and (b) by depriving Plaintiffs and class members of the value of direct customer
3 relationships that would have produced an indeterminate amount of business, revenue, and profits for
4 the restaurants in the years to come.

5 **D. Scenario 2: Google’s Landing Page.**

6 101. As previously mentioned, there is another webpage that Google displays following a
7 user clicking on the “Order Online” button, depending on a different set of preconditions than those
8 mentioned previously. This second webpage, referred to herein as “Google’s Landing Page,” presents
9 itself to the user when, upon information and belief, Google does not have a Delivery Provider signed-
10 up to receive and process orders from its unauthorized Storefront. But just like the Storefront, this page
11 too makes unauthorized and deceptive use of Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames.



12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20 *Figure 10: Google’s Landing webpage (Captured approximately 11/2/2021)*

21 102. The Google Landing Page is substantially similar in design, componentry, and features
22 for all Plaintiffs and class members.

23 103. The Landing Page, like the Storefront, was invented, designed, and developed by Google
24 and is hosted by Google.

25 104. The Landing Page prominently displays the same tradename, address, and images of the
26 restaurant whose tradename was atop the preceding Restaurant Information Box.

27 105. On the Landing Page, just below the restaurant’s tradename and address, Google lists a
28 series of Delivery Providers.

1 106. Upon information and belief, Google charges these Delivery Providers to be included
2 within its unauthorized and deceptively branded Landing Page.

3 107. Within the Landing Page, users may click on any one or more of the listed Delivery
4 Providers; and upon doing so, the user is directed (or linked) to the Delivery Provider’s website.

5 108. Google never obtained Plaintiffs’ and class members’ consent to create and display such
6 a Landing Page, or to use Plaintiffs’ or class members’ tradenames within the webpage.

7 109. Google does not disclose to consumers that the Landing Page is presented without the
8 authorization or approval of Plaintiffs and class members.

9 110. Google’s Landing Page and preceding “Order Online” button, are likely to, and in fact
10 do create consumer confusion because:

- 11 a. They give the user the impression that the restaurant authorized, sponsored, and
12 approved of Google’s button and Landing Page, when, in fact, the restaurant never
13 provided Google (or anyone else) with such approval;
- 14 b. They give the user the impression that the restaurant sponsors, stands behind, or
15 controls, each of the Delivery Providers’ services that are identified directly below
16 its tradename, when the restaurant does not; and
- 17 c. They give the user the impression that the restaurant accepts orders from each
18 Delivery Provider within the Landing Page, when in fact the restaurant may have no
19 relationship whatsoever with some of the Delivery Providers listed within Google’s
20 unauthorized Landing Page. For example, Plaintiffs do not have a relationship with
21 Caviar, a company identified at the top of Google’s list.

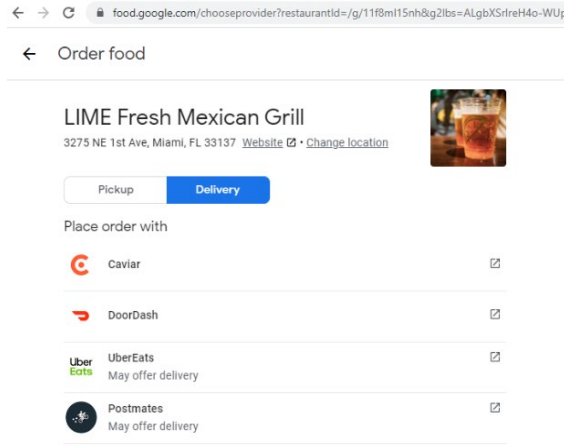


Figure 11: Google Landing Page displays Caviar with whom Lime Fresh has no relationship (Captured approximately 11/2/2021)

111. Google generates revenues and profits from its unauthorized and deceptively branded Landing Page.

112. Upon information and belief, Google charges Delivery Providers for placement within Google's unauthorized and deceptively branded Landing Page.

113. Upon information and belief, Google has generated millions of dollars in sales from its unauthorized and deceptively branded Landing Page.

114. Plaintiffs and class members are harmed by Google's unauthorized and deceptively branded Landing Page because, among other reasons, the screen serves to: (i) divert consumers searching for Plaintiffs' and class members' restaurants into competing businesses, depriving the restaurants of direct customer relationships; (ii) impose higher costs and fees on the restaurants than what the restaurants would otherwise experience had they obtained orders directly in person, over the phone, or via the restaurants' own order-taking websites; and (iii) dilute and damage Plaintiffs' and class members' brands, reputations, and tradenames by associating Plaintiffs and class members with third party websites and Delivery Providers over whom they do not exert control.

E. Google is Not Licensed to Use Plaintiffs' and Class Members' Tradenames.

115. Google is not licensed by Plaintiffs and class members to use Plaintiffs' and class members' tradenames in connection with Google's unauthorized and deceptively branded button and webpages.

1 116. Google never sought, nor obtained, Plaintiffs’ and class members’ consent to use their
2 tradenames in connection with Google’s button and webpages.

3 117. Rather, at least with respect to its Storefront, Google claims (wrongly) to have a right to
4 use Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames because of a purported transfer or delegation of such a
5 right by and through its relationship with Delivery Providers to whom it passes its illicit orders.¹⁰

6 118. But the Delivery Providers are not authorized to create websites branded as the restaurant
7 outside of the Delivery Providers proprietary platforms; and they do not have rights, in all events, that
8 can be extended to third parties, such as Google.

9 119. By way of example, Postmates is a Delivery Provider with whom Google contracted to
10 process at least some of the orders captured by Google’s illegal Storefront.

11 120. Upon information and belief, all (or nearly all) of Postmates’ restaurants are subjected
12 to Google’s illegal Storefront, amounting to tens of thousands of U.S.-based restaurants.

13 121. Postmates reportedly controls 8-10% of the Delivery Provider market within the United
14 States,¹¹ operates within approximately 3,000 U.S. cities (as of the beginning of 2019),¹² and has annual
15 revenues reportedly approaching \$1 billion (as of 2018).¹³ Postmates claims to have relationships with
16 over 600,000 restaurants and businesses.¹⁴

19 ¹⁰ See Google Business Profile Help, [https://support.google.com/business/answer/10918858?
20 visit_id=637774458410193900-1275963472&hl=en&rd=1](https://support.google.com/business/answer/10918858?visit_id=637774458410193900-1275963472&hl=en&rd=1) (last visited Jan. 10, 2021), wherein Google
21 describes its button and Storefront as follows: “You can accept orders through third-party providers
22 *who state they have authorized relationships with your business*. These providers can automatically
23 update and make food ordering available.” (emphasis added). See also Sean Captain, *Local food
24 delivery companies say Google devastated their business*, Fast Company (Aug. 10, 2021),
<http://www.fastcompany.com/90658514/google-restaurant-listings-local-delivery-services> (last visited
25 on 1/10/2021), wherein the author claims, “[A] delivery company can add itself to the ordering links in
26 a restaurant’s business listing. But Google’s program essentially runs on the honor system. A Google
27 representative acknowledges that abuses were rampant in the past.”

28 ¹¹ Janine Perri, *Which company is winning the restaurant food delivery war?* Bloomberg Second
Measure (Feb. 15, 2022), [https://secondmeasure.com/datapoints/food-delivery-services-grubhub-uber-
eats-doordash-postmates/](https://secondmeasure.com/datapoints/food-delivery-services-grubhub-uber-eats-doordash-postmates/).

¹² Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postmates> (last visited Feb. 28, 2022).

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Apple App Store Preview, [https://apps.apple.com/us/app/postmates-food-delivery/id5123939
83](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/postmates-food-delivery/id512393983) (last visited Feb. 28, 2022).

1 122. Postmates executes a form agreement with its client restaurants, which is updated from
2 time to time.¹⁵ While the agreement purports to authorize *Postmates* use of its merchant-restaurant’s
3 tradenames within *Postmates*’ proprietary mobile app and website, the agreement does not authorize
4 *Google*’s use of the restaurant’s tradenames within *Google*’s webpages. Moreover, the agreement does
5 not authorize Postmates to license third parties, such as Google, to sell the restaurant’s products and
6 services or to prominently brand websites as the restaurant. Indeed, Postmates’ agreement plainly states
7 the license grant is “limited,” “non-transferable” and that the “[a]greement may not be...delegated or
8 subcontracted, in whole or part.” See Exhibit B, §§ 7 and 19. Thus, Google’s conduct is not authorized
9 by and through its relationship to Postmates.

10 123. At some point after launching its illegal storefront, Google recognized that the Delivery
11 Providers may not, in fact, have rights to extend to Google, and so it developed and released an “opt-
12 out” feature, available to restaurants within its “My Business” service (n/k/a “Google Business
13 Profile”). But the availability of an opt-out feature does not save Google from its wrongful conduct as
14 complained of herein. First, the opt-out feature only removes the restaurant from the Google’s illicit
15 Storefront, not Google’s confusingly branded Landing Page. Second, with respect to the Plaintiffs and
16 class members subjected to Google’s Storefront, the feature is not available to restaurants that are not
17 also users of Google’s “My Business” service. Third, Google cannot convert the silence or inaction of
18 a restaurant/My Business user into assent merely by prescribing the conditions of rejection. Google—
19 like everyone else—must obtain the consent of the tradename owner *prior* to its intended use.

20 124. Upon information and belief, Plaintiffs’ and class members’ agreements with other
21 Delivery Providers likewise do not authorize Google to use Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames
22 in connection with its button, Storefront, or Landing Page. A complete list of Delivery Providers with
23
24

25
26 ¹⁵ Postmates was recently acquired by Uber, so its merchant terms of use is now controlled by
27 “Uber Eats U.S. Merchant Terms and Conditions,” attached as Exhibit B (dated 1/18/22), and located
28 at: Uber, https://www.uber.com/legal/en/document/?uclick_id=fb04753b-5626-48ed-b7a1-f0a633b5aef3&_ga=2.116279046.1608366540.1643736442-27952752.1641239834&_gac=1.140627462.1643736442.EAAlaIQobChMIzdLss4P9QIVMQV9Ch1lsARhEAAAYASAAEgLFj_D_BwE&country=united-states&lang=en&name=uber-eats-merchant-terms-and-conditions (last visited Feb. 28, 2022).

1 whom Google has contracted in connection with its Storefront and Landing Page will be ascertained
2 through discovery.¹⁶

3 **V. CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

4 125. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs seek to pursue
5 their claims on behalf of a class of similarly situated persons. The parameters of the class may be refined
6 through discovery and will be subject to Court approval and modification, but for the purposes of this
7 complaint, Plaintiffs propose the following class definitions:

- 8 a. All persons or entities in the United States who own or operate restaurants or
9 businesses in the food service or restaurant industry as to which Google placed an
10 “Order Delivery,” “Order Pickup,” or “Order Online” button under the restaurant’s
11 or business’s tradename on Google’s search results page or Google’s maps page, and
12 captured customer orders through Google’s Storefront under the restaurant’s or
13 business’s tradename.
14 b. All persons or entities in the United States who own or operate restaurants or
15 businesses in the food service or restaurant industry as to which Google placed an
16 “Order Delivery,” “Order Pickup,” or “Order Online” button under the restaurant’s
17 or business’s tradename on Google’s search results page or Google’s maps page, and
18 presented users with Google’s Landing Page.

19 126. Plaintiffs further propose that the following persons be excluded from any certified class:

20 (i) Google, its current or former officers, directors, management, employees, subsidiaries, and affiliates;
21 and (ii) all judicial officers and associated court staff assigned to this and their immediate family
22 members.

23 127. Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend the class definition if further investigation,
24 discovery, or both indicate that such definitions should be narrowed, expanded, or otherwise modified.

25 128. The proposed class meets the requirements for class certification pursuant to Federal
26 Rule 23(a) and (b).

27 129. *Numerosity*: The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all members is
28 impracticable. The precise number of restaurants subject to Google’s unauthorized button, and

¹⁶ Significantly, upon information and belief, at least three of the largest Delivery Providers operating within the United States – DoorDash, Grubhub, and Uber Eats (separate and apart from its recently acquired subsidiary, Postmates) – do not participate in Google’s Storefront (Scenario One), and have never processed orders originating from the Storefront. Upon information and belief, these Delivery Providers refuse to participate in Google’s Storefront because they recognize it uses Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames illegally.

1 webpages as alleged herein are unknown at this time, but it is believed to be in the tens of thousands.
2 Upon information and belief, Google has subjected most (and perhaps every) restaurant that has a
3 relationship with the Delivery Provider Postmates, to its unauthorized button and Storefront. Postmates
4 alone has relationships with hundreds of thousands of restaurants within the United States. Additionally,
5 upon information and belief, Google has subjected nearly every restaurant in the country to its
6 unauthorized button and Landing Page, amounting to many hundreds of thousands of class members.

7 130. *Commonality*: Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the class
8 and predominate over any questions solely affecting individual members. Such common issues include:

- 9 a. Whether Google's actions as alleged herein constitute false association, false
10 advertising, or unfair competition under Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C.
11 § 1125(a);
- 12 b. Whether Google's use of the Plaintiffs' and class members' tradenames in
13 connection with its unauthorized button and webpages is likely to cause consumer
14 confusion or deceive as required under the statute;
- 15 c. Whether the Plaintiffs and class members are entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive
16 relief to rectify the alleged violations of law; and, if so, what is the appropriate nature
17 of the equitable and injunctive relief to which the Plaintiffs and class members may
18 be entitled;
- 19 d. Whether Google's conduct caused the Plaintiffs' and class members' damage; and if
20 so the extent of such damage;
- 21 e. Whether Google derived profit from its conduct; and if so how much profit it derived;
22 and
- 23 f. The appropriate measure of monetary relief to be awarded Plaintiffs and class
24 members under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a), including specifically in relation to: Google's
25 profits, Plaintiffs' and class members' actual damages, enhancements to the
26 foregoing, and costs and attorneys' fees.

27 131. *Typicality*: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of other members of the class in
28 that Plaintiffs and the members of the class sustained damages arising out of Google's uniform (and

1 programmatic) deceptive conduct and use of Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames and goodwill
2 without authorization.

3 132. *Adequacy*: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the
4 class, and have retained counsel competent and experienced in complex litigation, trademark disputes,
5 and class actions. Plaintiffs have no interest antagonistic to those of the class, and Google has no
6 defenses unique to Plaintiffs.

7 133. *Predominance*: The common questions identified above are likely to predominate at trial
8 when compared to any individualized issues that may arise. Moreover, the major issue upon which
9 Google’s liability will depend—in particular, whether Google’s use of Plaintiffs’ and class members’
10 tradenames in connection with Google’s unauthorized and deceptive button, and webpages is likely to
11 cause consumer confusion and/or deception—is susceptible to generalized proof since the alleged
12 conduct across the class is consistent and programmatic.

13 134. *Policies Generally Applicable to the Class*: This class action is appropriate for
14 certification because Google has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class as
15 a whole, thereby requiring the Court’s imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of
16 conduct toward the members of the class, and making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to
17 the class as a whole. Google’s practices challenged herein apply to and affect the members of the class
18 uniformly, and Plaintiffs’ challenges of those practices hinges on Google’s conduct with respect to the
19 class as a whole, not on facts or law applicable only to Plaintiffs.

20 135. *Superiority*: This case is also appropriate for class certification because class
21 proceedings are superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this
22 controversy and because joinder of all parties is impracticable. The damages suffered by the individual
23 members of the class will likely be relatively small, especially given the burden and expense of the
24 individual prosecution of the complex litigation necessitated by Google’s actions. Thus, it would be
25 virtually impossible for the individual members of the class to obtain effective relief from Google’s
26 misconduct. Even if members of the class could sustain such individual litigation, it would still not be
27 preferable to a class action, because individual litigation would increase the delay and expense to all
28 parties due to the complex legal and factual controversies presented in this complaint. By contrast, a

1 class action presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of a single
2 adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Economies of time,
3 effort, and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions ensured.

4 **VI. CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

5 **Violations of Lanham Act – Section 43(a)**

6 136. Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations above as if set forth fully herein.

7 137. Google’s conduct violates Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, which prohibits the use “in
8 commerce [of] any word, term, name, symbol, or device, or any combination thereof, or any false
9 designation of origin, false or misleading description of fact, or false or misleading representation of
10 fact, which – (A) is likely to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive as to the affiliation,
11 connection, or association of such person with another person, or as to the origin, sponsorship, or
12 approval of his or her goods, services, or commercial activities by another person, or (B) in commercial
13 advertising or promotion, misrepresents the nature, characteristics, qualities, or geographic origin of his
14 or her or another person’s goods, services, or commercial activities.” Additionally, the act permits such
15 an action to be maintained by “any person who believes that he or she is or is likely to be damaged...”
16 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1).

17 138. Google’s unauthorized and deceptive use of Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames,
18 as described herein, and specifically in relation to Google’s unauthorized and deceptive button and
19 webpages are uses in commerce in connection with offered goods, services, and commercial activities.

20 139. Google’s unauthorized and deceptive use of Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames,
21 as alleged herein, are likely to, and in fact do, cause consumer confusion, including by causing
22 consumers to believe that: (i) Google’s button; (ii) Google’s webpages; and (iii) the goods, services and
23 commercial activities offered within the websites are all affiliated, connected, associated, sponsored or
24 approved by Plaintiffs and class members, when they are not. Additionally, Google’s unauthorized and
25 deceptive use of Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames, as alleged herein, is also a false
26 representation, made in an advertisement and promotion, concerning the nature, characteristics, and
27 qualities of: (i) Google’s button; (ii) Google’s webpages; and (iii) the goods, services, and commercial
28 activities made available within the websites.

1 140. Internet users searching for Plaintiffs’ or class members’ tradenames, and who are
2 thereafter presented with Google’s “Order Online” button under the Plaintiffs’ and class members’
3 tradenames; and whereupon clicking the button are presented with the Online Storefront and/or Landing
4 Page, under Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames, have a reasonable expectation that such button,
5 websites, and the goods, services, and commercial activities offered within those websites are all
6 affiliated, connected, associated, sponsored or approved by the Plaintiffs and/or class members.

7 141. The button, websites, and the goods, services, and commercial activities offered within
8 the websites are in fact not affiliated, connected, associated, sponsored or approved by Plaintiffs and
9 class members.

10 142. As a direct and proximate result of Google’s unauthorized and deceptive use of
11 Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames, Plaintiffs and class members have suffered pecuniary injury.

12 143. As a direct and proximate result of Google’s unauthorized and deceptive use of
13 Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames, Google has profited.

14 144. Under 15 U.S.C. § 1117, Plaintiffs and class members are entitled to Google’s profits,
15 actual damages, costs of the suit, and attorneys’ fees.

16 145. Under 15 U.S.C. § 1117, Plaintiffs and class members are entitled to enhanced damages,
17 up to three times actual damages, because, among other reasons, Google’s conduct was deliberate and
18 willful.

19 146. Under 15 U.S.C. § 1116, Plaintiffs and class members also seek injunctive relief
20 prohibiting Google from using Plaintiffs’ and class members’ tradenames in connection with its
21 unauthorized and deceptive “Order Online” button, Storefront, and Landing Page as described herein,
22 and requiring Google to take appropriate affirmative steps to undo and prevent consumer confusion.

23 **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

24 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually, and on behalf of the class members, respectfully request
25 that this Court enter judgment as follows:

- 26 a. The Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action pursuant to
27 Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

- b. An award of monetary relief according to the proof, including Plaintiffs’ and class members’ damages and Google’s profits, enhanced as appropriate up to three times actual damages;
- c. Injunctive and equitable relief;
- d. Pre- and post-judgment interest, as provided by law;
- e. Attorneys’ fees and costs, including expert fees and costs; and
- f. Any such further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

1 **VIII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

2 Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the class members, pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal
3 Rules of Civil Procedure, request a trial by jury on all claims so triable by right.

4 Dated: March 8, 2022

/s/ Bonny E. Sweeney

Bonny E. Sweeney (Cal. Bar No. 176174)

bsweeney@hausfeld.com

Michael P. Lehmann (Cal. Bar No. 77152)

mlehmann@hausfeld.com

Bruce J. Wecker (Cal. Bar No. 78530)

bwecker@hausfeld.com

HAUSFELD LLP

600 Montgomery Street, Suite 3200

San Francisco, CA 94111

(415) 633-1908

Joseph M. Vanek (*pro hac vice pending*)

Bruce S. Sperling (*pro hac vice pending*)

Eamon Kelly (*pro hac vice pending*)

Tim Sperling (*pro hac vice pending*)

SPERLING & SLATER, P.C.

55 West Monroe Street

Suite 3200

Chicago, IL 60603

(312) 641-3200

jvanek@sperling-law.com

bss@sperling-law.com

ekelly@sperling-law.com

tsperling@sperling-law.com

Jason A. Zweig (*pro hac vice pending*)

Seth Meyer (*pro hac vice pending*)

Alex Dravillas (*pro hac vice pending*)

KELLER LENKNER LLC

150 N. Riverside Plaza

Suite 4100

Chicago, Illinois 60606

(312) 216.8667

jaz@kellerlenkner.com

sam@kellerlenkner.com

ajd@kellerlenkner.com

Irving Scher (*pro hac vice pending*)

HAUSFELD LLP

33 Whitehall Street, 14th Floor

New York, NY 10004

(646) 357-1100
ischer@hausfeld.com

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Google Illegally Uses Restaurant Trade Names in Connection with 'Illicit' Online Ordering Storefront, Class Action Alleges](#)
