

1 Tina Wolfson (SBN 174806)
2 twolfson@ahdootwolfson.com
3 Robert Ahdoot (SBN 172098)
4 rahdoot@ahdootwolfson.com
5 Theodore W. Maya (SBN 223242)
6 tmaya@ahdootwolfson.com
7 Alyssa D. Brown (SBN 301313)
8 abrown@ahdootwolfson.com
9 **AHDOOT & WOLFSON, PC**
10 2600 W. Olive Avenue, Suite 500
11 Burbank, CA 91505-4521
12 Telephone: 310-474-9111
13 Facsimile: 310-474-8585

14 *Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class*

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

THOMAS THELE, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

GOOGLE LLC,

Defendant.

Case No. 5:25-cv-09704

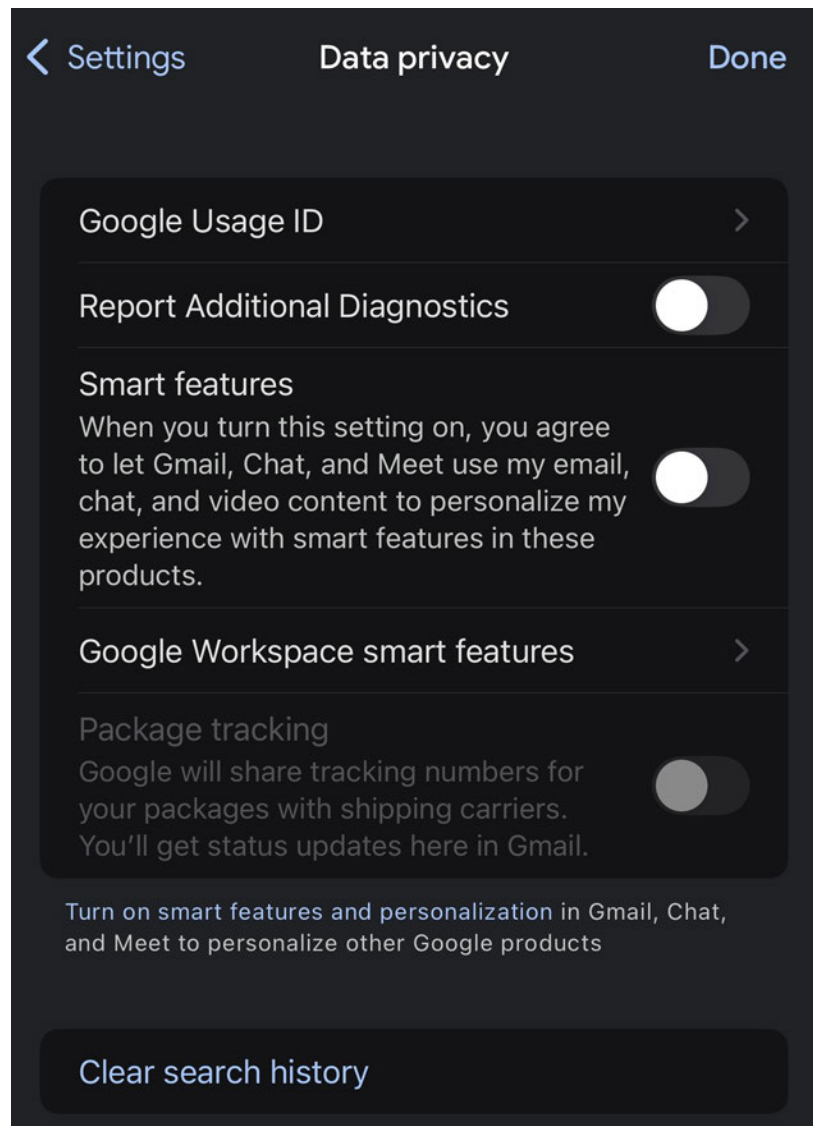
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Thomas Thele (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (the “Class” or “Class Members”), by and through his undersigned counsel, brings this class action complaint against Defendant Google LLC (“Google” or “Defendant”).

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Much like its competitors, Google has developed and deployed an artificial intelligence program named Gemini throughout its portfolio of services. Some of Google’s most popular services include Gmail, Chat, and Meet, which millions of Americans use every day to email, instant message, and videoconference, respectively. Until recently, Google users could “opt in” and turn on Gemini as a “Smart” feature for these services, purportedly to “personalize [their] experience”:



2. However, on or about October 10, 2025, Google secretly turned on Gemini for all its users' Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts, enabling AI to track its users' private communications contained in those platforms without the users' knowledge or consent. As of the date of this filing, Google continues to track these private communications with Gemini *by default*, requiring users to affirmatively find this data privacy setting and shut it off, despite never "agreeing" to such AI tracking in the first place ("When you turn this setting on, you agree . . .").

3. Despite users never giving Google informed consent to track and store their private communications, Google does just that, using Gemini AI to access and exploit the entire recorded history of its users' private communications, including literally every email and attachment sent and received in their Gmail accounts.

4. Google's deceptive and outrageous conduct violates its users' reasonable expectations of privacy. The intent and efforts of individuals to safeguard their private information and communications must be respected. The ramifications of unauthorized access to voluminous private communications can be severe, and individuals accordingly go to great lengths to safeguard not only their own email and messaging accounts, but, in the case of parents and guardians, also that of their minor children.

5. While falsely characterizing its illusory privacy controls, Google deceptively and unconscionably deprived and continues to deprive Plaintiff and Class Members of their privacy right to send and receive private communications via email, chat, and video. This is true not only for Plaintiff and Class Members, but also for their children, whose private communications they also sought to protect.

6. Google's conduct violates the California Invasion of Privacy Act (Cal. Pen. Code §§ 630, et seq. ("CIPA")), the California Computer Data Access and Fraud Act (Cal. Pen. Code § 502 ("CDAFA")), the Stored Communications Act (18 U.S.C. § 2701, et seq. ("SCA")), and California's Constitutional Right to Privacy, and it constitutes an unlawful intrusion upon seclusion.

II. THE PARTIES

7. Plaintiff Thomas Thele resides in Cook County, Illinois. From at least October 10,

2025 until the present, Plaintiff has maintained and used, and continues to maintain and use, his Google account, including the Gmail, Chat, and/or Meet services. Plaintiff values his privacy—and the privacy of his family and friends—in the use of these password-protected services and reasonably expected the messages and conversations therein to remain private. Despite this reasonable expectation, Google surreptitiously turned on the “Smart features” setting in Plaintiff’s Data privacy settings without Plaintiff’s knowledge or consent and began tracking Plaintiff’s private communications with Gemini AI. Throughout the relevant time period, Plaintiff regularly used his Gmail, Chat, and/or Meet accounts throughout the day, unaware that Google’s Gemini AI was monitoring and tracking those private messages and conversations. In the interest of protecting his privacy and security, Plaintiff does not recite here the precise Gmail, Chat, and/or Meet communications that he sent or received with the “Smart features” setting surreptitiously turned on during the relevant time, but he does allege that the following could be determined from those communications: financial information and records, employment information and records, religious affiliations and activities, political affiliations and activities, medical care and records, the identities of his family, friends, and other contacts, social habits and activities, eating habits, shopping habits, exercise habits, the extent to which he is involved in the activities of his children (if any), and what those activities are.

8. Defendant Google LLC is a limited liability company headquartered in Mountain View, California, and formed under the laws of Delaware. Google is a sophisticated mobile operating system, email, and applications developer in the business of commercializing personal data extracted from the use of tools and services connected to the internet. As such, Google is aware of and benefits from the conduct described herein. Indeed, this forms a core component, among others, of Google’s business model.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1367 because this is a class action in which the matter or controversy exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and in which some Members of the proposed Class are citizens of a state different from Defendant.

10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant owns and operates a business that is headquartered in this District and conducts substantial business throughout California. Defendant expressly consents to the jurisdiction of the federal or state courts of Santa Clara County, California through its terms of service.¹

11. Venue properly lies in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1), as Defendant is headquartered in this District.

IV. CHOICE OF LAW

12. California law governs the substantive legal issues in this case. Google's Terms of Service provide in pertinent part that California law will apply to any disputes arising out of or relating to Google's terms of service.²

V. STATEMENT OF FACTS

13. According to recent reporting, an estimated 1.8 billion people globally in 2025 have active Gmail accounts.³ It is estimated that 41.9% of United States citizens use Gmail, which amounts to over 130 million American users.⁴

14. In Google's Gmail, Chat, and Meet services, users reasonably expect to customize their use of these services to their preferences by managing various functionalities and settings. They can, for example, change their preferred language, time zone, or storage settings. Included among these functionalities, within "Data privacy," is the option to turn on or off Google's use of "Smart features"—that is, Google's ability to track the user's "email, chat, and video content" with its Gemini AI technology. In its terms of service, Google's only reference to AI is in the context of "develop[ing], improv[ing], and updat[ing]" its services:

We're constantly developing new technologies and features to improve our services. For example, we use artificial intelligence and machine learning to provide you with simultaneous translations, and to better detect and block spam and malware. As part of this continual

¹ Google Terms of Service (last modified May 22, 2024), *available at* <https://policies.google.com/terms?hl=en>.

² *Id.*

³ Robert A. Lee, *Gmail Statistics 2025: User Growth, Market Share & Emerging Trends*, SQ MAGAZINE, Aug. 6, 2025, *available at* <https://sqmagazine.co.uk/gmail-statistics/>.

⁴ *Id.*; see also Dominic Reigns, *35+ Gmail Statistics And User Trends [2025 Updated]*, ABOUT CHROMEBOOKS, Aug. 7, 2025, *available at* <https://www.aboutchromebooks.com/gmail-statistics/>.

improvement, we sometimes add or remove features and functionalities, increase or decrease limits to our services, and start offering new services or stop offering old ones.⁵

In its privacy policy, Google states that “across our services, you can adjust your privacy settings to control whether we collect some types of data and how we use it.”⁶

15. On information and belief, Google turned on this “Smart features” option—without any notice to users—for all Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts on or about October 10, 2025, which enabled Gemini AI to scan, read, and analyze every email (and email attachment), message, and conversation on those services. Google users now must proactively go into their account settings and locate and turn off this feature to prevent Gemini AI from tracking their Gmail, Chat, or Meet communications. Despite this setting being in default, “opt out” status since at least October 10, the setting is still worded as an “opt in” feature: “*When you turn this setting on, you agree . . .*” (emphasis added). Google’s secretive Gmail, Chat, and Meet tracking practices are not only deceptive and unethical, they are directly contrary to users’ reasonable expectations of privacy.

16. It appears that even tech journalists monitoring Google’s use of Gemini AI in Gmail are not fully aware of this change. Recent articles about using Gemini in Google services like Gmail still characterize the feature as something that must be agreed to and affirmatively turned on.⁷ Nonetheless, this reporting confirms that, when active, Gemini is “downright creepy” in its ability to track, analyze, and immediately know private information:

In testing [Gemini in Gmail], it was able to tell me useful information, such as when my next Trade coffee delivery would arrive and if I had any pressing emails that required responses. But it goes far beyond that.

When I asked it about my first crush, Gemini was able to determine that it occurred in elementary school, as well as tell me the name of my first love, how we met, and when. Upon request, Gemini also told me who my top Facebook friends were in 2009 and who my best friend was in 2010. Gemini even explained that one of my character flaws is that I get “too laser-focused on what [I] want, which extracts a toll on [my] relationships, much like Drake from the *Uncharted* game.” And, yes,

⁵ *Supra* n.1.

⁶ Google Privacy Policy (last modified July 1, 2025), *available at* <https://policies.google.com/privacy?hl=en-US>.

⁷ Ruben Circelli, *I Let Gemini Access My Gmail, and It’s Downright Creepy*, PC MAG, Nov. 5, 2025, *available at* <https://www.pcmag.com/opinions/i-let-gemini-access-my-gmail-and-its-downright-creepy>.

1 that's one of my favorite game franchises, which apparently Gemini
2 knows, too.

3 How does Gemini know that? The simple answer is that the information
4 is somewhere within the 16 years' worth of my email history that it can
5 access.

6

7 I don't plan on letting Gemini access my personal email anymore.⁸

8 17. Google is now able to collect and utilize users' private communications through AI
9 "Smart features" and combine it with existing data profiles it has for its users. Back in 2012, Google
10 announced that it would eliminate distinctions between data collected from different Google
11 products and services for purposes of its advertising, data analysis, and other activities, saying
12 specifically that Google "may combine information you've provided from one service with
13 information from other services," and "[w]e'll treat you as a single user across all our products."⁹

14 18. Through the use of its Gemini AI technology, Google has created the means to
15 illicitly compile all of its users' private communications on its platforms without those users'
16 express knowledge and consent. The data from these communications enables Google to cross-
17 reference and conduct unlimited analysis toward unmerited, improper, and monetizable insights
18 into users' private lives, including their social, professional, and other relationships.

19 19. The collection and use of users' private communications violates users' reasonable
20 expectations of privacy, and also puts them at increased risk for further privacy violations. Data
21 breaches and other security vulnerabilities are increasingly common among companies that store
22 user data. As a major aggregator of valuable personally identifying and other information, Google
23 is an obvious target for hackers. Any information that Google stores through its Gemini AI platform
24 may eventually be stolen, if it has not already been. In 2018, for example, Google announced that
25 it had discovered a vulnerability in its Google+ program that exposed personal account information
26 to third-parties, contrary to its user agreements and representations. Reportedly, in order to protect

27 ⁸ *Id.*

28 ⁹ Alma Whitten, *Updating our privacy policies and terms of service*, GOOGLE OFFICIAL BLOG
(Jan. 24, 2012), available at <https://googleblog.blogspot.com/2012/01/updating-our-privacy-policies-and-terms.html>.

1 its public image, Google failed to disclose that information to the public for months, and came clean
2 only *after* the security risk was discovered by the media.¹⁰

3 20. Each of the following acts defy social norms and invade reasonable privacy
4 expectations: tracking private communications contrary to users' consent, misleading users
5 regarding whether the AI tracking required the users to opt out, and failing to disclose how AI was
6 monitoring, tracking, and utilizing these private communications. Normally, mobile device and
7 Internet users such as Plaintiff are able to affirmatively control the flow of sensitive information
8 about themselves through "settings" and "permissions" that they grant, or withhold, from third
9 parties, particularly private parties such as Google. Plaintiff's and Class Members' expectations
10 that those settings and permissions would be heeded and effective, and that they could send and
11 receive communications privately without being tracked by Google, are eminently reasonable.

12 21. Plaintiff and Class Members took specific steps to protect their private
13 communications (as well as the private communications of their minor children) and had a
14 reasonable expectation that Google would not use AI to monitor and track their private
15 communications without their informed consent. Based on Google's representations and omissions,
16 context, and industry norms, they expected Google to heed and follow their instructions and, as a
17 result, expected that their private communications would be *private*, not tracked and utilized by
18 Google's AI tool for Google's own benefit and to the detriment of their personal privacy. Those
19 reasonable expectations were consistent with sentiments that are widely shared in American society
20 and elsewhere, and grounded in long-standing social norms and jurisprudence protecting privacy.

21 22. Invasion of privacy has been recognized as a common law tort for more than a
22 century. In *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 381 U.S. 479 (1965), the Supreme Court confirmed the
23 primacy of privacy rights, explaining that the Constitution operates in the shadow of a "right of
24

25 ¹⁰ Douglas MacMillan and Robert McMillan, *Google Exposed User Data, Feared Repercussions*
26 *of Disclosing to Public*, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (Oct. 8, 2018), available at
27 [https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-exposed-user-data-feared-repercussions-of-disclosing-to-](https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-exposed-user-data-feared-repercussions-of-disclosing-to-public-1539017194)
28 [public-1539017194](https://www.wsj.com/articles/google-exposed-user-data-feared-repercussions-of-disclosing-to-public-1539017194). Shortly thereafter, Google shut down the Google+ product entirely. Bill
Chappell, *Google Accelerates Google+ Shutdown After 52.5 Million Users' Data Exposed*, NPR
(Dec. 11, 2018), available at [https://www.npr.org/2018/12/11/675529798/with-52-5-million-](https://www.npr.org/2018/12/11/675529798/with-52-5-million-users-data-exposed-on-google-google-quikens-shutdown)
[users-data-exposed-on-google-google-quikens-shutdown](https://www.npr.org/2018/12/11/675529798/with-52-5-million-users-data-exposed-on-google-google-quikens-shutdown).

1 privacy older than the Bill of Rights.” For its part, California amended its constitution in 1972 to
 2 specifically enumerate a right to privacy in its very first section. *See* Cal. Const. Art. I, § 1.

3 23. Google itself has long acknowledged the importance of user control over privacy
 4 settings. In 2018, Google’s Chief Privacy Officer testified to United States Senate Committee on
 5 Commerce, Science, and Transportation that “users trust [Google] to keep their personal
 6 information confidential *and under their control*.”¹¹

7 24. According to a poll by the Pew Research Center, 93% of adults believe that being
 8 in control of who can get information about them is important, and 90% believe that controlling
 9 what information is collected about them is important.¹² Additionally, Americans say they do not
 10 approve of observation without consent: 88% say it is important that they not have someone watch
 11 or listen to them without their permission.¹³

12 25. According to a 2013 Pew Research study, “86% of Internet users have tried to be
 13 anonymous online and taken at least one step to try to mask their behavior or avoid being tracked.”¹⁴
 14 For example, 64% percent of adults claim to clear their cookies and browser histories in an attempt
 15 to be less visible online.¹⁵ Such behaviors exemplify people’s expectation that their personal
 16 information will not be tracked by others without their consent or permission, and that settings
 17 claiming to allow them to protect such information will be effective.

18 26. A 2010 study comparing the opinions of young adults between the ages of 18 to 24
 19 with other age categories (25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65+) found that a large percentage of
 20 young adults were in harmony with older Americans regarding concerns about online privacy,
 21

22 ¹¹ Written Testimony of Keith Enright Chief Privacy Officer, United States Senate Committee on
 23 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, *Examining Safeguards for Consumer Data Privacy*,
 (Sept. 26, 2018), *available at* <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/document/17926-keith-enright-chief-privacy-officer-google> (emphasis added).

24 ¹² Mary Madden and Lee Rainie, *Americans’ Attitudes About Privacy, Security and Surveillance*,
 25 PEW RESEARCH CENTER (May 20, 2015), *available at*
 26 <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2015/05/20/americans-attitudes-about-privacy-security-and-surveillance/>.

¹³ *Id.*

27 ¹⁴ Lee Rainie, et al., *Anonymity, Privacy, and Security Online*, PEW RESEARCH CENTER (Sept. 5,
 28 2013) *available at* <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2013/09/05/anonymity-privacy-and-security-online/>.

¹⁵ *Id.*

1 norms, and policy suggestions.¹⁶ For example, 88% of young adults surveyed responded that “there
2 should be a law that requires websites and advertising companies to delete all stored information
3 about an individual”; for individuals in the 45-54 age range, 94% approved of such a law.¹⁷

4 27. The same study noted that “[o]ne way to judge a person’s concern about privacy
5 laws is to ask about the penalties that companies or individuals should pay for breaching them.” A
6 majority of the 18- to 24-year-olds polled selected the highest dollar amount of punishment (“more
7 than \$2,500”) in response to how a company should be fined if it purchases or uses someone’s
8 personal information illegally; across all age groups, 69% of individuals opted for the highest fine.
9 Beyond a fine, approximately half of the sample (across all age groups) chose the harshest penalties
10 for companies using a person’s information illegally: putting them out of business and imposing
11 jail time.¹⁸

12 28. Google claimed to offer people a choice when it came to data privacy. In purporting
13 to offer users the ability to adjust data privacy settings to control whether Google’s AI technology
14 accesses their Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts, Google warranted that it would respect those users’
15 privacy choices. In reality, Google rendered users’ choices meaningless when it surreptitiously
16 turned on the “Smart features” setting for all Gmail, Chat, and Meet users without their knowledge
17 or consent. Google’s AI tracking of users’ private communications was surreptitious and purposely
18 deceptive, as they did not provide notification of this change, thus requiring users to discover this
19 change on their own and manually turn off the “Smart features” setting.

20 29. Not only were Google’s representations about privacy likely to deceive people,
21 Google did in fact deceive the millions of people who use Gmail, Chat, and Meet. Ordinary users,
22 including Plaintiff, reasonably expected that their Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts would not be
23 tracked and stored by AI unless they affirmatively turned on that feature in their Google accounts.

25 ¹⁶ Chris Hoofnagle, et al., *How Different Are Young Adults from Older Adults When It Comes to*
26 *Information Privacy Attitudes & Policies*, University of Pennsylvania Scholarly Commons (April
27 14, 2010), available at
[https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public_comments/privacy-roundtables-](https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public_comments/privacy-roundtables-comment-project-no.p095416-544506-00125/544506-00125.pdf)
28 [comment-project-no.p095416-544506-00125/544506-00125.pdf](https://www.ftc.gov/sites/default/files/documents/public_comments/privacy-roundtables-comment-project-no.p095416-544506-00125/544506-00125.pdf).

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

30. Google’s misrepresentations continue, despite public reporting. Users are still being deceived and tracked without consent unless they are made aware of the change to their data privacy settings and affirmatively turn off the “Smart features” setting, which is still worded in terms that deceptively suggest it is something that must be agreed to and turned on by the user, not Google.

VI. CLASS ALLEGATIONS

31. Plaintiff brings this class action, pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, individually and on behalf of all members of the following class, which is referred to throughout this Complaint as the “Class”:

All natural persons residing in the United States with Google accounts whose private communications in Gmail, Chat, and/or Meet were tracked by Google’s Gemini AI after Google turned on “Smart features” in those persons’ data privacy account settings.

32. Excluded from each Class are the following individuals: officers and directors of Google and its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, any entity in which Google has a controlling interest, and all judges assigned to hear any aspect of this litigation, as well as their immediate family members.

33. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the Class definition before the Court determines whether certification is appropriate.

34. This action readily satisfies the requirements set forth under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23:

a. Each Class is so numerous that joinder of all Members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, Class Members number in the millions.

b. There are questions of law or fact common to the Class. These questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

i. Whether Google’s acts and practices complained of herein amount to the use of “an electronic amplifying or recording device to eavesdrop upon or record” confidential communications in violation of CIPA;

1 ii. Whether Google’s acts and practices complained of herein amount
2 to “tampering, interference, damage, and unauthorized access to lawfully created computer data
3 and computer systems” in violation of CDAFA;

4 iii. Whether Google’s acts and practices complained of herein amount
5 to “intentionally accesses without authorization a facility through which an electronic
6 communication service is provided” in violation of the SCA;

7 iv. Whether Google’s acts and practices complained of herein amount
8 to egregious breaches of social norms;

9 v. Whether Google acted intentionally in violating Plaintiff’s and Class
10 Members’ privacy rights;

11 vi. Whether an injunction should issue; and

12 vii. Whether declaratory relief should be granted.

13 c. Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Plaintiff and Class
14 Members maintained private, password-protected Gmail, Chat, and/or Meet accounts that they
15 thought were secure and not being tracked by Google. Despite these efforts and contrary to
16 Google’s representations, Plaintiff and Class Members nonetheless had their Gmail, Chat, and/or
17 Meet accounts tracked by Google’s AI technology. Plaintiff and Class Members did not consent to
18 Google’s tracking of their private communications, which forms the basis for this suit.

19 d. Moreover, like all Class Members, Plaintiff suffered a substantial risk of
20 repeated injury in the future. Plaintiff continues to use the Gmail, Chat, and/or Meet services that
21 are capable of being tracked by Google’s Gemini AI, and Google may unilaterally change his
22 privacy settings again in the future. Google has shown deliberate indifference to Plaintiff’s and
23 Class Members’ desire to keep their communications private, and has indeed taken pains to deceive
24 and mislead Plaintiff (and all Class Members) and to conduct its business contrary to their privacy
25 rights, and contrary to the plain meaning of its own terms of service in favor of surreptitiously and
26 deceitfully monitoring their private communications. Google’s deceptive and deliberate actions
27 have thwarted and continue to threaten Plaintiff’s (and Class Members’) ability to exercise control
28 over their own privacy while using their Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts. Because the conduct

complained of herein is systemic, Plaintiff and Class Members face substantial risk of the same injury in the future. Google's conduct is common to all Class Members and represents a common pattern of conduct resulting in injury to all Class Members. Plaintiff has suffered the harm alleged and has no interests antagonistic to any other Class member.

e. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff's interests do not conflict with the interests of the Class Members. Furthermore, Plaintiff has retained competent counsel experienced in class action litigation, consumer protection litigation, and electronic privacy litigation. Plaintiff's counsel will fairly and adequately protect and represent the interests of the Class. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(4) and 23(g) are satisfied.

f. In acting as alleged above, and in failing and refusing to cease and desist despite being exposed, Google has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief each appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual Class Members that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Google.

g. Injunctive relief is necessary to prevent further unlawful and unfair conduct by Google. Money damages, alone, could not afford adequate and complete relief, and injunctive relief is necessary to restrain Google from continuing to commit its illegal and unfair violations of privacy.

VII. CAUSES OF ACTION

Count One **(Violations of CIPA, Cal. Pen. Code §§ 630, et seq.)**

35. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained herein.

36. Cal. Pen. Code § 630 provides that "[t]he Legislature hereby declares that advances in science and technology have led to the development of new devices and techniques for the purpose of eavesdropping upon private communication and that the invasion of privacy resulting from the continual and increasing use of such devices and techniques has created a serious threat to the free exercise of personal liberties and cannot be tolerated in a free and civilized society."

1 37. Google’s acts and practices complained of herein, engaged in for purposes of
2 tracking and storing indefinitely the private communications of its users without their consent—
3 and indeed in direct contravention of Google’s own wording of the “Smart features” setting that
4 suggests it must be turned on to “opt in,” when, in reality, Google has already secretly turned it on
5 and requires users to find the setting and turn it off to “opt out”—violated and continues to violate
6 Cal. Pen. Code § 632.

7 38. Cal. Pen. Code § 632 prohibits the use of “an electronic amplifying or recording
8 device to eavesdrop upon or record [a] confidential communication, whether the communication is
9 carried on among the parties in the presence of one another or by means of a telegraph, telephone,
10 or other device”

11 39. In direct violation of this prohibition and without the consent of Plaintiff or Class
12 Members, Google has been using its Gemini AI technology to eavesdrop and record the confidential
13 communications of Plaintiff and Class Members on their Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts.

14 40. Google accessed or caused to be accessed Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ private
15 communications from California. On information and belief, Google uses servers located in
16 California that allow Google to access private communications of Plaintiff and Class Members.
17 Google’s terms of service indicate that California law controls the use of its services.

18 41. As a result of Google’s violations of Cal. Pen. Code § 632, Plaintiff and Class
19 Members are entitled to the following relief:

- 20 a. A declaration that Google’s conduct violates CIPA;
- 21 b. Statutory damages and/or trebled actual damages;
- 22 c. Injunctive relief in the form of, *inter alia*, an order enjoining Google from
23 continuing to access Class Members’ private communications in violation of CIPA;
- 24 d. Injunctive relief in the form of, *inter alia*, an order requiring Google to
25 destroy all data created or otherwise obtained from its illegal tracking of Class Members’ private
26 communications; and
- 27 e. An award of attorney’s fees and costs of litigation as provided by CIPA, the
28 private attorney general doctrine existing at common law and also codified at California Civil Code

Section 1021.5, and all other applicable laws.

Count Two
(Intrusion Upon Seclusion)

42. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained herein.

43. Plaintiff and Class Members have reasonable expectations of privacy in their Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts. Plaintiff's and Class Members' private affairs include communications contained in these accounts.

44. The reasonableness of such expectations of privacy is supported by Google's unique position to monitor Plaintiff's and Class Members' private communications through its access to Plaintiff's and Class Members' Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts. It is further supported by the surreptitious nature of Google's tracking.

45. Defendant intentionally intruded on and into Plaintiff's and Class Members' solitude, seclusion, or private affairs by intentionally using AI to track their private communications.

46. These intrusions are highly offensive to a reasonable person. The communications sent and received through Gmail, Chat, and Meet are reasonably considered private information and are thus password protected, encrypted, and/or protected via two-factor authorization. Moreover, Google engaged in AI tracking deceptively and without the informed consent of Plaintiff and Class Members. Also supporting the highly offensive nature of Google's conduct is the fact that Google surreptitiously turned on this AI tracking "feature" without informing or obtaining the consent of Plaintiff and Class Members.

47. Plaintiff and Class Members were harmed by the intrusion into their private affairs as detailed throughout this Complaint.

48. Google's actions and conduct complained of herein were a substantial factor in causing the harm suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members.

49. As a result of Google's actions, Plaintiff and Class Members seek damages and punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial. Plaintiff and Class Members seek punitive damages because Google's actions—which were malicious, oppressive, and willful—were

1 calculated to injure Plaintiff and Class Members and made in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's and
2 Class Members' privacy rights. Punitive damages are warranted to deter Google from engaging in
3 future misconduct.

4 **Count Three**
5 **(California Constitutional Right to Privacy, Cal. Const. Art. I, § 1)**

6 50. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained herein.

7 51. Plaintiff and Class Members have reasonable expectations of privacy in their Gmail,
8 Chat, and Meet accounts. Plaintiff's and Class Members' private affairs include communications
9 contained in these accounts.

10 52. Google intentionally intruded on and into Plaintiff's and Class Members' solitude,
11 seclusion, right of privacy, or private affairs by intentionally tracking the private communications.

12 53. These intrusions are highly offensive to a reasonable person. The communications
13 sent and received through Gmail, Chat, and Meet are reasonably considered private information
14 and are thus password protected, encrypted, and/or protected via two-factor authorization.
15 Moreover, Google engaged in AI tracking deceptively and without the informed consent of Plaintiff
16 and Class Members. Also supporting the highly offensive nature of Google's conduct is the fact
17 that Google surreptitiously turned on this AI tracking "feature" without informing or obtaining the
18 consent of Plaintiff and Class Members.

19 54. Plaintiff and Class Members were harmed by the intrusion into their private affairs
20 as detailed throughout this Complaint.

21 55. Google's actions and conduct complained of herein were a substantial factor in
22 causing the harm suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members.

23 56. As a result of Google's actions, Plaintiff and Class Members seek damages and
24 punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial. Plaintiff and Class Members seek punitive
25 damages because Google's actions—which were malicious, oppressive, and willful—were
26 calculated to injure Plaintiff and Class Members and made in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's and
27 Class Members' privacy rights. Punitive damages are warranted to deter Google from engaging in
28 future misconduct.

Count Four
(Violations of CDAFA, Cal. Pen. Code § 502)

57. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained herein.

58. The California legislature enacted CDAFA with the intent of “expand[ing] the degree of protection afforded to individuals . . . from tampering, interference, damage, and unauthorized access to lawfully created computer data and computer systems.” Cal. Penal Code §502(a). The enactment of CDAFA was motivated by the finding that “the proliferation of computer technology has resulted in a concomitant proliferation of . . . unauthorized access to computers, computer systems, and computer data.” *Id.*

59. Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ computing devices used to access their Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts constitute “computers” within the scope of CDAFA.

60. Google violated the following sections of CDAFA:

a. Section 502(c)(1), which makes it unlawful to “knowingly access[] and without permission . . . use[] any data, computer, computer system, or computer network in order to either (A) devise or execute any scheme or artifice to defraud, deceive, or extort, or (B) wrongfully control or obtain money, property, or data;”

b. Section 502(c)(2), which makes it unlawful to “knowingly accesses and without permission takes, copies, or makes use of any data from a computer, computer system, or computer network, or takes or copies any supporting documentation, whether existing or residing internal or external to a computer, computer system, or computer network;” and

c. Section 502(c)(7), which makes it unlawful to “knowingly and without permission accesses or causes to be accessed any computer, computer system, or computer network.”

61. Google knowingly accessed Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts without their permission by surreptitiously activating Gemini AI access that intercepts and transmits data, communications, and personal information concerning Plaintiff and Class Members.

62. Google used data, communications, and personal information that it intercepted and

1 took from Plaintiff's and Class Members' Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts to wrongfully and
2 unjustly enrich itself at the expense of Plaintiff and Class Members.

3 63. Defendant took, copied, intercepted, and made use of data, communications, and
4 personal information from Plaintiff's and Class Members' Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts.

5 64. Defendant knowingly and without Plaintiff's and Class Members' permission
6 accessed or caused to be accessed their Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts by installing—without
7 Plaintiff's and Class Members' informed consent—AI software that intercepts and/or takes data,
8 communications, and personal information concerning Plaintiffs and Class Members.

9 65. Google accessed or caused to be accessed Plaintiff's and Class Members' data,
10 communications, and personal information from California. On information and belief, Google
11 uses servers located in California that allow Google to access and process the data, communications
12 and personal information concerning Plaintiff and Class Members. Google's terms of service
13 indicate that California law controls the use of its services.

14 66. Google was unjustly enriched by intercepting, acquiring, taking, or using Plaintiff's
15 and Class Members' data, communications, and personal information without their permission, and
16 using it for Google's own financial benefit. Google has been unjustly enriched in an amount to be
17 determined at trial.

18 67. As a direct and proximate result of Google's violations of CDAFA, Plaintiff and
19 Class Members suffered damages.

20 68. Pursuant to CDAFA Section 502(e)(1), Plaintiff and Class Members seek
21 compensatory, injunctive, and equitable relief in an amount to be determined at trial.

22 69. Pursuant to CDAFA Section 502(e)(2), Plaintiff and Class Members seek an award
23 of reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

24 70. Pursuant to CDAFA Section 502(e)(4), Plaintiff and Class Members seek punitive
25 or exemplary damages for Google's willful violations of CDAFA.

26 **Count Five**
27 **(Violations of the SCA, 18 U.S.C. § 2701, et seq.)**

28 71. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all preceding paragraphs contained herein.

1 72. The SCA provides a cause of action against any person who “intentionally accesses
2 without authorization a facility through which an electronic communication service is provided,”
3 or any person “who intentionally exceeds an authorization to access that facility; and thereby
4 obtains, alters or prevents authorized access to a wire or electronic communication while it is in
5 electronic storage in such a system.” 18 U.S.C. § 2701(a).

6 73. The SCA defines “electronic storage” as “any temporary, intermediate storage of a
7 wire or electronic communication incidental to the electronic transmission thereof;” and “any
8 storage of such communication by an electronic communication service for purposes of backup
9 protection of such communication.” 18 U.S.C. § 2510(17).

10 74. The SCA defines an “electronic communications service” as “any service which
11 provides to users thereof the ability to send or receive wire or electronic communications.” 18
12 U.S.C. § 2510(15).

13 75. Google intentionally accessed without authorization or intentionally exceeded
14 authorization to access facilities through which an electronic communications services was
15 provided when it used its Gemini AI technology to access the Plaintiff’s and Class Members’
16 Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts for purposes of tracking their private communications.

17 76. The Gmail, Chat, and Meet services utilized by Plaintiff and Class Members on their
18 computing devices provide electronic communications services to Plaintiff and Class Members
19 because they “provide to users thereof the ability to send or receive wire or electronic
20 communications.” 18 U.S.C. § 2510(15).

21 77. The Gmail, Chat, and Meet services to which the Plaintiff and Class Members use
22 or subscribe to provide electronic communication services to Plaintiff and Class Members because
23 they “provide to users thereof the ability to send or receive wire or electronic communications.” 18
24 U.S.C. § 2510(15).

25 78. Neither the Plaintiff and Class Members nor the third parties with whom they
26 communicated with on Gmail, Chat, and Meet authorized the extent of Google’s access to
27 Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ computing devices and Google’s services therein.

28 79. Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Gmail, Chat, and Meet accounts—and the

1 computing devices, applications, and/or web browsers through which they accessed those
2 services—also are facilities under the SCA because they comprise the software necessary for and
3 “through which (the) electronic communications service is provided.”

4 80. Google intentionally accessed Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Gmail, Chat, and
5 Meet accounts without authorization when Google turned on the Gemini AI access to those services
6 without obtaining the consent of the Plaintiff and Class Members.

7 81. Upon information and belief, Google’s acquisition of electronic communications
8 from Plaintiff and Class Members included private communications Plaintiff and Class Members
9 had with third parties that are not affiliated with Google.

10 82. Plaintiff and Class Members were harmed by Google’s violations and, pursuant to
11 18 U.S.C. § 2707(c), are entitled to statutory damages or actual damages, including profits earned
12 by Google attributable to the violations, punitive damages, costs, and reasonable attorney’s fees.

13 **VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

14 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests that judgment be entered against Google and that the
15 Court grant the following:

16 A. An order determining that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule
17 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that Plaintiff is a proper class representative, that
18 Plaintiff’s attorneys shall be appointed as Class counsel pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules
19 of Civil Procedure, and that Class notice be promptly issued;

20 B. Judgment against Google for Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ asserted causes of
21 action;

22 C. Appropriate declaratory relief against Google;

23 D. Injunctive relief in the form of, *inter alia*, an order enjoining Google from
24 continuing its practice of accessing, using, and/or storing Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ private
25 communications without their knowledge or consent in violation of CIPA, CDAFA, and/or SCA;

26 E. Injunctive relief in the form of, *inter alia*, an order enjoining Google from
27 continuing its practice of tracking, recording, and using Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ private
28 communications;

- 1 F. An order awarding Plaintiff and the Class Members damages, special damages,
2 general damages, and restitution;
- 3 G. An order requiring Google to pay punitive damages and exemplary damages;
- 4 H. An order requiring Google to pay pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- 5 I. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs reasonably incurred; and
- 6 J. Any and all other and further relief to which Plaintiff and the Class may be entitled.

7 **IX. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

8 Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable.

9

10 Dated: November 11, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

11 /s/ Tina Wolfson

12 Tina Wolfson (SBN 174806)
twolfson@ahdootwolfson.com
13 Robert Ahdoot (SBN 172098)
rahdoot@ahdootwolfson.com
14 Theodore W. Maya (SBN 223242)
tmaya@ahdootwolfson.com
15 Alyssa D. Brown (SBN 301313)
abrown@ahdootwolfson.com
16 **AHDOOT & WOLFSON, PC**
2600 W. Olive Avenue, Suite 500
17 Burbank, CA 91505-4521
Telephone: 310.474.9111
18 Facsimile: 310.474.8585

19 Bradley K. King (SBN 274399)
bking@ahdootwolfson.com
20 **AHDOOT & WOLFSON, PC**
521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor
21 New York, NY 10175
Telephone: 917.336.0171
22 Facsimile: 917.336.0177

23 *Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class*

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This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [Google Hit with Data Privacy Lawsuit After 'Secretly' Turning On Gemini AI for All Users](#)
