IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI EASTERN DIVISION

EDGAR SMITH, on behalf of)	
himself and all others similarly)	
situated,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No. 2:21-cv-53-KS-MTP
)	
GOOGLE, LLC and GOOGLE)	
PAYMENT CORP.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

STATEWIDE CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Edgar Smith, on behalf of himself and others similarly situated, brings this action against defendants Google LLC and Google Payment Corporation (hereafter "Google"), to recover money lost to illegal gambling pursuant to Section 87-1-5 of the Code of Mississippi. See also Miss. Code §§ 97-33-1 et seq. Apple promotes, enables, and profits from games downloaded from its App Store and played by numerous Mississippi residents that constitute illegal gambling under the statutory law and the strong public policy of the state of Mississippi. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff Edgar Smith is an adult resident citizen of the state of Mississippi, residing in Forrest County, Mississippi.

- 2. Defendant Google LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in Mountain View, California. Google LLC is the primary operating subsidiary of the publicly traded holding company Alphabet Inc. Google LLC does business by agent in this state, district, and division.
- 3. Defendant Google Payment Corp. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Mountain View, California. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of defendant Google LLC. Google Payment Corp. provides in-app payment processing services to Android app developers and Android users, collecting a 30% commission on most in-app purchases such as the ones made the basis of this lawsuit. It does business by agent in this state, district, and division. For ease of reference, Google LLC and Google Payment Corp. will be referred to hereinafter collectively as "Google."
- 4. This is a class action brought by Mississippi citizens against a California company. The amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs. Subject matter jurisdiction exists pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d).
- 5. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), because this is a "judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 6. Google is one of the leading technology companies in the world. Its parent company Alphabet Inc. has a market capitalization approaching \$1 trillion. One of its leading businesses stems from its ownership and control of the Android mobile operating system, which is installed on virtually every smart phone and tablet not manufactured by Apple. Nearly all applications that run on the Android operating system are downloaded via the Google Play Store.
- 7. While the Android OS was originally touted as an "open" system that allowed for installation of software applications not controlled by Google, today the truth is quite different. Google has erected contractual and technological barriers that foreclose any competing methods to distribute apps to Android users. As a result, the Google Play Store maintains an almost-total monopoly on the distribution of apps made to run on the Android OS, including in-app purchases. As noted, Google takes up to 30% of all revenue generated by app sales in the Google Play Store and in-app purchases made on apps obtained through the Google Play Store. Millions of software developers make applications for the Android OS that as a practical matter are available only via the Google Play Store.
- 8. Many apps, including those that are the subject of this lawsuit, are initially free to download but contain in-app purchases that a customer can choose to purchase inside the app. Google provides the payment interface for all such

purchases and, as noted, takes a hefty percentage of the money for itself. A 30% processing fee is many times the charge that other payment processors outside the Android ecosystem, such as Western Union, charge for processing such payments.

- 9. The money charged for in-app purchases is paid to Google. An Android customer is required to provide a method of payment, usually a credit or debit card, for all purchases made in the Google Play Store, including in-app purchases. Google then has a contractual obligation to the software developers to remit a portion of the money Google receives from the purchases, typically 70%, to the developers. This contractual arrangement is between Google and the developers who sell products in the Google Play Store. As between plaintiff and the class members and Google, however, all in-app and other purchases involve the payment of money *to Google*, not the developers.
- 10. This case concerns Google's profiting from illegal gambling machine games that it sells in its Google Play Store. Google and its chief mobile software competitor, Apple, both allow customers to purchase games that are no more or no less than casino-style slot machines, casino style table games, and other common gambling games.
- 11. There are numerous such gambling games that Google makes available in the Google Play Store, and there is very little variation on how they work. When a customer downloads the game and opens it for the first time, the customer has a

set number of free starting "coins," for example, 100,000 or 1,000,000, to play the slots. The games themselves work precisely like a casino slot machine or other games in Las Vegas. In addition to slots, customers can play blackjack, roulette, poker, keno, bingo, and other card and gambling games. A loss results in a loss of "coins," but the customer has the chance to win more coins. Eventually a customer runs out of coins, and is prompted to use real money to buy more coins for the opportunity to keep playing the game. Hundreds of such games exist. The 200 most downloaded games are in the following table:

	Slotomania™ Free Slots: Casino Slot		Bingo Adventure-Free casino game with bingo
	Machine Games	101	bonus
	Jackpot Party Casino Games: Spin FREE		
2	Casino Slots	102	Superb Casino - HD Free Slots Games
	Cash Frenzy™ Casino – Free Slots		
3	Games	103	FoxwoodsONLINE - Free Casino
	POP! Slots ™- Play Vegas Casino Slot		Gambino Slots: Free Online Casino Slot
4	Machines!	104	Machines
	Cashman Casino: Vegas Slot Machines!		
5	2M Free!	105	Blazing 7s™ Casino Slots - Free Slots Online
6	DoubleU Casino - Free Slots	106	Bravo Casino- Free Vegas Slots
			Baba Wild Slots - Slot machines Vegas Casino
7	Vegas Slots - DoubleDown Casino	107	Games
	House of Fun™: Free Slots & Casino		
8	Slots Machines	108	VegasStar™ Casino - FREE Slots
	Lotsa Slots - Free Vegas Casino Slot		Grand Win Casino - Hot Vegas Jackpot Slot
9	Machines	109	Machine
	Huuuge Casino Slots - Slot Machines		
	777	110	MONOPOLY Bingo!
	Slots: Heart of Vegas™ – Free Slot		
11	Casino Games	111	Texas HoldEm Poker Deluxe
	Big Fish Casino - Play Slots and Casino		Vegas World Casino: Free Slots & Slot Machines
	Games	112	777
	Lightning Link Casino: Free Vegas Slots!		
13	10M Bonus	113	Casino X - Free Online Slots
			Lucky Play Casino – Free Las Vegas Slots
14	Caesars Casino: Free Slots Games	114	Machines

15	Wizard of Oz Free Slots Casino	115	Bingo Holiday: Free Bingo Games
	Hit it Rich! Lucky Vegas Casino Slot		
16	Machine Game	116	Bingo City 75: Free Bingo & Vegas Slots
	Quick Hit Casino Games - Free Casino		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
17	Slots Games	117	Real Casino - Free Vegas Casino Slot Machines
	Billionaire Casino Slots - Slot Machines		
18	777	118	Double Win Vegas - FREE Slots and Casino
	Jackpot Magic Slots™: Social Casino &		
19	Slot Games	119	DoubleX Casino - Free Slots
	Gold Fish Casino Slots - FREE Slot		
20	Machine Games	120	Lucky Draw - 3D Casino Slots
	Scatter Slots - Hot Vegas Slot Machines		Slot Bonanza - Free casino slot machine game
21	Casino 777	121	_
	myVEGAS Slots - Las Vegas Casino Slot		Real Casino Vegas:777 Classic Slots & Casino
22	Machines		Games
	Zynga Poker – Free		
23	Texas Holdem Online Card Games	123	Wheel of Fortune Slots Casino
	Game of Thrones Slots Casino - Slot		
24	Machine Games	124	WinStar Online Casino & eGames
	Jackpot Mania™ - DAFU Casino Vegas		Stardust Casino Slots – FREE Vegas Slot
25	Slots		Machines
	my KONAMI Slots - Free Vegas Casino		World Poker Tour - PlayWPT Free
26	Slot Machines	126	Texas Holdem Poker
	Bingo Pop - Live Multiplayer Bingo		
27	Games for Free	127	Epic Diamond Slots – Free Vegas Slot Machines
	Club Vegas: Online Slot Machines with		Quick Cash Classic Slots - Free Vegas Slots
28	Bonus Games	128	Games
	MONOPOLY Slots Free Slot Machines &		Win Vegas x NASCAR: 777 Classic Slots, Free
29	Casino Games	129	Casino
30	Cash Tornado Slots - Vegas Casino Slots	130	Magic Vegas Casino: Slots Machine
	_		mychoice casino jackpot slots + free casino
31	Willy Wonka Slots Free Casino	131	games
	Vegas Live Slots : Free Casino Slot		
32	Machine Games	132	Vegas Casino Slots 2020 - 2,000,000 Free Coins
	GSN Casino: Play casino games- slots,		
33	poker, bingo	133	Slots Vacation - FREE Slots
	88 Fortunes - Casino Games & Free Slot		Slots Billionaire: Free Slots Casino Games
34	Machines	134	Offline
	Bingo Journey - Lucky & Free Bingo		
35	Games	135	The Big Jackpot
36	Slots (Golden HoYeah) - Casino Slots	136	DoubleDown Classic Slots - FREE Vegas Slots!
	Neverland Casino Slots 2020 - Social		
37	Slots Games	137	Buffalo 5-Reel Deluxe - Free Classic Slots Casino
	Cash Mania Slots - Free Slots Casino		
38	Games	138	Best Casino Slots - 777 Vegas Slots Games

1	Classic Slots-Free Casino Games & Slot		
	Machines	139	Video Poker - Classic Casino Games Free Offline
33	Tycoon Casino™: Free Vegas Jackpot	133	Video i okci - classic casino dames i rec omine
40	Slots	140	Play Las Vegas - Casino Slots
10	Jackpot Slot Machines - Slots Era™	110	Vegas Night Slots - HOT&FREE VEGAS CASINO
41	Vegas Casino	1/11	GAMES
	Double Win Casino Slots - Real Vegas	171	Full House Casino - Free Vegas Slots Machine
	Night Slots	1/12	Games
42	INGITE SIOES	142	Ultimate Slots: 2019 Vegas Casino Slot
/13	Vegas Friends - Casino Slots for Free	1/12	Machines
	Hot Shot Casino: Free Casino Games &	173	ividenines
	Blazing Slots	1//	Let's Vegas Slots
	High 5 Casino: The Home of Fun & Free	144	Let's vegas siots
	Vegas Slots	1/15	Bingo 90 Live: Vegas Slots & Free Bingo
	 	143	biligo 30 Live. Vegas Slots & Free biligo
	Rock N' Cash Casino Slots -Free Vegas Slot Games	1/16	Slots of Vegas
	Ignite Classic Slots	14/	Lucky Lottery Scratchers
	Casino Slots DoubleDown Fort Knox	4.40	
48	Free Vegas Games	148	San Manuel Slots
40	5 5 6	4.40	Diamond Sky Casino – Classic Vegas Slots &
	Bingo Blaze - Free Bingo Games	149	Lottery
	Winning Slots	4=0	Best Bet Casino™ Best Free Slots & Casino
	casino games:free vegas slot machine	150	Games
	Huge Win Slots - Real Casino Slots in		
	Vegas Nights	151	Vegas Craps by Pokerist
	Double Rich - Hottest Vegas Casino	4-0	
52	Slots Games	152	Vegas Slots Galaxy Free Slot Machines
			Slots: FREE Vegas Slot Machines - 7Heart
53	Slots Casino - Jackpot Mania	153	Casino!
	Jackpot Fever – Free Vegas Slot		麻將 明星3缺1麻將-台灣16張麻將
-	Machines	154	Mahjong 、SLOT、Poker
	Slots™ - Classic Slots Las Vegas Casino		Woohoo Slots: Play Free Casino Slot Machine
55	Games	155	Games
	Wild Classic Slots™ - Best Wild Casino		
56	Games	156	Slots™
	Casino Jackpot Slots - Infinity Slots™		
57	777 Game	157	Casino Frenzy - Free Slots
58	星城Online	158	Manly Slots: Slots for Men
	Stars Slots Casino - Vegas Slot		
59	Machines	159	Spin 4 Win Slots - Real Vegas for Senior Slot Fan
	Wynn Slots - Online Las Vegas Casino		Multi-Strike Poker ™ Free Multi-Play Video
60	Games	160	Poker
	Bingo: Lucky Bingo Games Free to Play		
61	at Home	161	Seminole Social Casino
	Clubillion™- Vegas Slot Machines and		Ellen's Road to Riches Slots & Casino Slot
62	Casino Games	162	Games

63	Coin Dozer: Sweepstakes	163	Players Paradise Casino Slots - Fun Free Slots!
	Lucky Time Slots Online - Free Slot		
	Machine Games	164	SLOTS GRAPE - Free Slots and Table Games
	Show Me Vegas Slots Casino Free Slot		
65	Machine Games	165	Bingo PartyLand 2 - Free Bingo Games
	Bingo Frenzy! Bingo Cooking Free Live		Star Spins Slots: Vegas Casino Slot Machine
66	BINGO Games	166	Games
	Cash Storm Casino - Online Vegas Slots		Slots! CashHit Slot Machines & Casino Games
67	Games	167	Party
	Slots: DoubleHit Slot Machines Casino		
	& Free Games	168	DoubleU Bingo - Free Bingo
	FaFaFa™ Gold Casino: Free slot		
69	machines	169	VIDEO POKER OFFLINE FREE!
70	SLOTS - Black Diamond Casino	170	Poker Night in America
	NEW SLOTS 2020 — free casino games &		Super Jackpot Slots - Vegas Casino Slot
	slot machines	171	Machines
	Bingo ClubPop bingo games online		
72	with numbers	172	City of Dreams Slots - Free Slot Casino Games
	Cash Blitz - Free Slot Machines & Casino		
73	Games	173	Sunny's Rooster Reels
74	Bingo Drive – Free Bingo Games to Play	174	Vegas Deluxe Slots:Free Casino
	Vegas Downtown Slots™ - Slot		
75	Machines & Word Games	175	Binion's Casino
	Old Vegas Slots – Classic Slots Casino		
76	Games	176	CLUE Bingo!
	Jackpotjoy Slots: Slot machines with		
	Bonus Games	177	OMG! Fortune Slots - Grand Casino Games
	HighRoller Vegas - Free Slots & Casino	470	(Taran Baran Bahan)
/8	Games 2020	1/8	بوکر تکساس بویا (Texas Boya Poker)
70	Golden Tiger Slots - Online Casino	170	Bingo Infinity™ - Free Casino Slots & Bingo
	Game		Games
	ManganDahen Casino - Free Slot		777 Slots - Free Vegas Slots!
81	Coin Trip	181	Coin Dozer: Casino
000	Golden Casino: Free Slot Machines &	400	Bit To a Line Bit of G
	Casino Games	182	Bingo Town - Live Bingo Games for Free Online
	Free Slot Machines & Casino Games -	102	High Ballin! Vagas Slats
	Mystic Slots		High Rollin' Vegas Slots
	The Walking Dead: Free Casino Slots		Lucky North Casino- Free Slots
	Take5 Free Slots – Real Vegas Casino		Lucky Win Casino™- FREE SLOTS
	DH Texas Poker - Texas Hold'em	186	NPlay Pro
	Gold Fortune Casino™ - Free Vegas		
87	Slots	187	Lucky Duck Slots
88	ZitoBox	188	Slots Free - Vegas Casino Slot Machines
	Grand Jackpot Slots - Pop Vegas Casino		
89	Free Games	189	Tongits Go - The Best Card Game Online

			Play To Win: Win Real Money in Cash
90	Video Poker Classic Free	190	Sweepstakes
	Jackpot Planet - a New Adventure of		
91	Slots Games	191	Dragon 88 Gold Slots - Free Slot Casino Games
92	Slingo Arcade: Bingo Slots Game	192	777 Classic Slots: Free Vegas Casino Games
	Super Win Slots - Real Vegas Hot Slot		
93	Machines	193	Link It Rich! Hot Vegas Casino Slots FREE
	GSN Grand Casino – Play Free Slot		
94	Machines Online	194	Golden Wins Casino Slots
			Slots on Tour Casino - Vegas Slot Machine
95	Hard Rock Social Casino	195	Games HD
96	Slots Free - Big Win Casino™	196	Cash Fever Slots™-Vegas Casino
	Epic Jackpot Slots - Free Vegas Casino		Teen Patti Gold - 3 Patti, Rummy, Poker Card
97	Games	197	Game
	Slots Pharaoh's Way Casino Games &		
98	Slot Machine	198	HD Poker: Texas Holdem Online Casino Games
			Cashmania Slots 2020: Free Vegas Casino Slot
99	GamePoint Bingo - Free Bingo Games	199	Game
100	Vegas Slots: Deluxe Casino	200	Live Poker Tables–Texas holdem and Omaha

- 12. Plaintiff Edgar Smith downloaded and played one of these casino-style gambling games. Prior to November of 2019 he downloaded Pop Slots from the Google Play Store. Dirong that month, he began purchasing coins through the app so he could continue to play for a chance to win free coins that would enable him to enjoy the game for a longer period of time. In the six months prior to the filing of this complaint, he paid \$13.22 to Google for the privilege of continuing to play the illegal gambling game.
- 13. A customer such as plaintiff does not have the ability to collect actual cash as a result of "winning" games, but he does have the ability to win and therefore acquire more playing time. Mississippi courts have made it clear that the state's

gambling statutes make clear that paying money in a game for a chance to win more playing time constitutes illegal gambling. See, e.g., Mississippi Gaming Com'n v. Henson, 800 So. 2d 110, 114 (Miss. 2001) (finding that machine that allowed players to accumulate credits to continue playing was a slot machine under the definitions of the Mississippi Gaming Control Act, Miss. Code. Ann. 75-76-1 et seq.) Thus, a game where a patron pays money for the chance to win more playing time without charge violates Mississippi law.

14. Google is not some minor or incidental participant in these illegal gambling games. It is the principal promoter and facilitator of the illegal activity. Google maintains dictatorial control over what apps can be downloaded from the Google Play Store, and the payment method to purchase in-app items. As the maker of the Fortnite game alleged in a recent antitrust injunction lawsuit against Google:

Google has eliminated competition in the distribution of Android apps using myriad contractual and technical barriers. Google's actions force app developers and consumers into. Google's own monopolized "app store"—the Google Play Store. Google has thus installed itself as an unavoidable middleman for app developers who wish to reach Android users and vice versa. Google uses this monopoly power to impose a tax that siphons monopoly profits for itself every time an app developer transacts with a consumer for the sale of an app or in-app content

Complaint for Injunctive Relief, <u>Epic Games v. Google LLC</u>, et al, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, August 13, 2020, C3:20-cv-05671 ¶ 10 (copy attached). As noted, Google uses its unfettered control over

apps played on the Android OS to extract a hefty 30% tax on all purchases made to buy apps or in-app content such as "coins" to gamble with.

- 15. The tokens purchased by Plaintiff and other users are purchased directly from Google and the money is paid to google. The only purpose of these tokens is to allow users to gamble in the games. They have no other value. Furthermore, the gambling function of the app cannot exist without Google facilitating sale of the tokens. The app cannot directly sell the ability to gamble for more time to users; Google's sale of the tokens is a necessary step to facilitate gambling.
- 16. Google has the ability, which it has employed on other apps, to georestrict games so that they can only be played in certain states. In fact, with cash-out gambling games it regularly restricts those game so that they can only be played in states where that type of gambling is legal. Google has also restricted gambling games such as the ones made the basis of this lawsuit so that minors cannot download or play them. It has the ability with existing technology it currently uses to prevent the games at issue here from being played in this state.
- 17. Google's Play Store is not just a venue to buy Android apps. It is a promotional tool. Google heavily promotes apps, such as the illegal gambling games that form the basis of this complaint, that promise to bring in revenue. Revenue from the Google Play Store is the reason Google is such a dominant force in the technology world.

18. Thus, Google enables, permits, promotes, and profits from illegal gambling.

MISSISSIPPI LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- 19. Mississippi has a strong public policy against gambling in this state. The state's strong public policy against gambling includes a statutory right of persons who spend money on gambling to recover their money.
- 20. The Mississippi criminal laws pertaining to gambling are codified at Sections 97-33-1 through 97-33-49 of the Mississippi Code Annotaded. Mississippi law bans not only gambling, but also the promotion and encouragement of gambling. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-33-1. In addition, the creation, possession, or display of any slot machine or similar device is also prohibited. Miss. Code Ann. § 97-33-7.
- 21. In addition, the Mississippi Gaming Control Act, which regulates all gambling in the state, is codified at §75-76-1 et seq. This act states where, when, and how specified types of gambling are allowed, and does not authorize any form of online gaming in the state. The Act also contains several relevant definitions:
 - (c) "Associated equipment" means any equipment or mechanical, electromechanical or electronic contrivance, component or machine used remotely or directly in connection with gaming or with any game, race book or sports pool that would not otherwise be classified as a gaming device, including dice, playing cards, links which connect to progressive slot machines, equipment which affects the proper reporting of gross revenue, computerized systems of betting at a race book or sports pool, computerized systems for monitoring slot machines, and devices for weighing or counting money.

Miss. Code. Ann. § 75-76-5(c).

(m) "Gaming device" means any mechanical, electromechanical or electronic contrivance, component or machine used in connection with gaming or any game which affects the result of a wager by determining win or loss. The term includes a system for processing information which can alter the normal criteria of random selection, which affects the operation of any game, or which determines the outcome of a game. The term does not include a system or device which affects a game solely by stopping its operation so that the outcome remains undetermined, and does not include any antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12.

Miss. Code. Ann. § 75-76-5(m).

(ff) "Slot machine" means any mechanical, electrical or other device, contrivance or machine which, upon insertion of a coin, token or similar object, or upon payment of any consideration, is available to play or operate, the play or operation of which, whether by reason of the skill of the operator or application of the element of chance, or both, may deliver or entitle the person playing or operating the machine to receive cash, premiums, merchandise, tokens or anything of value, whether the payoff is made automatically from the machine or in any other manner. The term does not include any antique coin machine as defined in Section 27-27-12.

Miss. Code. Ann. § 75-76-5(ff).

22. The Mississippi Gaming Control Act also makes it illegal for any entity not expressly licensed by the state to "To deal, operate, carry on, conduct, maintain or expose for play in the State of Mississippi any gambling game, including without limitation any gaming device, slot machine, race book, or sports pool." Miss. Code Ann. § 76-75-55(1)(a).

- 23. As already noted, gambling is not limited under Mississippi law to the situation where one plays, bets, or wagers in the hopes of winning actual cash money. Rather, the Mississippi Supreme Court has specifically found that accumulating credits to continue playing could be a form of gambling. Mississippi Gaming Com'n v. Henson, 800 So. 2d 110, 114 (Miss. 2001). As a matter of law, paying money to get "coins" one bets hoping to win more "coins" so as to gain the "privilege of playing at a game or scheme without charge" is gambling a thing of value under Mississippi law.
- 24. Mississippi provides a statutory civil cause of action to recover money paid and lost due to gambling. Section 87-1-5 of the Mississippi Code Annotated provides:

If any person, by playing at any game whatever, or by betting on the sides or hands of such as do play at any game, or by betting on any horse race or cockfight, or at any other sport or pastime, or by any wager whatever, shall lose any money, property, or other valuable thing, real or personal, and shall pay or deliver the same or any part thereof, the person so losing and paying or delivering the same, or his wife or children, may sue for and recover such money, property, or other valuable thing so lost and paid or delivered, or any part thereof, from the person knowingly receiving the same, with costs.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

25. Plaintiff seeks to certify and represent a class pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The class sought to be certified is:

All Mississippi residents who downloaded, played, and paid money for additional coins within games from the Google Play Store that featured slots, roulette, blackjack, poker, keno, craps, and other kinds of casinostyle gambling games, bingo, or simulations thereof, where the player had a chance to win coins or other means to play for additional periods of time, during a period commencing six months before the filing of this complaint and continuing to a date to be set by the Court following certification. All employees of the Court, and plaintiff's counsel and their families are excluded.

- 26. This class action satisfies the numerosity requirement of Rule 23(a)(1) because joinder of all members of the plaintiff class is impracticable. There are thousands of Mississippi residents who are members of the class.
- 27. It also satisfies the commonality requirement of Rule 23(a)(2) because there are central questions of fact and law that are common to the class. Such common questions include, at a minimum, (a) whether these virtually identical gambling games sold through the App Store violate Mississippi's prohibition of illegal gambling; (b) whether gambling for additional play-time is a thing of value under Alabama law; (c) whether Google promoted gambling through its participation in the sale of in-app purchases through the Google Play Store; (d) whether Google participated in a conspiracy to promote gambling; and (e) whether plaintiff and the class members are entitled to recover their money pursuant to Section 87-1-5 of the Mississippi Code Annotated.
- 28. The proposed class satisfies the typicality requirement of Rule 23(a)(3) because the named plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class members.

Both plaintiff and the class members lost money in an effort to win additional playtime on these illegal gambling games.

- 29. The named plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class pursuant to Rule 23(a)(4). Plaintiff has no interests that conflict with the interests of the class. Furthermore, plaintiff has retained competent and experienced counsel with decades of experience litigating class cases.
- 30. Plaintiff seeks certification of a class pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3), which allows class treatment of a claim where:
 - (3) the court finds that the questions of law or fact common to class members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and that a class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy. The matters pertinent to these findings include:
 - (A) the class members' interests in individually controlling the prosecution or defense of separate actions;
 - **(B)** the extent and nature of any litigation concerning the controversy already begun by or against class members;
 - (C) the desirability or undesirability of concentrating the litigation of the claims in the particular forum; and
 - (**D**) the likely difficulties in managing a class action.
- 31. The common questions of law and fact in this case vastly predominate over any individual issues affecting only individual class members. The *only* individual issue presented by these class members is the exact amount of money damages to which each class member is entitled. Such damages issues are routinely

held not to predominate over common questions in cases like this. Indeed, the individual damages issues will be quickly and accurately determined by examining Google's own records.

- 32. Class treatment is by far superior to individual litigation as a fair and efficient way to adjudicate this controversy. Given the relatively small individual amounts at issue, it unlikely whether there would be any adjudication at all without use of the class device. No individual class member would rationally commence and prosecute a lawsuit where the individual amount in controversy likely would not exceed the filing fees.
- 33. For this reason, none of the class members have any interest in controlling the prosecution of separate actions.
- 34. Likewise, to our knowledge, no class member has already commenced an action concerning this controversy.
- 35. It would much more desirable to concentrate this case in one action rather than allow the prosecution of individual actions because, as noted, such individual actions would likely never be filed because there would be no motivation for any individual class member to file an individual suit.
- 36. We foresee no particular difficulties in managing this case as a class action because 100% of the necessary information to compensate the individual class

members is contained in Google's own records concerning purchases made through the Google Play Store.

COUNT I: GAMBLING RECOVERY UNDER MISSISSIPPI LAW

37. Plaintiff, on his own behalf and on behalf of those similarly situated, seek recovery of all sums paid through in-app purchases in these games made through the Google Play Store pursuant to Section 87-1-5 of the Mississippi Code Annotated.

COUNT II: VIOLATION OF 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c)

- 38. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the factual material previously stated in this complaint.
- 39. The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO"), codified at 18 U.S.C. Chapter 96, prohibits any person from using racketeering activity or the collection of unlawful debt to maintain an interest in any enterprise engaged in interstate or foreign commerce. 18 U.S.C. § 1962(b).
- 40. Under RICO, an enterpriseias "any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, and any union or group of individuals associated in fact, although not a legal entity."
- 41. Together with the developers who create the casino-style gaming apps available on the Google Play Store, the google Defendants form an association-in-

fact that has a common purpose and has existed throughout the time period at issue in this Complaint.

- 42. As an entity holding legal interest in property, Google is, and at all relevant times has been, a "person" as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1961(3).
- 43. The statute, in 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1), defines racketeering activity to include any act indictable under 18 U.S.C. § 1955.
- 44. 18 U.S.C. § 1961 defines "unlawful debt" to include debt "incurred or contracted in gambling activity which was in violation of the law of the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof..." 18 U.S.C. § 1961(6).
- 45. 18 U.S.C. § 1955 prohibits conducting, financing or otherwise participating in illegal gambling businesses, which include those that violate state law, involve five or more persons, and remain in operation in excess of thirty days.
- 46. Google's participation in the scheme described above, including its predicate violations of state law, violates Section 1955 and its maintenance of the enterprise existing between itself and the gambling apps is unlawful under RICO, because Google maintains its interest in this enterprise through racketeering activity and the collection of illegal debt. 18 U.S.C. § 1962(b).
- 47. Google's conduct has caused Plaintiff and member of the class to be deprived of money and property. Under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c), Plaintiff and the Class

are entitled to treble their damages, plus interest, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, plaintiff asks the Court to:

- 1. Take jurisdiction of this cause;
- 2. Following discovery, certify this case as a class action pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3);
- 3. Appoint the undersigned as Class Counsel and the named plaintiff as class representative;
- 4. Enter a final judgment against Google awarding plaintiff and the class members a refund of all money paid through the illegal gambling games described herein and awarding treble damages under RICO;
- 5. Award Class Counsel reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses to be paid out of the judgment in favor of the class;
- 6. Award the named plaintiff a reasonable sum of money for his services in this case on behalf of the class, also to be paid out of the judgment in favor of the class;
- 7. Award interest and costs; and
- 8. Award any other relief to which the Court finds plaintiff and the class are entitled.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff and all others similarly situated hereby demand trial by jury on all issues in this Petition that are so triable as a matter of right.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of April, 2021.

/s/ Christopher J. Weldy
Attorney for Plaintiff

OF COUNSEL:

Christopher J. Weldy, MSB#103995 WELDY LAW FIRM, PLLC 1438 North State Street Jackson, Mississippi 39202

Telephone: 601.624.4850 Facsimile: 866.900.4850

Email: chris@weldylawfirm.com

John E. Norris (pro hac vice anticipated)
Dargan M. Ware (pro hac vice anticipated)
DAVIS & NORRIS, LLP
2154 Highland Avenue South
Birmingham, Alabama 35205

Telephone: 205.930.9900 Facsimile: 205.930.9989

Email: jnorris@davisnorris.com Email: dware@davisnorris.com

Case 2:21-cv-00053-KS (ATH) LOGO MER SHEETE 0 04:213/2153 F/Sg MTBf 1

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil de										
l. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS						
EDGAR SMITH, on behalf of himself and all other				GOOGLE, LLC and GOOGLE PAYMENT CORP.						
similarly situated										
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff FORREST				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant SANTA CLARA						
(E)	CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	(SF.S)		NOTE: IN LAND		AINTIFF CASES OF ON CASES, USE TH		OF		
					CT OF LAND IN		IE LOCATION	Jr.		
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Numbe	r)		Attorneys (If Known)						
Christopher J. V	Veldy, Weldy Law Fi	rm. 1438 N. State	,							
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	MS 39202; 601-624									
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)		FIZENSHIP OF 1 (For Diversity Cases Only			Place an "X" in C nd One Box for D		r Plaintif	
1 U.S. Government	x 3 Federal Question				PTF DEF	u	nu one Box joi L	PTF	DEF	
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	Citize	n of This State	1 1 1	Incorporated or Pri		4	4	
						of Business In T	nis State	_		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	n of Another State	2 2	Incorporated and P		5	5	
Detendant	(maicate Cittzensni	ip of raries in nem iii)				of Business In Another State			_	
					3 3	Foreign Nation		6	6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Plana an "Y" in One Pay On	als.)	Tol	eign Country	Click here f	Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.				
CONTRACT		RTS	FO	RFEITURE/PENALTY		KRUPTCY		STATUTI		
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	Y 62.	5 Drug Related Seizure		eal 28 USC 158	375 False C			
120 Marine 130 Miller Act	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	169	of Property 21 USC 881 O Other		drawal JSC 157	376 Qui Tar 3729(a			
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/	P	Other		157	400 State R	,,	ment	
150 Recovery of Overpayment	320 Assault, Libel &	Pharmaceutical				TY RIGHTS	410 Antitrus			
& Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act	Slander 330 Federal Employers'	Personal Injury Product Liability			820 Copy 830 Pater		430 Banks a 450 Comme		ıg	
152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability	368 Asbestos Personal				nt - Abbreviated	460 Deporta	ation		
Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	340 Marine 345 Marine Product	Injury Product Liability			840 Trade	Drug Application emark	470 Racketo	Organizat		
153 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability	PERSONAL PROPERT	-	LABOR		nd Trade Secrets	480 Consum	ner Credit		
of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending	H ⁷¹¹	9 Fair Labor Standards Act	Acto	of 2016	(15 US) 485 Telepho	C 1681 or		
190 Other Contract	Product Liability	380 Other Personal	72	D Labor/Management	SOCIAL	SECURITY	Protect		iller	
195 Contract Product Liability	360 Other Personal	Property Damage	F.,	Relations	861 НТА	,	490 Cable/S		41.1	
196 Franchise	Injury 362 Personal Injury -	385 Property Damage Product Liability		Railway Labor Act Family and Medical		k Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g))	850 Securiti Exchan		dities/	
	Medical Malpractice			Leave Act	864 SSID	Title XVI	x 890 Other S	tatutory A	ctions	
210 Land Condemnation	440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus:		Other Labor Litigation Employee Retirement	865 RSI ((405(g))	891 Agricul 893 Environ		nttere	
220 Foreclosure	441 Voting	463 Alien Detainee	P'	Income Security Act	FEDERA	L TAX SUITS	895 Freedor			
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	442 Employment	510 Motions to Vacate				s (U.S. Plaintiff	Act			
240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence 530 General				efendant) Third Party	896 Arbitrat 899 Admini		ocedure	
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	535 Death Penalty		IMMIGRATION	26 U	JSC 7609		view or App		
	Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Other: 540 Mandamus & Othe	46.	Naturalization ApplicatiOther Immigration	ion		Agency 950 Constitu	Decision	of	
	Other	550 Civil Rights	" H	Actions			State Sta	-	/1	
	448 Education	555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee -								
		Conditions of								
V ODICIN (D) ((V'))	0 0 0 1	Confinement								
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in x 1 Original 2 Rer		Remanded from	74 Reins	tated or 5 Trans	sferred from [6 Multidistri	ct 🗆 8	Multidist	trict	
	te Court	Appellate Court	Reop	ened Anoth (spec	her District Lify)	Litigation - Transfer		Litigation Direct Fi	n -	
NI CANOD OF ACTIV	Class Action Fairness	tute under which you are Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §		o not cite jurisdictional s	statutes unless div	ersity):				
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of ca Class Action against G									
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2:	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.	DI	EMAND \$		HECK YES only i	f demanded in	complain	nt:	
VIII. RELATED CASE	E(S)									
IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE										
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD Charles Welling Charles Charl										
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AM	10UNT \$402 00	APPLYING IFP	-	JUDGE	0.	MAG. JUD	OGE D 1			
AN	10UNT_\$402.00			JUDGE	Starrett		^{OGE} Parke	≥r		

0538-4529554