December 20, 2024

E-Filed

The Honorable Thomas S. Hixson United States District Court for the Northern District of California San Francisco Courthouse, Courtroom E – 15th Floor 450 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Kadrey et al. v. Meta Platforms, Inc.; Case No. 3:23-cv-03417-VC-TSH

Dear Judge Hixson:

The parties jointly submit this letter brief on Plaintiffs' crime-fraud challenge to Meta's claims of attorney-client privilege in redacted and withheld documents identified in Meta's Third Privilege Log (Email), Third Privilege Log (Non-Email), and Fourth Privilege Log served on December 13 and 16. The parties met and conferred on December 17 but were unable to reach a resolution.

I. **PLAINTIFFS' POSITION**

Two hours before the close of fact discovery on December 13, 2024, Meta produced its third set of privilege logs. Meta also produced a fourth privilege log on December 16. These logs reveal that Meta has redacted or withheld almost 2,000 documents since early October. Plaintiffs separately challenge whether many of these documents are privileged at all, but even assuming they are, many are communications with counsel in furtherance of copyright infringement, DMCA violations, and CDAFA violations and therefore must be produced under the crime-fraud doctrine.

A. The Crime-Fraud Doctrine.

Attorney-client communications lose protection "when the client consults the attorney to further the commission of a crime or fraud." In re Grand Jury Proceedings, 87 F.3d 377, 381 (9th Cir. 1996). A party can invoke the crime-fraud exception where it shows (1) "the client was engaged in or planning a criminal or fraudulent scheme when it sought the advice of counsel to further the scheme" and (2) communications are "in furtherance of" and "sufficiently related to" the illegality. *Id.* at 380–81. Courts in this Circuit routinely apply the exception even in cases where no crime or fraud is directly alleged in the plaintiffs' claims. See, e.g., In re Animation Workers Antitrust Litig., 2016 WL 8198907, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 23, 2016) (applying the crime-fraud exception to a civil antitrust claim). The test for crime-fraud asks only if there is "reasonable cause to believe that the attorney's services were utilized . . . in furtherance of the ongoing unlawful scheme." In re Grand Jury, 87 F.3d at 381 (quotations omitted). And the standard for in camera review is even lower. It requires only "a minimal showing that the crime-fraud exception could apply." E.g., United States v. Christensen, 828 F.3d 763, 800 (9th Cir. 2015) (emphasis added).

Further, application of crime-fraud doesn't require that the in-house counsel involved be aware that their "advice may further an illegal purpose." United States v. Laurins, 857 F.2d 529, 540 (9th Cir. 1988). Rather, the client's intent to violate the law and reliance on counsel in furtherance of doing so is sufficient to overcome privilege. See In re Grand Jury, 87 F.3d at 381.1

B. Meta's In-House Counsel Engaged In and Advised Meta On Its Illegal Activity.

(downloaded and distributed) copyrighted works in pirated datasets (violating CDAFA), stripped works of CMI to conceal their copyrighted status (violating the DMCA), and used them to train Llama (violating the Copyright Act). Meta engaged its in-house counsel to approve, conceal, and justify this illegal scheme. An NYT article produced earlier in discovery, entitled "How Tech Giants Cut Corners to Harvest Data for A.I.," describes significant in-house counsel involvement in Meta's copyright infringement scheme. Dkt. 262-8. As the Times explained, "some of the company's business development leaders, engineers and lawyers met nearly daily [and] talked about how they had summarized books, essays and other works from the internet without permission and discussed sucking up more, even if that meant facing lawsuits." *Id.* at 8. Recordings of internal Meta meetings made clear that in-house counsel was not only aware that Meta was using copyrighted data, but that they were involved in planning how to do so.

Meta attempts to withhold infected communications under the guise of privilege, including:

¹ Meta's fair use defense is not relevant to the crime-fraud inquiry. Its argument that this was fair use after the fact cannot negate a prima facie showing of crime-fraud. If the mere fact that Meta raised a defense to Plaintiffs' claim was sufficient to defeat the crime-fraud exception, then the exception would be overwhelmed. Any abuse of the attorney-client relationship could be concealed simply by raising a defense.

• Meta_Kadrey_00211699. This document contains admissions that	
 Meta_Kadrey_00218543. This document appears to be notes from a January 20 meeting that Mark Zuckerberg attended. It is heavily redacted, including a large sect titled "Legal Escalations." Immediately after that section the document stated and 	ion
Meta_Kadrey_00204235. Jelmer Van Der Linde The next sentence is redacted. Two messages later, he says Mela	nie
Kambadur suggested	
In Meta_Kadrey_211852, Van Der Linde admits, between redacted messag	es,
Meta_Kadrey_00209314. In this email chain with the subject line	
a Meta employee states that she wants to "flag an ist that's going to be significantly gnarly." Then the next seven pages are entirely redacted	
Meta_Kadrey_00218170. Joelle Pineau responds to Eleonora Presani's statement to Ms. Pineau then as followed by a redacted sentence.	ks,
Meta_Kadrey_00204223. In this chain, Nikolay Bashlykov expresses concern about	
He says	
A response from David Esiobu is then redacted	1.
Meta_Kadrey_00204218. This document details Meta's CMI removal process:	
Other updates are then redacte	ed.
Meta_Kadrey_00204235. After one redacted message, Van Der Linde says	
 Meta_Kadrey_00232034. This conversation involving Zuckerberg contains signific reductions on the topic of data acquisition and expressly mentions the in-house legal tea 	
The documents show a clear pattern of attorney involvement in an illegal scheme to	.1
and use pirated, copyrighted data. Moreover, while Plaintiffs cannot meaningfully assess content of fully withheld documents, many of the file names and subject lines in Meta's new lo	
are equally incriminating. For example, four log entries literally have the file name Ex. A. Log Nos. 270, 654-56. When asl	
EX A Log Nos 2/U 654-56 When asi	cea

C. Request for In Camera Review.

Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court conduct an *in camera* review of the sampling of documents in **Exhibit A** that Plaintiffs submit are subject to the crime-fraud exception, and then order Meta to (i) produce those documents without redaction and (ii) review its remaining logged documents for any others similarly withheld or redacted, and then produce them without redaction.

about the piracy these documents show Meta and its counsel engaged in, Zuckerberg testified that

Ex. B. Indeed.

II. META'S POSITION

Plaintiffs' motion is based on the outrageous and baseless accusation that Meta employees' consultation with in-house counsel on complex and novel issues of copyright law is not privileged because it was intended to further a crime. Plaintiffs make this assertion notwithstanding that no court has yet adjudicated whether such conduct even amounts to *civil* copyright infringement, and despite Meta's fair use defense, which is the central issue to be decided in this case.² Indeed, Plaintiffs seek to short circuit a decision on the merits altogether, by having this Court decide, in the context of a discovery dispute, that Meta's conduct was *criminal*, which would be required in order to grant Plaintiffs' request and find that Meta somehow *knew* this when it sought legal advice on these matters. No court has ever applied the crime-fraud exception in circumstances like these, and for good reason. The attorney client privilege is intended to foster open communication with lawyers on tough legal questions. That Meta did so here shows conscientiousness, not criminality. Plaintiffs' contrary arguments on rank conjecture do not entitle them to privileged communications or even *in camera* review.

To invoke the crime-fraud exception, Plaintiffs must first show that Meta was engaged in or planning a criminal scheme. *In re Napster, Inc. Copyright Litig.*, 479 F.3d 1078, 1090 (9th Cir. 2007). And even were they to meet that prong (which they do not), they "must [also] demonstrate that the attorney-client communications for which production is sought are 'sufficiently related to' and were made 'in furtherance of [the] intended, or present, continuing illegality." *Id.* In view of the "irreparable consequences of disclosure," *id.*, "hard cases should be resolved in favor of the privilege . . . "*See United States v. Mett*, 178 F.3d 1058, 1065 (9th Cir. 1999).

<u>Plaintiffs have identified no crime or fraud</u>. As an initial matter, of Plaintiffs' four theories of alleged criminal conduct in their motion, three (DMCA, CDAFA, distribution) are the subject of *proposed* amendments to Plaintiffs' complaint. ECF 300-11. None of these theories presently exist in the case, and all fail for the reasons set forth in Meta's opposition. ECF 329.

Plaintiffs' remaining theory—that Meta "used [copyrighted works] to train Llama"—is not a theory of a crime or a fraud. Criminal copyright infringement requires proof both that infringement occurred and that it was willful. 17 U.S.C. § 506. Meta has raised a defense of fair use, which if successful would negate Plaintiffs' claims. But even if Meta's defense fails, a reasonable belief that copying is fair use defeats allegations of willfulness. See Brayton Purcell LLP v. Recordon & Recordon, 361 F. Supp. 2d 1135, 1142 & n. 2 (N.D. Cal. 2005) (citing Princeton Univ. Press v. Mich. Document Servs., Inc., 99 F.3d 1381(6th Cir. 1996) (holding that willfulness did not occur where defendants' belief that their copying constituted fair use was reasonable in light of the unsettled area of law)); see also, VHT, Inc. v. Zillow Grp., Inc., 918 F.3d 723, 748 (9th Cir. 2019) ("[The] alleged infringement does not constitute willfulness so long as one believes reasonably, and in good faith, that he or she is not infringing."). See also, Danjaq LLC v. Sony Corp., 263 F.3d 942, 957-58 (9th Cir. 2001)("[T]he term 'willful' refers to conduct that occurs 'with knowledge that the defendant's conduct constitutes copyright infringement.""); see also 4 Nimmer on Copyright § 14.04[B][3], at 14-53 (Dec. 2000).

Nowhere have Plaintiffs alleged, nor could they, that Meta did not reasonably believe that

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² Plaintiffs, citing no authority, assert that fair use "is not relevant to the crime-fraud inquiry." *Supra* note 1, at 1. This is false, for the reasons discussed below.

its downloading and use of certain datasets for AI training is fair use—an issue that is being tested in multiple lawsuits across the U.S. Critically, to date *no* court or other authority has issued an opinion regarding the legality of the conduct that Plaintiffs brand as a crime or fraud: gathering data from the internet for training AI models, including through ; removing copyright information (along with many other categories of repetitive information) from data prior to AI training to improve model performance; and/or training AI models on copyrighted data. To the contrary, this Court and the U.S. Copyright Office³ have recognized that whether fair use applies to the conduct alleged in this case is a novel question. Plaintiffs certainly have not established such use was not fair. Indeed, even the New York Times article that Plaintiffs cite as supposed support for their crime-fraud allegation describes Meta's genuine belief that its use of copyrighted works is fair. Accordingly, Meta employees' efforts to work with counsel to navigate these issues can in no way be viewed as furthering any unlawful scheme.

Thus, this Court should reject Plaintiffs' effort to invoke the crime-fraud exception because there is no crime or fraud. See United States v. Zolin, 491 U.S. 554, 563 (1989) ("[T]he purpose of the crime-fraud exception... [is] to assure that the 'seal of secrecy' between lawyer and client does not extend to communications 'made for the purpose of getting advice for the commission of a fraud' or crime."); Haines v. Liggett Grp., Inc., 975 F.2d 81, 90 (3d Cir. 1992) ("The communication condemned and unprotected by the attorney-client privilege is advice that is illicit because it gives direction for the commission of future fraud or crime. The advice must relate to future illicit conduct by the client; it is the causa pro causa, the advice that leads to the deed.").

Meta's advice was not sought in furtherance of any crime. Furthermore, the crime-fraud exception "applies only when there is 'reasonable cause to believe that the attorney's services were utilized in furtherance of the ongoing unlawful scheme." *United States v. Martin*, 278 F.3d 988, 1001 (9th Cir. 2002) (citing *In re Grand Jury Proceedings*, 87 F.3d at 381). As explained, there was no crime or fraud, and the inquiry ends there. But even assuming the existence of a crime or a fraud—which there was not—there is zero evidence supporting the notion that Meta employees sought or received legal advice in furtherance of a crime or a fraud.

Put another way, Meta did not know and could not have known that the conduct alleged was a fraud or a crime where no court has ever held that such conduct amounts even to *civil* copyright infringement. Indeed, what Plaintiffs describe as a purported "criminal" scheme here is exactly what the Second Circuit found to constitute fair use in *Authors Guild v. Google, Inc.*, 804 F.3d 202, 229 (2d Cir. 2015). Plaintiffs cite to no case justifying their position that Meta's fair use defense is not applicable. (ECF 262, at 9 n.9.) Here, a finding of fair use would wholly negate a finding of copyright infringement. 17 U.S.C. § 107 ("[T]he fair use of a copyrighted work . . . is not an infringement of copyright."). And fair use is the central issue in this case.

In cases like this, where there is an open question regarding the legality of the conduct at issue, Meta did what all clients should do: it sought guidance from its lawyers. Meta should not be punished for doing so, and this basic tenet that underlies the privilege afforded such discussions should be zealously protected. *See Haines*, 975 F.2d at 90 (citing 8 Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R. Miller, Federal Practice and Procedure § 2017 (1970) and *Chore-Time Equip., Inc v. Big*

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³ "Perlmutter told lawmakers fair use is 'the most controversial of all the areas that we're addressing" in a forthcoming report. Ivan Moreno, *Copyright Chief: Fair Use A Tough Issue In Upcoming AI Report*, LAW360 (Nov. 13, 2024), https://www.law360.com/articles/2258152/copy right-chief-fair-use-a-tough-issue-in-upcoming-ai-report.

Dutchman, Inc., 255 F. Supp. 1020, 1021 (W.D. Mich. 1966) ("attorney-client privilege is so sacred... the courts must, within their limits, guard it jealously.")).

Plaintiffs' Request for In Camera Review Should be Denied. An in camera review of privileged documents "is an intrusion which must be justified." In re Grand Jury Investigation, 974 F.2d 1068, 1074 (9th Cir. 1992). The challenging party must present a factual basis sufficient to support a reasonable, good faith belief that an in camera inspection may reveal evidence that the materials are not privileged. Id. at 1075 (discussing Zolin, 491 U.S. at 569-72). In particular, the law requires more than a "suspicion" that privileged communications were in furtherance of a crime. In re Grand Jury Proc., 87 F.3d at 381. Yet, at most, that is all that Plaintiffs offer: comments that, facially, have no relationship to issues in dispute (Meta_Kadrey_00232034; Meta_Kadrey_00218543); an explanation of the "gnarly" issue of releasing two models simultaneously, which is unredacted (Meta_Kadrey_00209314); redactions in lengthy documents disconnected from the segments that Plaintiffs contend are relevant (Meta_Kadrey_00204218); lay opinion of two Meta employees about the propriety of certain datasets (Ex. A, Log Nos. 270, 654-56; Meta_Kadrey_00218170); a legal risk assessment (Meta_Kadrey_00211699); and conduct that had already occurred (Meta_Kadrey_00204235). None of these raises a suspicion of attorney conduct in furtherance of a crime or a fraud, and thus none justifies in camera review.

III. PLAINTIFFS' REPLY

communications with subject titles like.

document could ever warrant this review.

Illegality is enough for the crime-fraud doctrine to apply. Meta's first argument is that there are no crimes or fraud alleged here, so the doctrine cannot apply. False. As Plaintiffs already explained, illegal acts can rise to the level of crime-fraud; the underlying acts need not be criminal. See In re Animation Workers Antitrust Litig., 2016 WL 8198907, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 23, 2016) (applying crime-fraud exception to a civil claim); Lewis v. Delta Air Lines, Inc., No. 2:14-cv-01683, 2015 WL 9460124, at *4 (D. Nev. Dec. 23, 2015) (same). Overwhelming evidence calls into question any "reasonable" belief that the "copying" in this case— —was not willful infringement. The NYT article, in addition to scores of documents produced in the eleventh-hour cited in a parallel discovery letter, show this. Meta committed crimes. Of course, the other issue for Meta is that even apart from willful copyrighted works is itself criminal. See United States v. Vaulin, 2017 infringement, WL 3334861, at *1 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 4, 2017). Meta does not dispute that it did this, nor could it, and there is barely a dispute about whether Meta's lawyers knew about it: numerous examples of privilege redactions follow overt discussions about . Glaringly, Meta does not cite, nor could Plaintiffs locate on a diligent search, a *single case* in which the "fair use" doctrine applied to such blatant (and illegal) data piracy. Indeed, some of the "proprietors" of the shadow libraries that Meta also are under criminal indictment. See Indictment, United States v. Napolsky et al., No. 22-CR-525 (E.D.N.Y. Nov. 16, 2022), ECF No. 4 (involving see Meta Kadrey 00107954 (noting)). Plaintiffs have more than made their *prima facie* showing. In camera review is warranted. The Court should make its own judgment of whether the evidence Plaintiffs present is sufficiently probative as to warrant this review. Here, if fully withheld

to warrant in camera review, then Plaintiffs are unsure if any privilege log entry for a withheld

are not sufficient

By: /s/ Bobby Ghajar

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Interim Lead Counsel for Plaintiffs

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Attorneys for Defendant Meta Platforms, Inc.

ATTESTATION PURSUANT TO CIVIL LOCAL RULE 5-1(h)

I hereby attest that I obtained concurrence in the filing of this document from each of the other signatories. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: December 20, 2024 BOIES SCHILLER FLEXNER LLP

/s/ Maxwell V. Pritt

Maxwell V. Pritt Reed Forbush Jay Schuffenhauer

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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EXHIBIT A

Highly Confidential Attorneys' Eyes Only

Kadrey v Meta Platforms, Inc Case No 3 23-cv-03417-VC

Meta Platforms, Inc Third Privilege Log (email) - December 13, 2024

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Meta Platforms, Inc Third Privilege Log (email) - December 13, 2024

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Kadrey v Meta Platforms, Inc Case No 3 23-cv-03417-VC

Meta Platforms, Inc Third Privilege Log (email) - December 13, 2024

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Third Privilege Log (non-email) - December 13, 2024

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Priv Log No.	Bates No.	Custodians	Author/From	Date	Privilege Description	Privilege Type	Legal Source	Filename	Withhold/Redact	Data Type
86		Meta Platforms, Inc		11/20/2024	Document providing legal advice concerning copyright and data privacy issues	Attorney Client			Privileged - Withhold	GSUITE
87		Meta Platforms, Inc		11/20/2024	Document seeking and reflecting legal advice concerning copyright and data privacy issues	Attorney Client			Privileged - Withhold	GSUITE
88		Meta Platforms, Inc		11/20/2024	Document seeking and reflecting legal advice concerning copyright and data privacy issues	Attorney Client			Privileged - Withhold	GSUITE
104	Meta_Kadrey_002185 43			1/24/2023	Document seeking and containing legal advice concerning product development	Attorney Client	MPI In-House Legal Counsel		Privileged - Redact	GSUITE
146				6/5/2024	Spreadsheet seeking and containing legal advice concerning product development, copyright, and data privacy issues	Attorney Client	MPI In-House Legal Counsel		Privileged - Withhold	GSUITE
147				6/5/2024	Spreadsheet seeking and containing legal advice concerning product development, copyright, and data privacy issues	Attorney Client	MPI In-House Legal Counsel		Privileged - Withhold	GSUITE

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Third Privilege Log (non-email) - December 13, 2024

Highly Confidential Attorneys' Eyes Only

Priv Log	Bates No.	Custodians	Author/From	Date	Privilege Description	Privilege Type	Legal Source	Filename	Withhold/Redact	Data Type
No.										
163		Meta Platforms, Inc		4/30/2024	Document providing legal advice concerning product development	Attorney Client			Privileged - Withhold	Google Workspace
186				4/11/2023	Document seeking legal advice concerning copyright issues	Attorney Client			Privileged - Withhold	GSUITE
187				4/11/2023	Document seeking legal advice concerning copyright issues	Attorney Client			Privileged - Withhold	GSUITE
1	Meta_Kadrey_002078 27			5/9/2023	Document seeking and reflecting legal advice concerning copyright and contract issues	Attorney Client	MPI In-House Legal Counsel		Privileged - Redact	OneDrive
1	Meta_Kadrey_002088 32			3/31/2023	Document seeking legal advice concerning copyright issues	Attorney Client	MPI In-House Legal Counsel		Privileged - Redact	GSUITE
1	Meta_Kadrey_002122 63	Meta Platforms, Inc		3/31/2023	Document seeking legal advice concerning copyright issues	Attorney Client	MPI In-House Legal Counsel		Privileged - Redact	GSUITE

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Priv Log	Bates No.	Beg Attach	Custodians	Author/From	То	СС	BCC	Legal Source	Date	Privilege Description	Privilege Type
No.											
2	Meta_Kadrey_00232034	Meta_Kadrey_00232034						MPI In-House Legal Counsel	2/16/2024	Chat reflecting legal advice concerning copyright and contract issues	Attorney Client
8	Meta_Kadrey_00088019	Meta_Kadrey_00088019						MPI In-House Legal Counsel	5/23/2024	Document seeking and reflecting legal advice concerning copyright and data privacy issues	Attorney Client
56	Meta_Kadrey_00093954	Meta_Kadrey_00093954						MPI In-House Legal Counsel	2/24/2023	Chat reflecting legal advice concerning copyright, data privacy, and safety issues	Attorney Client
5	Meta_Kadrey_00146533	Meta_Kadrey_00146533						MPI In-House Legal Counsel	7/24/2023	Chat reflecting legal advice concerning copyright and contract issues	Attorney Client

Email Subject	Filename	Withhold/ Redact/ Not Privileged	Data Type	Family Relationship
		rivileged - Redact	WhatsApp	Standalone
		rivlieged - Redact	GSUITE	Parent
		rivlieged - Redact	WhatsApp	Standalone
		rivileged - Vithhold	WhatsApp	Standalone

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