Perfect 10 Inc V. Google Inc et al

Doc. 789

In its January 27, 2010 Order, Docket No. 759, the Court stated:

Whether viewed as a potential Rule 56(f) issue (notwithstanding Perfect 10's disavowal of intent to seek Rule 56(f) relief), or instead as a Motion to Compel compliance with earlier court orders, the precise issues set forth by Perfect 10 are not complicated. While the court reiterates its tentative conclusion that Evidentiary Sanctions are not appropriate at this juncture, the court may ultimately decide that the documents sought could be material to Perfect 10's opposition to the pending Motions for Summary Judgment.

Based upon the proceedings that have taken place so far in connection with this matter, Perfect 10 clarifies its position regarding the applicability of Rule 56(f), as follows:

In its Notice of Motion and Motion of Plaintiff Perfect 10, Inc. For Evidentiary and Other Sanctions Against Defendant Google, Inc., Docket No. 617 (the "Motion"), Perfect 10 moved for the following relief:

3. That Google be compelled to produce the documents which it has failed to produce, as set forth in the Memorandum of Points and Authorities, within 10 days after this Court rules on this Motion. These documents include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) the "spreadsheet-type" DMCA log "summarizing DMCA notices received, the identity of the notifying party and the accused infringer, and the actions (if any) taken in response," which Google has failed to produce in violation of this Court's May 13, 2008 Order and earlier orders of Magistrate Judge Hillman; (b) the DMCA notices and other documents that Google has failed to produce in violation of the Court's orders and Google's representations that such documents have been produced. Perfect 10 should then be given an opportunity to file a sur-reply in connection with the Summary Judgment Motions and seek monetary

sanctions before this Court rules on those motions.

Notice of Motion, Docket No. 617, Paragraph 3 (first unnumbered page, lines 17-28). *See also* the Proposed Order, Docket No. 617-2, page 1 lines 12-21.

Perfect 10 did not specifically mention Rule 56(f) in its Notice of Motion or in its Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of the Motion (Docket No. 633), because this is not the typical Rule 56(f) situation, where a party is seeking to propound additional discovery in order to oppose a summary judgment motion. Rather, Perfect 10 sought sanctions or other relief against Google because Google failed to produce documents that Perfect 10 had already requested and that the Court had already ordered Google to produce. One of the forms of relief sought by Perfect 10, as set forth above, is similar to relief that would be sought in a Rule 56(f) motion, had Perfect 10 believed that the documents had not already been requested and ordered by the Court to be produced.

At the hearing on January 15, 2010, Perfect 10's attorney discussed this issue with the Court, as follows:

THE COURT: JUST A MINUTE. THEY HAVE TURNED OVER CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE CERTAIN WEBMASTERS. THEY UNDERSTAND THEIR DUTY IS CONTINUING UNTIL THE DAY OF TRIAL. BUT IF THEY'RE NOT DOING IT FAST ENOUGH FOR YOU TO MEANINGFULLY OPPOSE THEIR SUMMARY JUDGMENT MOTION, THEN, IT SEEMS TO ME YOU NEED TO MAKE A RULE 56(F) MOTION.

MR. MAUSNER: OKAY. IF THAT'S -- IF THAT IS COVERED UNDER RULE 56(F). MY UNDERSTANDING WAS 56(F) IS YOU'VE GOT TO PROPOUND MORE DISCOVERY. IF IT'S ALREADY BEEN PROPOUNDED AND ORDERED, IT WOULDN'T REALLY BE A 56(F). IT WOULD BE WHAT WE DID, WHICH IS A SANCTIONS MOTION.

THE COURT: LET ME COMMENT ON SOMETHING THAT YOU SAID A MINUTE AGO CORRECTLY. AND THAT IS THAT -- I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, THAT RULE 56(F) IS IN THE SITUATION WHERE YOU WANT TO PROPOUND NEW DISCOVERY TO OPPOSE THE

1	MERITS OF A SUMMARY JUDGMENT MOTION. IT'S JUST IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS CASE IT'S MURKIER THAN THAT.
2	
3	AND I AGREE WITH YOU. I UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT. BUT
4	BEFORE I WOULD RECOMMEND THIS TYPE OF SANCTIONS
5	MOTION I WOULD HAVE TO BE UTTERLY CONVINCED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A MEETING OF THE MINDS AS TO WHAT WAS
6	REQUIRED BY MY ORDERS AND JUDGE MATZ'S ORDERS, AND THAT THERE WAS A THAT CONTEMPT WAS SHOWN, THAT
7	GOOGLE WAS NOT RESPONDING TO THOSE ORDERS, AND,
8	THEREFORE, EVIDENTIARY SANCTIONS OR THE ONLY SANCTIONS THAT SANCTION THAT WOULD DO JUSTICE IN
9	THIS CASE. SO, YOU MAY BE RIGHT THAT RULE 56 MAY NOT
10	Transcript of January 15, 2010 hearing, pages 62-65.
11	Based upon the above discussion and the manner in which this matter is
12	proceeding, Perfect 10 wishes to clarify its position as follows: Perfect 10 reserves
13	the right to seek relief under Rule 56(f), to the extent that such relief is necessary or
14	proper, whether under any ruling by this Court or otherwise, or in connection with
15	any of the pending motions.
16	Dated: March 7, 2010 LAW OFFICES OF JEFFREY N. MAUSNER
17	By: <u>Jeffrey N. Mausner</u>
18	Jeffrey N. Mausner
19	Attorney for Plaintiff Perfect 10, Inc.
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