

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

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION**

KAN-MAN LAI a/k/a ADA LAI,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
vs.  
  
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS,  
INC.; CREDIT PROTECTION  
ASSOCIATION, L.P.; DOES 1-100,  
  
Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:17-cv-06114 FMO (FFMx)  
**PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT  
TO STIPULATION**  
  
Action Filed: August 17, 2017  
Trial Date: None Set

**A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

As the Parties have represented that discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted, this Court enters the following Protective Order. This Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery. The protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. Further, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, this Protective Order does not entitle the Parties to file confidential information under seal. Rather, when the Parties seek permission from the court to

1 file material under seal, the Parties must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5 and  
2 with any pertinent orders of the assigned District Judge and Magistrate Judge.

3 B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

4 In light of the nature of the claims and allegations in this case and the Parties’  
5 representations that discovery in this case will involve the production of confidential  
6 records, and in order to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt  
7 resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately  
8 protect information the Parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the  
9 Parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in connection with  
10 this action, to address their handling of such material at the end of the litigation, and  
11 to serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this  
12 matter. The Parties shall not designate any information/documents as confidential  
13 without a good faith belief that such information/documents have been maintained  
14 in a confidential, non-public manner, and that there is good cause or a compelling  
15 reason why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

16 2. DEFINITIONS

17 2.1 Action: The instant action: *Kan-Man Lai a/k/a Ada Lai v. Charter*  
18 *Communications, Inc., et al.* CASE NO. 2:17-cv-06114 FMO (FFMx).

19 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the  
20 designation of information or items under this Order.

21 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of  
22 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for  
23 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in  
24 the Good Cause Statement.

25 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as  
26 their support staff).

27 ///

28 ///

1           2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or  
2 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as  
3 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

4           2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless  
5 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,  
6 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or  
7 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

8           2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter  
9 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as  
10 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

11           2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a Party to this Action.  
12 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside  
13 counsel.

14           2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or  
15 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

16           2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a  
17 Party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a Party to this Action and  
18 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that Party or are affiliated with a law firm  
19 which has appeared on behalf of that Party, and includes support staff.

20           2.11 Party: any Party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,  
21 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their  
22 support staffs).

23           2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or  
24 Discovery Material in this Action.

25           2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation  
26 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or  
27 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)  
28 and their employees and subcontractors.

1           2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is  
2 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

3           2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery  
4 Material from a Producing Party.

5 3.     SCOPE

6           The protections conferred by this Order cover not only Protected Material (as  
7 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected  
8 Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material;  
9 and (3) any deposition testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their  
10 Counsel that might reveal Protected Material, other than during a court hearing or at  
11 trial.

12           Any use of Protected Material during a court hearing or at trial shall be  
13 governed by the orders of the presiding judge. This Order does not govern the use  
14 of Protected Material during a court hearing or at trial.

15 4.     DURATION

16           Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations  
17 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees  
18 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be  
19 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with  
20 or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and  
21 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,  
22 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time  
23 pursuant to applicable law.

24 5.     DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

25           5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.  
26 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under  
27 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that  
28 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for

1 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written  
2 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents,  
3 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept  
4 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

5 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations  
6 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper  
7 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose  
8 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other Parties) may expose the Designating  
9 Party to sanctions.

10 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it  
11 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must  
12 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

13 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in  
14 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of Section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise  
15 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection  
16 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or  
17 produced.

18 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

19 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic  
20 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions), that the Producing Party affix  
21 at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter "CONFIDENTIAL  
22 legend"), to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions  
23 of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must  
24 clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the  
25 margins).

26 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection  
27 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated  
28 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and

1 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be  
2 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the  
3 documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which  
4 documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before  
5 producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the  
6 “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a  
7 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing  
8 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate  
9 markings in the margins).

10 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identifies  
11 on the record, before the close of the deposition as protected testimony.

12 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and  
13 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on  
14 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the  
15 legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information  
16 warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the  
17 protected portion(s).

18 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent  
19 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive  
20 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.  
21 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable  
22 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this  
23 Order.

24 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

25 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a  
26 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s  
27 Scheduling Order.

28 ///

1           6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute  
2 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

3           6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on  
4 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper  
5 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other  
6 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating  
7 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall  
8 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is  
9 entitled under the Producing Party’s designation until the Court rules on the  
10 challenge.

11 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

12           7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is  
13 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this  
14 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such  
15 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the  
16 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a  
17 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of Section 13 below.

18           Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a  
19 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons  
20 authorized under this Order.

21           7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless  
22 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a  
23 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated  
24 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

25           (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as  
26 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably  
27 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

28 ///

1 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of  
2 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

3 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom  
4 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the  
5 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

6 (d) the court and its personnel;

7 (e) court reporters and their staff;

8 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional  
9 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have  
10 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

11 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a  
12 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

13 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the  
14 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party  
15 requests that the witness sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”  
16 form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will not be permitted to keep any  
17 confidential information unless they sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to  
18 Be Bound” attached as Exhibit A, unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party  
19 or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to  
20 depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately bound by the court  
21 reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this  
22 Protective Order; and

23 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,  
24 mutually agreed upon by any of the Parties engaged in settlement discussions.

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED  
2 IN OTHER LITIGATION

3 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation  
4 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as  
5 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

6 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification  
7 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order unless prohibited by law;

8 (b) promptly notify in writing the Party who caused the subpoena or order  
9 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the  
10 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include  
11 a copy of this Protective Order; and

12 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be  
13 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

14 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with  
15 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this  
16 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the  
17 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s  
18 permission, or unless otherwise required by the law or court order. The Designating  
19 Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its  
20 confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as  
21 authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful  
22 directive from another court.

23 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE  
24 PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION

25 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a  
26 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information  
27 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the

28 ///

1 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be  
2 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

3 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to  
4 produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is  
5 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's  
6 confidential information, then the Party shall:

7 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party  
8 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality  
9 agreement with a Non-Party;

10 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Protective  
11 Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific  
12 description of the information requested; and

13 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the  
14 Non-Party, if requested.

15 (c) If a Non-Party represented by counsel fails to commence the process  
16 called for by Local Rules 45-1 and 37-1, et seq. within fourteen (14) days of  
17 receiving the notice and accompanying information or fails contemporaneously to  
18 notify the Receiving Party that it has done so, the Receiving Party may produce the  
19 Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If an  
20 unrepresented Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within  
21 fourteen (14) days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the  
22 Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive  
23 to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the  
24 Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is  
25 subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination  
26 by the court unless otherwise required by the law or court order. Absent a court  
27 order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
28 protection in this court of its Protected Material.

1 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed  
3 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this  
4 Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the  
5 Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve  
6 all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to  
7 whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d)  
8 request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to  
9 Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

10 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE  
11 PROTECTED MATERIAL

12 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain  
13 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,  
14 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil  
15 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure  
16 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without  
17 prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar  
18 as the Parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or  
19 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the  
20 Parties may incorporate their agreement into this Protective Order.

21 12. MISCELLANEOUS

22 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any  
23 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

24 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. No Party waives any right it  
25 otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item  
26 on any ground not addressed in this Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives  
27 any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered  
28 by this Protective Order.

1           12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file any Protected  
2 Material must first seek approval by the court to file the Protected Material under  
3 seal in compliance with Civil Local Rule 79-5 and with any pertinent orders of the  
4 assigned District Judge and Magistrate Judge. If a Party's request to file Protected  
5 Material under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the  
6 information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

7 13.    FINAL DISPOSITION

8           After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in Section 4, within sixty  
9 (60) days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must  
10 return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As  
11 used in this subdivision, “all Protected Material” includes all copies, abstracts,  
12 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the  
13 Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the  
14 Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if  
15 not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that  
16 (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was  
17 returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any  
18 copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or  
19 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel  
20 are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial,  
21 deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition  
22 and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert  
23 work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival  
24 copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective  
25 Order as set forth in Section 4.

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate  
2 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary  
3 sanctions.

4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

5

6 DATED: April 13, 2018

7

/s/ Frederick F. Mumm  
Honorable Frederick F. Mumm  
United States Magistrate Judge

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

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

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of  
\_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury  
that I have read in its entirety and understand the Protective Order that was issued  
by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the case of *Kan-Man Lai a/k/a Ada Lai v. Charter  
Communications, Inc., et al.* CASE NO. 2:17-cv-06114 FMO (FFMx). I agree to  
comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Protective Order and I  
understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions  
and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not  
disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Protective  
Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this  
Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court  
for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this  
Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of  
this action. I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full  
name] of \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address  
and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection  
with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Protective Order.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_