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 11 WALMART INC.

12
 13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 14 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
 15 **WESTERN DIVISION**

17 ESSIE GRUNDY,
 18 RAKIYA DAWSON,
 19 LASHEENA WILLIAMS,
 20 AUDREY LOTT, and
 21 SHAKARA LOTT,
 22
 23 Plaintiffs,
 24
 25 v.
 26 WALMART Inc., a Delaware
 27 Corporation; and DOES 1 to 50,
 28 inclusive,
 Defendants.

Case No. 5:18-CV-00429-PSG (SKx)
 Case No. 5:18-CV-00431-PSG (SKx)
 Case No. 2:18-CV-01720-PSG (SKx)
 Case No. 5:18-CV-02585-PSG (SKx)

[DISCOVERY MATTER]

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

Hon. Steve Kim

1 1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

2 Discovery in these four cases has been coordinated, given the substantial overlap
3 in factual allegations and legal claims. Discovery in these actions is likely to involve
4 production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special
5 protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting
6 this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition
7 the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge
8 that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to
9 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only
10 to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the
11 applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3,
12 below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential
13 information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be
14 followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the
15 court to file material under seal.

16 1.1 GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT

17 These actions are likely to involve the discovery of trade secrets, pricing
18 information, sales and theft data, proprietary information concerning theft protection,
19 and other valuable commercial, financial, and/or proprietary information for which
20 special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than
21 prosecution of this action is warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials and
22 information consist of, among other things, confidential business or financial
23 information, information regarding confidential business practices, or other confidential
24 research, development, or commercial information (including information implicating
25 privacy rights of third parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the
26 public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state
27 or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite
28 the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over

1 confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are
2 entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary
3 uses of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their
4 handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for
5 such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information
6 will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so
7 designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-
8 public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of
9 this case.

10 2. DEFINITIONS

11 2.1 Action: Any or all of the four actions captioned above, which have been
12 consolidated for discovery purposes, Case Nos. 18-CV-00429-PSG (SKx); 18-CV-
13 00431-PSG (SKx); 18-CV-01720-PSG (SKx); and 18-CV-02585-PSG (SKx).

14 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of
15 information or items under this Order.

16 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how
17 it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under
18 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good Cause
19 Statement, or that contain sensitive information regarding a Party’s employees or former
20 employees, corporate trade secrets, nonpublic research and development data, pricing
21 formulas, inventory management programs, confidential business information not
22 known to the general public, and customer-related protected data.

23 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their
24 support staff).

25 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
26 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

27 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of
28 the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among

1 other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated
2 in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

3 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
4 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an
5 expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

6 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
7 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

8 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
9 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

10 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to
11 this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have
12 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has
13 appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

14 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
15 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
16 support staffs).

17 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
18 Discovery Material in this Action.

19 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support
20 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
21 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and
22 their employees and subcontractors.

23 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated
24 as "CONFIDENTIAL."

25 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material
26 from a Producing Party.

27 3. SCOPE

28 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected

1 Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from
2 Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected
3 Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their
4 Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

5 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the trial
6 judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

7 4. DURATION

8 Even after final disposition of this Action (meaning final disposition of all four
9 cases that make up the Action), the confidentiality obligations imposed by this Order
10 shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court
11 order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal
12 of all claims and defenses in the Action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final
13 judgment herein after the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands,
14 trials, or reviews of this Action, including the time limits for filing any motions or
15 applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

16 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

17 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each
18 Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order
19 must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the
20 appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection only those
21 parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify so
22 that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which
23 protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

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

28 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it

1 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
2 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

3 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
4 Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of Section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated
5 or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this
6 Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

7 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

8 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
9 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
10 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
11 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that
12 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
13 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
14 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

15 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection need
16 not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which
17 documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the
18 designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be deemed
19 “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants
20 copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions
21 thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the specified
22 documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page
23 that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
24 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
25 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

26 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify
27 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition all
28 protected testimony.

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

6 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. An inadvertent failure to designate
7 qualified information or items does not waive the Designating Party’s right to secure
8 protection under this Order for such material. The Receiving Party must make
9 reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions
10 of this Order.

11 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

12 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation
13 of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s Scheduling Order.

14 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution
15 process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

16 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the
17 Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g.,
18 to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the
19 Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn
20 the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the material in
21 question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party’s
22 designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

23 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

24 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
25 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this Action
26 only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such Protected
27 Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions
28 described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a Receiving Party must

1 comply with the provisions of Section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

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

5 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise
6 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party
7 may disclose any information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

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

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

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

16 (d) the court and its personnel;

17 (e) court reporters and their staff;

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

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

23 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in
24 the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
25 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2) they will not
26 be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
27 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed
28 by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition

1 testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately
2 bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
3 under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

4 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
5 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

6 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN
7 OTHER LITIGATION

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

11 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification
12 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

13 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or
14 order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
15 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a
16 copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

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

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

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

3 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
4 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
5 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies
6 and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as
7 prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

8 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
9 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject
10 to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential
11 information, then the Party shall:

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

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

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

20 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within
21 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may
22 produce the Non-Party’s confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If
23 the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any
24 information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement
25 with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the
26 contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this
27 court of its Protected Material.
28

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 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing
5 the 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) request
8 such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
9 that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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

12 11.1 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, the
14 obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
15 26(b)(5)(B). Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), disclosure (including
16 production) of information that a Party or Non-Party later claims should not have been
17 disclosed because of a privilege, including, but not limited to, the attorney-client privilege
18 or work product doctrine (“Privileged Information”), shall not constitute a waiver of, or
19 estoppel to, any claim of attorney-client privilege, attorney work product, or other ground
20 for withholding production as to which the Producing Party would be entitled in the
21 Litigation or any other federal or state proceeding. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
22 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B) and Federal Rule of Evidence 502(e), the Receiving Party hereby
23 agrees to return, sequester, or destroy any Privileged Information disclosed or produced
24 by the Producing Party upon request. If the Receiving Party reasonably believes that
25 Privileged Information has been inadvertently disclosed or produced to it, it shall promptly
26 notify the Producing Party and sequester such information until instructions as to
27 disposition are received. The failure of any Party to provide notice or instructions under
28 this Paragraph shall not constitute a waiver of, or estoppel to, any claim of attorney-client

1 privilege, attorney work product, or other ground for withholding production as to which
2 the Producing Party would be entitled in the Litigation or any other federal or state
3 proceeding. This Order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection allowed
4 by Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d). This provision is designed to foreclose any arguments
5 that by making such production:

6 (a) the production of Privileged Information was not inadvertent by the
7 Producing Party;

8 (b) the Producing Party did not take reasonable steps to prevent the
9 disclosure of Privileged Information;

10 (c) the Producing Party did not take reasonable or timely steps to rectify
11 such disclosure; and/or

12 (d) such disclosure acts as a waiver of applicable privileges or
13 protections associated with the Privileged Information.

14 11.2 Further, the Parties do not authorize “quick peek” productions under
15 Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d), whereby a Producing Party would be compelled to
16 disclose a production to opposing counsel, before having an opportunity to review and
17 omit Privileged Information.

18 12. MISCELLANEOUS

19 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
20 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

21 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
22 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
23 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
24 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground
25 to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

26 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected
27 Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may only be filed
28 under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected

1 Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material under seal is denied by
2 the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public record unless
3 otherwise instructed by the court.

4 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

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

22 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate measures
23 including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary sanctions.
24
25
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28

1 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

2 **SIGNATURE ATTESTATION**

3 I, Kahn Scolnick, hereby attest that all other signatories listed, and on whose
4 behalf the filing is submitted, concur in the filing's content and have authorized the
5 filing.

6
7 Dated: April 16, 2019

GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER LLP

8 By: /s/ Kahn A. Scolnick

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14 Attorneys for Defendant WALMART INC.

15 Dated: April 16, 2019

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24 RAKIYA DAWSON

1 Dated: April 16, 2019

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18 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

19 SHAKARA LOTT and

20 AUDREY LOTT

21 **IT IS ORDERED** that the forgoing Agreement is approved.

22
23 Dated: April 17, 2019



24 Honorable Steve Kim
25 United States Magistrate Judge

1 EXHIBIT A

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

3 I, _____ [print or type full name], of
4 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that
5 I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued
6 by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on [date] in the
7 case of _____ **[insert formal name of the case and the number and initials**
8 **assigned to it by the court]**. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of
9 this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so
10 comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I
11 solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is
12 subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict
13 compliance with the provisions of this Order. I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction
14 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose
15 of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement
16 proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint
17 _____ [print or type full name] of
18 _____ [print or type full address and
19 telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this
20 action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

21 Date: _____

22 City and State where sworn and signed: _____

23 Printed name: _____

24 Signature: _____