

1 Damian R. Fernandez (206662)
LAW OFFICE OF DAMIAN R. FERNANDEZ
 2 14510 Big Basin Way, Suite A, PMB 285
 3 Saratoga, California 95070-6091
 Telephone: (408) 354-8684
 4 Facsimile: (408) 904-7391
 Email: damianfernandez@gmail.com

5 Eric H. Gibbs (CA Bar No. 178658)
 6 Elizabeth C. Pritzker (CA Bar No. 146267)
 Aaron M. Sheanin (CA Bar No. 214472)
 7 Geoffrey A. Munroe (CA Bar No. 228590)
GIRARD GIBBS LLP
 8 601 California Street, 14th Floor
 9 San Francisco, California 94108
 Telephone: (415) 981-4800
 10 Facsimile: (415) 981-4846

11 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class*

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 13
 14 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 15 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

16 **IN RE APPLE & AT&TM ANTITRUST**
 17 **LITIGATION**

Case No. 07-cv-05152 JW

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION
 FOR APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CO-
 LEAD CLASS COUNSEL**

Date: March 10, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Courtroom 8

Honorable James Ware

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2
3 **NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION**

4 **TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

5 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on March 10, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon as the matter may
6 be heard before the Honorable James Ware in Courtroom 8 of the United States District Court,
7 Northern District of California, San Jose Division, 280 South 1st Street, San Jose, California, the law
8 firms of Girard Gibbs LLP and the Law Office of Damian R. Fernandez will and hereby do move the
9 Court for an order appointing these two firms as Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel for the putative
10 plaintiff class in this action.

11 This motion is brought pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as the
12 appointment of Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel is appropriate at this time to “fairly and adequately
13 represent the interests of the class.” This complex case will benefit from the appointment of a law firm
14 of dedicated class action attorneys with substantial antitrust experience and a law firm with strong
15 litigation experience that has already expended considerable time and effort developing an extensive
16 knowledge base of the facts of this case. These two firms possess not only the resources but also the
17 experience and knowledge to prosecute this case vigorously. This motion is based on this notice of
18 motion and motion, the supporting memorandum of points and authorities which follows, the
19 declarations of Eric H. Gibbs and Damian R. Fernandez, any papers filed in reply, the argument of
20 counsel, and all papers and records on file in this matter.

21 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

22 **I. INTRODUCTION**

23 Pursuant to Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the law firm of Girard Gibbs
24 LLP (“Girard Gibbs”) and the Law Office of Damian R. Fernandez (“Fernandez”) seek appointment to
25 serve jointly as Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel for the putative plaintiff class in the cases involving
26 allegations of antitrust violations and unfair and unlawful business practices of Defendants Apple, Inc.
27 (“Apple”) and AT&T Mobility LLC (“AT&T”) for their unlawful tying of iPhones to AT&T’s cellular
28 telephone service and denying iPhone users the right to use third party applications on their iPhones. *In*
re Apple & AT&TM Antitrust Litigation, Case No. 07-CV-05152 JW. Furthermore, Apple engineered

1 software updates for the iPhone to disable and render useless iPhones that were either unlocked to use
2 cellular telephone services other than AT&T or downloaded third party applications.

3 The appointment of Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel is appropriate here because it will assist in
4 streamlining the conduct of this complex litigation by installing into the position of Interim Co-Lead
5 Class Counsel two law firms that possess the necessary antitrust, consumer, and class action ability and
6 knowledge of the facts to prosecute this action for the benefit of the putative class members. On
7 November 30, 2007, this Court issued an order consolidating the *Paul Holman, et. al. v. Apple, Inc. et.*
8 *al.* action (represented by the law firms of Folkenflik & McGerity (“Folkenflik”) and Hoffman &
9 Lazear (“Hoffman”)) with the *Timothy Smith, et. al. v. Apple, Inc. et. al.* action (represented by
10 Fernandez) and naming the attorneys for each action as Co-Lead Counsel. *See* Doc. No. 34. At the
11 Case Management Conference on January 28, 2008, this Court indicated it would reconsider this issue
12 and ordered that Fernandez file a motion for appointment of interim co-lead class counsel. *See* Doc.
13 No. 57.

14 Girard Gibbs and Fernandez are more than qualified to serve as Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel
15 because they possess exemplary qualifications and experience as antitrust and consumer protection
16 litigators and the resources and manpower to devote to a litigation of this magnitude and complexity.
17 Girard Gibbs has extensive litigation experience in both federal and state court and has served as lead
18 or co-lead counsel on many of the nation’s largest class action cases. Fernandez has actively
19 prosecuted this action and has already expended considerable time and effort conducting both factual
20 and legal research regarding the alleged misconduct of Apple and AT&T. Girard Gibbs’ class action
21 experience, along with the knowledge base and litigation skill of Fernandez, provides putative class
22 members with a team of advocates that is able to best serve the interests of the class.

23 Folkenflik lacks experience in antitrust cases and complex class actions. The Folkenflik firm
24 is a two-person law firm based out of New York City without the resources and litigation experience to
25 actively and vigorously prosecute a complex class action in the Northern District of California.
26 Folkenflik lacks the financial and legal resources to fairly and adequately represent the interests of the
27 class as required by Rule 23(g)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Moreover, as counsel in
28 another case against Apple, a potential conflict of interest exists that may affect the ability of the

1 Folkenflik firm (and their local counsel) from developing a litigation strategy and acting in the best
2 interests of the class. Therefore, a leadership structure of Girard Gibbs and Fernandez avoids any
3 questions regarding the full loyalty of lead counsel while providing the putative class members with a
4 team of experienced lawyers that will vigorously litigate this case against Apple and AT&T.

5 When considering this motion, the Court must determine who will best provide leadership and
6 protect the interests of the class, and who will best be able to accomplish the goals of efficiency and
7 economy in doing so. *See Coleman v. General Motors Acceptance Corp.*, 220 F.R.D. 64, 100 (M.D.
8 Tenn. 2004); *see also* Manual for Complex Litigation (Fourth) ¶ 10.221 (2004). Together, Girard
9 Gibbs and Fernandez offer a strong legal team with decades of experience in complex class actions and
10 in-depth knowledge of the facts and legal issues specific to this litigation. Girard Gibbs and Fernandez
11 respectfully request that this Court disqualify the Folkenflik firm and their local counsel Hoffman &
12 Lazear and appoint the Girard Gibbs and Fernandez firms as Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel in this
13 action.

14 **II. BACKGROUND**

15 The iPhone was released on June 29, 2007. On October 5, 2007, the Fernandez firm filed their
16 initial complaint against Apple and AT&T on behalf of a group of iPhone purchasers and others
17 similarly situated alleging violations of federal and California antitrust and consumer protection
18 statutes relating to the agreement by Apple and AT&T to restrict the cellular telephone service for
19 iPhone users to AT&T. In addition, Apple improperly denied iPhone users the right to download and
20 use third party applications on their iPhones. On September 27, 2007, Apple released a software
21 update, known as the iPhone Software Version 1.1.1 that permanently disabled any iPhone that was
22 unlocked to allow service on a carrier other than AT&T or that downloaded and installed third party
23 applications. This process is referred to as “bricking” as it transformed an electronic device that
24 consumers had spent hundreds of dollars to acquire into an expensive brick. Moreover, Apple falsely
25 claimed that this software update was developed and issued for the protection of consumers, instead of
26 for the purpose of crippling the iPhones of those who would not submit to Apple’s and AT&T’s unfair
27 and illegal business practices.

1 Eight days after Apple had used iPhone Software Version 1.1.1 to disable the iPhones, on
2 October 5, 2007, Fernandez filed the *Smith* action in Santa Clara Superior Court alleging that Apple
3 and AT&T had violated federal and California state antitrust and consumer protection laws. Fernandez
4 Decl., ¶ 2. That same day, the Folkenflik firm filed the *Holman* action in the Northern District of
5 California, which also challenged the iPhone's exclusivity agreement with AT&T. *Id.*, ¶ 3.

6 On November 2, 2007, Fernandez filed an amended complaint. *Id.*, ¶ 4. Five days later, on
7 November 7, 2007, Apple removed to remove the *Smith* action to federal court. *Id.*, ¶ 5. On
8 November 9, 2007, a motion was filed to designate the *Smith* and *Holman* actions as related cases and
9 to have both assigned to this Court. On November 30, 2007, this Court issued an order designating the
10 two cases as related and consolidating them as *In re: Apple & AT&TM Antitrust Litigation*, Case No.
11 07-CV-05152. *Id.*; *See also* Doc. No. 34. A Case Management Conference was held on January 28,
12 2008. After the Case Management Conference, this Court ordered that Fernandez file a motion for
13 appointment as interim lead counsel. *Id.*; *see also* Doc. No. 57.

14 III. ARGUMENT

15 A. Rule 23(g) Places a Premium on Experience, Knowledge, and Resources in 16 the Selection of Class Counsel

17 Rule 23(g) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that a court “may designate
18 interim counsel to act on behalf of the putative class before determining whether to certify the action
19 as a class action.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)(3). Where, as here, there are competing class actions
20 pending, “appointment of class counsel is necessary to protect the interests of class members.”
21 *Donaldson v. Pharmacia Pension Plan*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 28697, *2-3 (S.D. Ill. May 10, 2006);
22 *see also In re Cardinal Health, Inc. ERISA Litigation*, 225 F.R.D. 552, 554 (S.D. Ohio 2005). An
23 attorney appointed to serve as class counsel “must fairly and adequately represent the interests of the
24 class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)(4). If there are multiple applicants seeking appointment as class counsel,
25 the court “must appoint the applicant best able to represent the interests of the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P.
26 23(g)(2)(B) (emphasis added). In selecting lead class counsel, the Court must consider the following
27 factors:

- 28 (1) the work counsel has done in identifying or investigating potential claims in the action;

- 1 (2) counsel's experience in handling class actions, other complex litigation, and claims of
- 2 the type asserted in the action;
- 3 (3) counsel's knowledge of the applicable law; and
- 4 (4) the resources counsel will commit to representing the class.

5 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)(1)(A). No single factor is determinative; all factors must be considered.
6 Advisory Committee Notes (2003 Amendments).

7 **B. Counsel Have Conducted Extensive Factual and Legal Research**
8 **Investigating the Alleged Unlawful and Unfair Business Practices of**
9 **Apple and AT&T**

10 The Fernandez firm has conducted extensive factual and legal research investigating the
11 alleged misconduct of Apple and AT&T. Immediately after the iPhone was released in June 2007,
12 Apple indicated it would prevent iPhone users from using any cellular telephone service other than
13 AT&T. Since that time, the Fernandez firm has expended over 350 hours already conducting factual
14 and legal research to identify potential claims to be brought against Apple and AT&T and
15 investigating the factual basis for bringing those claims. Fernandez Decl., ¶ 12.

16 Counsel's research involved understanding the experience of actual iPhone users and the
17 practical application of Apple's stated policies regarding the iPhone. Extensive legal research was
18 conducted to ascertain what types of legal claims could be brought against Apple and AT&T and the
19 relative strengths and weaknesses of these claims. Counsel also spent considerable time researching
20 the factual basis to support those legal claims. Eight days after Apple launched Software Update
21 Version 1.1.1 and permanently disabled any iPhone that had been unlocked or had installed third party
22 applications, the Fernandez firm filed its initial complaint against Apple and AT&T.

23 In addition, Girard Gibbs has specific experience litigating against Apple and AT&T in
24 complex consumer protection class actions. Girard Gibbs served as co-lead counsel in the *In re: iPod*
25 *Cases*, JCCP No. 4355, Case No. CIV 436509, which involved unfair and deceptive business practices
26 by Apple in the marketing and sale of iPods. Girard Gibbs also successfully litigated a nationwide
27 class action involving an unlawful slamming scheme against AT&T. *See, e.g., Lund v. AT&T Corp.*,
28 Case No. C 98-1500-DDP (C.D. Cal.). Therefore, Girard Gibbs provides the putative plaintiff class
the benefit of counsel that has both knowledge of Apple's and AT&T's business practices and

1 litigation philosophy and experience vigorously prosecuting cases against both. Girard Gibbs'
2 knowledge and experience litigating complex cases, including against Apple and AT&T, and
3 Fernandez's investment of time and energy in researching the factual and legal issues of this case
4 demonstrates that a leadership structure of Girard Gibbs and Fernandez will be "best able to represent
5 the interests of the class." Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g)(2)(B).

6 **C. Girard Gibbs and Fernandez Possess the Experience and Knowledge of**
7 **the Facts And Applicable Law to Best Represent the Interests of the Class**

8 **1. Girard Gibbs**

9 Since the firm was founded in 1995, Girard Gibbs has compiled a record of success in
10 litigating and resolving complex class action litigation in a range of disciplines, including consumer
11 protection, telecommunications and antitrust.

12 **a. Consumer Protection Experience**

13 Girard Gibbs has served as lead or co-lead counsel in a variety of other consumer fraud actions
14 involving new technologies. For instance, Girard Gibbs recently served as co-lead counsel in *In re:*
15 *iPod Litigation*, Case No. CIV 436509, (Cal. Super. Ct. San Mateo County), a nationwide class action
16 against Apple Computer regarding iPod battery life that provided warranty extensions, battery
17 replacements, cash payments, and store credits to those class members who experienced a battery
18 failure. In granting final approval of the nationwide class action settlement in *In re iPod Litigation*,
19 the Honorable Beth L. Freeman described Girard Gibbs, as class counsel, as well-qualified and
20 experienced in class action litigation and found that Girard Gibbs obtained a substantial benefit on
21 behalf of the class.

22 Girard Gibbs served as co-lead counsel in *In re Sony BMG CD Technologies Litigation*, Case
23 No. 1:05-cv-09575-NRB (S.D.N.Y), a class action for violation of the federal Computer Fraud and
24 Abuse Act on behalf of millions of consumers who purchased SONY BMG music compact discs
25 encoded with digital rights management ("DRM") software which limited CD functionality and acted
26 as spyware on the users' computers. The Hon. Naomi Reice Buchwald granted approval to a
27 settlement that provided for a nationwide recall of certain CDs, the dissemination of software utilities
28 to remove the offending DRM, cash and other compensation for consumers, and injunctive relief
governing SONY BMG's use of DRM.

1 Girard Gibbs served as co-lead counsel in *In re PayPal Litigation*, Case No. C-02-1227-JF
2 (PVT) (N.D.Cal., S.J. Div. 2002), a nationwide class action brought against PayPal alleging violations
3 of the Electronic Funds Transfer Act (“EFTA”) and California consumer protection statutes. The
4 plaintiffs alleged that PayPal did not comply with the EFTA when restricting access to consumers’
5 PayPal accounts, initiating certain electronic funds transfers or its error resolution processes. The
6 Honorable Jeremy Fogel granted final approval to a settlement valued at \$14.35 million in cash and
7 returned funds, plus injunctive relief to ensure compliance with the EFTA.

8 Girard Gibbs served as co-lead class counsel in *In re America Online, Inc. Version 5.0*
9 *Software Litigation*, MDL Docket No. 1341 (S.D. Fla.), an MDL proceeding alleging violations of the
10 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, federal antitrust laws and state consumer protection statutes based on
11 AOL’s distribution of its Version 5.0 software upgrade. The Honorable Alan S. Gold granted final
12 approval to a \$15.5 million cash settlement.

13 In addition, Girard Gibbs has substantial experience litigating other complex consumer class
14 actions. As co-lead counsel in multiple cases alleging that General Motors’ Dex-Cool engine coolant
15 failed to protect as represented, causing damage to vehicle cooling systems, Girard Gibbs successfully
16 obtained certification of a class of Missouri residents and a class of California residents who owned or
17 leased vehicles factory equipped with Dex-Cool *Coordinated General Motors Dex-Cool/Gasket*
18 *Litigation*, JCCP No. 4495 (Cal. Super. Ct. Alameda County); *Gutzler v. General Motors*, Case No.
19 03CV208786-01 (Circuit Ct. of Jackson County, MO). Less than two weeks before trial was to
20 commence on behalf of the Missouri class, General Motors agreed to settle all pending disputes on a
21 nationwide basis. Although the precise terms of the settlement remain confidential while the papers
22 are being finalized for court approval, the settlement will provide class members who paid for certain
23 vehicle repairs, such as an intake manifold gasket replacement, with substantial cash payments.

24 Girard Gibbs also recently served as court-appointed lead class counsel in *Paul v. HCI Direct,*
25 *Inc.*, Case No. RG03091369 (Cal. Super. Ct. Alameda County), in which the court granted class
26 certification and the Court of Appeals and California Supreme Court denied defendants’ writ petition
27 and petition for review, respectfully. As class counsel in *Lehman v. Blue Shield of California*, Case
28 No. CGC-03-419349 (Cal. Super. Ct. San Francisco County), Girard Gibbs prosecuted a class action

1 alleging breach of contract and unfair business practices based on Blue Shield's implementation of
2 risk tier changes and premium increases in connection with its Individual and Family Plans. The
3 vigorously contested litigation resulted in a favorable cash settlement for former subscribers to Blue
4 Shield's plans.

5 **b. Telecommunications Experience**

6 Girard Gibbs is one of the nation's premier law firms with experience litigating class actions
7 against telecommunications companies, particularly for violations of the Federal Communications
8 Act. Girard Gibbs served as court-appointed co-lead counsel in *In re MCI Non-Subscriber Telephone*
9 *Rates Litigation*, MDL No. 1275 (S.D. Ill.), a nationwide class action case on behalf of all MCI
10 subscribers who were charged MCI's non-subscriber or "casual caller" rates and surcharges instead of
11 the lower rates which MCI advertises and which subscribers expect to be charged. The Honorable
12 David R. Herndon granted final approval of a settlement for over \$90 million in cash. In approving
13 the settlement, Judge Herndon noted "the extraordinary result that was achieved by counsel for the
14 class in this matter."

15 In another matter, *Lund v. AT&T Corp.*, Case No. C 98-1500-DDP (AJW) (C.D. Cal.), Girard
16 Gibbs filed suit on behalf of a class of small businesses whose long-distance service was switched to
17 Business Discount Plan, Inc. The Honorable Dean D. Pregerson certified the class, appointed Girard
18 Gibbs class counsel, and ultimately approved a class settlement providing for full cash refunds and
19 free long-distance telephone service.

20 Girard Gibbs presently serves as lead counsel in *Telstar Resource Group, Inc. v. MCI, Inc.*, 05-
21 cv-10671-JGK (S.D.N.Y.), a nationwide class action alleging that Verizon Business simultaneously
22 billed federal and state Universal Service Fund charges to business customers who subscribed to
23 private-line or frame relay service in violation of the Federal Communications Act and FCC
24 regulations. In January 2008, the Honorable John G. Koeltl granted preliminary approval of multi-
25 million dollar settlement to reimburse class members for the alleged overcharges.

26 **c. Antitrust Experience**

27 Girard Gibbs and its attorneys have substantial experience litigating class and non-class
28 antitrust actions involving allegations of price-fixing, monopolization, predatory pricing and group

1 boycott under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, California Cartwright Act and unfair competition
2 statutes of other states. The firm's antitrust practice has involved a variety of industries including high
3 technology (memory chips), energy (natural gas), consumer services (air transportation), and
4 consumer goods (digital music).

5 Girard Gibbs presently serves as court-appointed liaison counsel on behalf of the direct
6 purchaser class in the *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1827 (N.D. Cal.). In
7 addition, the firm serves as co-chair of the Discovery Committee in *In re Natural Gas Anti-Trust*
8 *Cases I, II, III, & IV*, JCCP 4221, 4224, 4226 and 4228 (Cal. Super. Ct. San Diego County), antitrust
9 litigation against numerous natural gas companies for manipulating the California natural gas market,
10 which has achieved settlements of \$153 million to date.

11 Girard Gibbs also represents clients in *In re Flash Memory Antitrust Litigation*, 07-cv-0086
12 (SBA) (N.D. Cal.); *In re Korean Airlines Co., Ltd. Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1891 (SJO) (C.D.
13 Cal.); *In re Chocolate Confectionary Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1935 (transfer motion pending);
14 *In re Transpacific Air Passenger Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1913 (transfer motion pending); *In re*
15 *Digital Music Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1780 (LAP) (S.D.N.Y.), *In re International Air*
16 *Transportation Surcharge Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1793 (CRB) (N.D. Cal.), and *In re Static*
17 *Random Access Memory (SRAM) Antitrust Litigation*, MDL No. 1819 (CW) (N.D. Cal.).

18 **d. Complex Litigation and Federal Practice Experience**

19 Girard Gibbs has represented a broad range of clients in complex litigation. These clients
20 include some of the largest pension funds in the United States, including the California Public
21 Employees Retirement System, California State Teachers' Retirement System, the Kansas Public
22 Employees Retirement System, the State of Wisconsin Investment Board, the Louisiana Teachers'
23 Retirement System, the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System, and the Los Angeles County
24 Employees Retirement Association.

25 Moreover, as illustrated by the preceding compendium of cases, Girard Gibbs is experienced in
26 federal court practice and has a demonstrated record of commitment to high standards of service to the
27 federal courts. In August 2004, the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist appointed the firm's managing
28 partner Daniel C. Girard to the United States Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on Civil Rules.

1 Mr. Girard participated in the development of the “e-discovery” amendments to the Federal Rules of
2 Civil Procedure. He is currently a member of a Civil Rules Committee task force evaluating potential
3 changes to the Rule 26 expert witness discovery. Mr. Girard also serves on the American Law Institute
4 Aggregate Litigation Project Members’ Consultative Group.

5 **2. Law Office of Damian R. Fernandez**

6 Damian Fernandez is an experienced trial lawyer with over eight years of litigation experience.
7 He graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1999. Fernandez Decl., ¶ 10.
8 Mr. Fernandez was one of the first attorneys to investigate Apple’s unfair business practices and
9 conduct the factual and legal research necessary to set forth a complaint against Apple and AT&T for
10 entering into an improper exclusivity agreement and then deceptively implementing a purported
11 software upgrade that permanently disabled the iPhones of Apple customers. *Id.*, ¶ 11. Mr. Fernandez
12 was also the first attorney to file a complaint raising antitrust allegations, Magnuson-Moss Warranty
13 claims, Song-Beverly Act claims, Consumer Legal Remedies Act claims, and federal and state penal
14 code causes of action that provide for civil remedies. *Id.* After permanently disabling the iPhones,
15 Apple then refused to honor their warranty, in essence refusing to help their own customers after
16 crippling the product that they purchased from Apple. *Id.* Mr. Fernandez has personally expended
17 over 350 hours of attorney time conducting the legal research and developing the factual knowledge
18 necessary to prosecute this case. *Id.* ¶ 12. Mr. Fernandez is dedicated to serving the best interests of
19 the class. As evidence of his commitment to prosecuting this action in the best interests of the class,
20 Mr. Fernandez has added to the legal talent for this case by associating in Girard Gibbs, which
21 possesses both the requisite financial resources and class action experience. *Id.* ¶ 13.

22 **D. Girard Gibbs and Fernandez Will Devote Substantial Resources to**
23 **Efficiently Prosecute this Action**

24 Girard Gibbs has extensive experience in prosecuting multidistrict litigation and class actions
25 in state and federal courts throughout the country. Fernandez is an experienced litigator who is
26 committed to this litigation and protecting the interests of the putative class members who were
27 harmed by the actions of Apple and AT&T. Folkenflik and Hoffman lack the resources to commit to
28 representing the putative plaintiff class. Between the two firms, there are less than five attorneys who
will be able to prosecute this litigation. In addition, the Folkenflik firm is involved in a number of

1 different lawsuits across the country. As a two-person law firm, the Folkenflik firm will not be able to
2 devote sufficient attorney time and resources to vigorously prosecute this action and prepare it for
3 trial. As such, the interests of the putative plaintiff class are best served by combining a law firm with
4 a well-developed knowledge base regarding the iPhone and the alleged misconduct of Apple and
5 AT&T with a law firm that will be able to provide the attorney time, trial ability, class financial
6 resources and support staff necessary to successfully litigate a complex class action against a major
7 corporations represented by major defense firms including Latham & Watkins LLP, Mayer Brown
8 LLP and Crowell & Moring LLP.

9 **E. Girard Gibbs Has Good Working Relationships With The Firms**
10 **Involved in this Case and is Committed to Working on this Case in a**
11 **Professional and Cooperative Manner**

12 Over the years, Girard Gibbs has, at one time or another, worked with many law firms,
13 including those involved in this case, often in complex litigations such as this one. For example,
14 Girard Gibbs has litigated several cases against the law firms of Latham & Watkins LLP and Mayer
15 Brown LLP, many of which were complex actions. Over the years, Girard Gibbs has developed a
16 respectful and courteous professional relationship with these law firms. Professional, courteous
17 relations amongst plaintiffs' counsel, as well as between opposing counsel, is essential to the conduct
18 and management of a complex class action such as this one. Furthermore, Girard Gibbs, along with
19 the Fernandez firm, are dedicated to leading this litigation in a manner that best serves the interests of
20 the plaintiffs injured by the alleged unfair and illegal business practices of Apple and AT&T.

21 **F. Folkenflik Does Not Meet the Requirements of Federal Rule of Civil**
22 **Procedure 23(g)**

23 **1. The Folkenflik Firm Lacks The Experience and Resources to**
24 **Prosecute This Complex Class Action Vigorously**

25 The Folkenflik firm, a two-person law firm out of New York City, lacks the experience and
26 depth of complex class action experience as Girard Gibbs, lacks the financial and legal resources to
27 vigorously prosecute this litigation, and is geographically distant from the Bay Area, where most of
28 the discovery and all of the hearings before this Court will take place. While the Folkenflik attorneys
may be experienced, they have not prosecuted the number of class action lawsuits that the Girard
Gibbs firm has at a national level. Folkenflik also lacks the experience of litigating in the Northern

1 District of California, and on multiple occupations and they have not complied with this Court's Local
2 Rules. Furthermore, unlike Girard Gibbs, Folkenflik has no antitrust or telecommunications
3 experience of note. Both are specialized areas of law that requires years of experience to develop.
4 Without that specialized knowledge, it would be difficult for Folkenflik to prosecute this action
5 adequately.

6 Folkenflik, a two-person law office and Hoffman, a four person law firm, lack the financial
7 resources and attorney time to devote to a case of this magnitude. This case involves a purported
8 national class of purchasers of iPhone. The two defendants in this case are Apple and AT&T, two of
9 the largest corporations in the United States with sufficient resources and motivation to finance and
10 support a vigorous defense of the claims in this action. Already, they are represented by three highly
11 prominent defense firms, Latham & Watkins LLP, Mayer Brown LLP and Crowell & Moring LLP.
12 While Folkenflik and Hoffman may have some class action experience, they clearly would not be able
13 to approximate the resources and attorney time of these three firms. As such, retaining Folkenflik as
14 co-lead counsel would not best serve the interests of the putative class who would not be represented
15 by counsel that could devote appropriate resources and bring sufficient antitrust and consumer
16 protection class action experience to this litigation. Therefore, Folkenflik will not be able to fairly and
17 adequately represent the interests of the class as required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(g)(4).
18 At a minimum, Folkenflik would not be "best able to represent the interests of the class." Fed. R. Civ.
19 P. 23(g)(2).

20 **2. Folkenflik's Representation of Plaintiffs Against Apple and**
21 **AT&T in Another Putative Class Action Creates a Conflict of**
22 **Interest Here**

23 Folkenflik represents a putative class in *Stiener v. Apple, Inc.*, 07-4486 (SBA) (N.D. Cal. filed
24 Aug. 29, 2007), separate litigation against Apple and AT&T involving unlawful conduct with respect
25 to the iPhone. Such representation creates a conflict of interest that precludes Folkenflik's
26 appointment as interim class counsel in this case. Attorneys are inadequate to represent a class, if they
27 have a conflict of interest with members of the class. *See Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011,
28 1020 (9th Cir. 1998). "The responsibility of class counsel to absent class members whose control
over their attorneys is limited does not permit even the appearance of divided loyalties of counsel."

1 *Kayes v. Pacific Lumber Co.*, 51 F.3d 1449, 1465 (9th Cir. 1995) (quoting *Sullivan v. Chase Inv.*
2 *Servs. Of Boston, Inc.*, 79 F.R.D. 246, 258 (N.D. Cal. 1978). See also *Kurcz v. Eli Lilly & Co.* 160
3 F.R.D 667, 679 (N.D. Ohio 1995) (counsel’s representation of another class in state court against
4 same defendant created conflict, preventing counsel from acting as counsel for class in instant case).
5 Counsel’s simultaneous representation of litigants with similar interests in two different lawsuits
6 against the same defendants creates the appearance of such divided loyalties. See *Sullivan*, 79 F.R.D.
7 at 258.

8 Folkenflik’s representation of the class in *Stiener* creates a conflict of interest with the class in
9 this case. As with this case, *Stiener* is a putative class action against Apple and AT&T involving the
10 iPhone. *Stiener* alleges that defendants failed “to inform a nationwide group of initial purchasers of
11 the iPhone cellular telephone that fees of over \$100 would be required to replace the iPhone battery
12 and maintain service while the battery was being replaced,” in violation of California consumer
13 protection statutes and the common law. (*Stiener*, Complaint, ¶ 1 (attached as Exhibit A to Fernandez
14 Decl.)) The classes in *Stiener* and this case substantially overlap. The putative class in *Stiener* is
15 defined as “all individuals or entities who at any time from June 29, 2007 to the date of judgment in
16 this action bought and implemented the iPhone and sustained damages as a result.” (*Stiener*,
17 Complaint, ¶ 32.) The class in this litigation similarly includes persons who purchased an iPhone
18 from June 29, 2007 until defendants’ illegal conduct has ceased. (*Smith*, First Amended Complaint, ¶¶
19 93-94.) The *Stieners*—as purchasers of the iPhone on June 29, 2007 (*Stiener*, Complaint p. 4, ¶ 29)—
20 are therefore members of the class in this case. Among other things, both cases challenge the \$29 fee
21 Apple charges to consumers under its “AppleCare Service Phone” program for a temporary
22 replacement iPhone, while their damaged iPhones are being repaired.

23 As the classes in *Stiener* and this case are seeking to recover from the same defendants on
24 claims involving the iPhone, they have conflicting interests and cannot be represented by the same
25 counsel without creating the appearance of divided loyalties.

1 **G. Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz Will Not Be Able to**
2 **Represent the Interests of the Putative Plaintiff Class as Well as the**
3 **Girard Gibbs and Fernandez Firms**

4 In a letter dated February 4, 2008, the law firm of Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz
5 LLP (the “Wolf” firm) indicated to this Court that while it had no legal standing to file a motion in the
6 *In re: Apple and AT&TM Antitrust Litigation*, it intended to do so regardless. Wolf, which is
7 principally based in New York City, chose to file its complaint against Apple and AT&T in the
8 Southern District of New York, even though Apple, which developed and marketed the iPhone, is
9 based out of Cupertino in the Northern District of California. That complaint is entitled *Herbert H.*
10 *Kliegerman v. Apple, Inc., et. al.*, Case No. 07-08404-PKC. Only recently has Wolf conceded to the
11 transfer of their separate lawsuit to the Northern District of California and agreeing to have it related
12 to the *In re: Apple and AT&TM Antitrust Litigation* currently pending before this Court. On February
13 4, 2008, Wolf sent a letter to this Court indicating that it intended to file a motion to seek lead counsel
14 status in this litigation. Fernandez Decl., ¶ 6.; *see also* Doc. No. 59.

15 The Fernandez firm has expended considerable time, energy and effort into investigating the
16 potential legal claims in this case and conducting the factual research to support those claims.
17 Fernandez has already developed a level of knowledge regarding this case that other counsel,
18 including Wolf, does not possess. In addition, Girard Gibbs has previous experience litigating a
19 complex class action against Apple and AT&T, which provides them with a specific understanding of
20 Apple’s and AT&T’s business practices and litigation philosophy that Wolf may not share. Girard
21 Gibbs actively litigated the *In re: iPod Cases* for over a year and after hundreds of hours spent
22 drafting legal briefs and conducting discovery, Girard Gibbs was able to achieve an excellent result
23 that inured to the benefit of the putative plaintiff class. In granting final approval of the settlement, the
24 Honorable Beth L. Freeman said that the class was represented by “extremely well qualified” counsel
25 who negotiated a “significant and substantial benefit” for the class members.

26 Moreover, Girard Gibbs maintains its office in the Northern District of California and has
27 extensive experience practicing in the Northern District of California. While the Wolf law firm is a
28 national firm, its federal practice is focused in the Southern District of New York. Moreover, the
29 Girard Gibbs and Fernandez lawyers are physically located in the Northern District of California.

1 Most of the alleged misconduct at issue in this litigation would have occurred in Cupertino, California
2 and the majority of the key witnesses and documents would be located in Cupertino, California. Being
3 based in the Bay Area, the Girard Gibbs and Fernandez firms would be able to conduct discovery,
4 attend hearings and perform any other actions related to this case more efficiently and effectively than
5 the Wolf firm. In order to maximize efficiency and minimize cost, selecting co-lead counsel from the
6 Bay Area would best serve the interests of the putative plaintiff class.

7 **IV. CONCLUSION**

8 For each of the foregoing reasons, Girard Gibbs and Fernandez respectfully suggest that these
9 two firms jointly offer a leadership partnership that best represents the interests of the plaintiff class.
10 Thus, the undersigned firms respectfully request appointment as Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel for
11 the plaintiff class pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(g).

12
13 DATED: February 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

14 **LAW OFFICE OF DAMIAN R. FERNANDEZ**

15 By: /s/ Damian R. Fernandez (with permission)
16 Damian R. Fernandez

17 14510 Big Basin Way, Suite A, PMB 285
18 Saratoga, California 95070-6091
19 Telephone: (408) 354-8684
20 Facsimile: (408) 904-739116

21 **GIRARD GIBBS LLP**

22 By: /s/ Eric H. Gibbs
23 Eric H. Gibbs

24 Elizabeth C. Pritzker
25 Aaron M. Sheanin
26 Geoffrey A. Munroe
27 601 California Street, 14th Floor
28 San Francisco, California 94108
Telephone: (415) 981-4800
Facsimile: (415) 981-4846

Proposed Interim Co-Lead Class Counsel

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LAW OFFICE OF M. VAN SMITH
M. Van Smith (32007)
1696 Mendenhall Drive
San Jose, California 95130-1574
Telephone: (408) 364-1062;
Facsimile: (408) 273-6496

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class