

Tina McGill

12-22-10

2358 Legion St, Bellmore, MI 48110

Phone #: 1516 884 3287

Case No. 5:10-cv-00672-JW

To whom it may concern,  
 at the San Jose division of the District Court of  
 Northern California,

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 CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

I am writing the court today to express my disapproval of the privacy violations of Google Buzz and to advocate for both greater privacy protections and oversight, and for minimal lawyer fees being extracted from the settlement.

I first learned of Google Buzz on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, when my gmail accounts received an email notifying me of the Class action settlement. I clicked the unattached 'google buzz' icon on my email account to find myself automatically enrolled in the service, despite years of precaution about disclosing information of the internet, through social networking sites and other media. I worried that the tens of contacts I emailed to weekly while I was Secretary to a club could have been publically disclosed or tracked; not to mention other formal contacts I correspond with. I do not appreciate the absence of consumer choice and lax privacy controls Google offered when Google Buzz was launched.

I hope that no programs within any email account access contact information. There is a potential

that  
of such contact disclosure which could permit the  
sale of email addresses to advertisers, among  
other issues. Therefore, it is my wish that greater  
oversight in privacy be afforded. I believe this  
could be accomplished by more independent  
monitoring of private sites and companies by  
consumer watchdog groups, and, in this case,  
by stipulating that Google uphold its agreements.  
I would prefer that users be prompted to enroll  
in any service; that no programs access private  
data without user consent with transparent privacy settings;  
and that independent monitoring be upheld  
by reaching a settlement which adequately  
funds consumer groups. A few million dollar  
precedent lawsuit which rewards lawyers  
(perhaps with 15 to, at most, 20 percent of the amount)  
and provides the bulk of the monies awarded to  
consumer and internet privacy education advocates  
would likely achieve the last of these.

I will additionally note my displeasure about the  
brief window on which one has to comment on the case  
(two weeks' notice is barely enough time to  
learn about events, formulate a response, and have  
it get through the mail from the other side of  
the country; atop the prospects of reading Google's  
gmail users' email notification from December 10<sup>th</sup>  
a few days or a week or two late). I request that  
the court extend the commentary period to at least  
five to seven weeks after gmail's first Google Buzz  
settlement notification - effectively into February -  
to better enable person's with busy lives to comment,  
to accommodate letters in transit in the mail; and to

permit the news some time to travel among those affected.

My final concern is my present inability to disenroll from Google Buzz. My slow internet connection only affords me the use of gmail's basic html version of its email service from my home. I hope that, in the near future, the court will mandate that Google give all of its customers the option to cancel their compulsory Buzz accounts, or that Google Buzz will voluntarily provide an easy means for its patrons to cancel their Google Buzz accounts. I hope that, as I cannot access or see the 'buzz' icon while on the basic version, that a link sent by email will permit me to finally cancel the unwanted account; or that another way to opt-out via the basic version be offered. Perhaps all gmail customers <sup>could</sup> be notified of automatically self terminating accounts and be given the option to remain with the 'Buzz' service.

I will, unfortunately, not be able to attend the fairness hearing due to its great physical distance away (thousands of miles) and my work schedule. I hope that my concerns will still be considered by the court.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina McGill

signed: Tina McGill

date: 12-22-10.

**Important Information about Google Buzz Class Action Settlement** [Inbox](#)★ [Google Buzz](#) <noreply-buzz-classaction@google.com>

Tue, Nov 2, 2010 at 3:30 PM

To: syrhousingsearch@gmail.com

[Reply](#) | [Reply to all](#) | [Forward](#) | [Print](#) | [Delete](#) | [Show original](#)

Google rarely contacts Gmail users via email, but we are making an exception to let you know that we've reached a settlement in a lawsuit regarding Google Buzz (<http://buzz.google.com>), a service we launched within Gmail in February of this year.

Shortly after its launch, we heard from a number of people who were concerned about privacy. In addition, we were sued by a group of Buzz users and recently reached a settlement in this case.

The settlement acknowledges that we quickly changed the service to address users' concerns. In addition, Google has committed \$8.5 million to an independent fund, most of which will support organizations promoting privacy education and policy on the web. We will also do more to educate people about privacy controls specific to Buzz. The more people know about privacy online, the better their online experience will be.

Just to be clear, this is not a settlement in which people who use Gmail can file to receive compensation. Everyone in the U.S. who uses Gmail is included in the settlement, unless you personally decide to opt out before December 6, 2010. The Court will consider final approval of the agreement on January 31, 2011. This email is a summary of the settlement, and more detailed information and instructions approved by the court, including instructions about how to opt out, object, or comment, are available at <http://www.BuzzClassAction.com>.

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This mandatory announcement was sent to all Gmail users in the United States as part of a legal settlement and was authorized by the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

Google Inc. | 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway | Mountain View, CA 94043

I have included this page to substantiate that I am a class member. I have two gmail accounts; this is a copy of one of Google Buzz Class Action Settlement notifications I received.

Tina McGill  
(Tina McGill)

12-22-10