DiTirro v. Facebook, Inc. Doc. 21

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	COOLEY LLP MICHAEL G. RHODES (116127) (rhodesmg@cooley.com) MATTHEW D. BROWN (196972) (brownmd@cooley.com) JEFFREY M. GUTKIN (216083) (gutkinjm@cooley.com) BENJAMIN H. KLEINE (257225) (bkleine@cooley.com) CANDACE A. JACKMAN (267599) (cjackman@cooley.com) 101 California Street, 5th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111-5800 Telephone: (415) 693-2000 Facsimile: (415) 693-2222			
9	Attorneys for Defendant Facebook, Inc.			
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13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
14	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
15	OAKLAND DIVISION			
16	ANTHONY DITIRRO, KATYA	Case No. 5:14-cv-00132-PJH		
17	BRESLER, AND MICHELLE SHUMATE, individually and on behalf of		ACEBOOK, INC.'S REQUEST	
18	others similarly situated,	INCORPORATE	RATION OF DOCUMENTS D INTO THE FIRST AMENDED	
19	Plaintiffs,		N SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S ISMISS FIRST AMENDED	
20	V.	COMPLAINT		
21	FACEBOOK, INC., a Delaware corporation,	Date: Time:	June 11, 2014 9:00 a.m.	
22	Defendant.	Courtroom: Judge:	3 Hon. Phyllis J. Hamilton	
23		Trial Date:	None Set	
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COOLEY LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW SAN FRANCISCO			FACEBOOK'S REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENTS CASE NO. 5:14-CV-00132-PJH	

NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on June 11, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as this motion may be heard in the above-entitled Court, located at 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, California, in Courtroom 3, Third Floor, Defendant Facebook, Inc. ("Facebook"), in support of its concurrently filed Motion to Dismiss the First Amended Complaint ("Motion to Dismiss"), will request that the Court consider Exhibits A through D to the concurrently filed Declaration of Sandeep Solanki (the "Solanki Declaration"), as incorporated by reference into Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint ("FAC"). This request is made pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12, Federal Rule of Evidence 201, and applicable legal principles, and is based on the instant request and the points and authorities in support thereof, the Motion to Dismiss and the points and authorities in support thereof, the Solanki Declaration and exhibits thereto, all pleadings and papers on file, and such other matters as may be presented to or properly considered by the Court.

STATEMENT OF RELIEF SOUGHT

Facebook seeks an order that the documents attached as Exhibits A through D to the Solanki Declaration are properly before the Court on Facebook's Motion to Dismiss because they are incorporated by reference into the FAC.

STATEMENT OF ISSUE TO BE DECIDED

Whether the documents attached as Exhibits A through D to the Solanki Declaration are incorporated by reference into the FAC and therefore must be considered by the Court in ruling on the Motion to Dismiss.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO THIS REQUEST

Facebook's Motion to Dismiss the FAC:

• Solanki Declaration, Exhibit A: The Facebook terms of use (also referred to as the "Statement of Rights and Responsibilities" or "SRR") that are currently in place, which went into effect for all Facebook users on or about November 15, 2013.

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III. ARGUMENT

The "contract" between Facebook and Plaintiffs—referred to variously in the FAC as the "contract," "terms and conditions," "terms," "user agreement," and "Statement of Rights and Responsibilities"—lies at the heart of the FAC and forms the basis of at least five of Plaintiffs'

Solanki Declaration, Exhibit B: The Facebook terms of use that went into effect for all Facebook users on or about September 23, 2008.

- Solanki Declaration, Exhibit C: The Facebook terms of use that went into effect for all Facebook users on or about February 4, 2009.
- Solanki Declaration, Exhibit D: The Facebook SRR that went into effect for all Facebook users on or about May 1, 2009.

II. LEGAL STANDARD

"[C]ourts must consider the complaint in its entirety, as well as other sources courts ordinarily examine when ruling on Rule 12(b)(6) motions to dismiss, in particular, documents incorporated into the complaint by reference" Tellabs, Inc. v. Makor Issues & Rights, Ltd., 551 U.S. 308, 322 (2007) (emphasis added); accord, e.g., Skilstaf, Inc. v. CVS Caremark Corp., No. 09-cv-2514 SI, 2010 WL 199717, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 13, 2010). A document is "incorporated by reference into a complaint if the plaintiff refers extensively to the document or the document forms the basis of the plaintiff's claim." United States v. Ritchie, 342 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir. 2003). The document need not be "physically attached" to the complaint, Knievel v. ESPN, 393 F.3d 1068, 1076 (9th Cir. 2005), but may be considered on a motion to dismiss if "the plaintiff's claim depends on the contents of a document, the defendant attaches the document to its motion to dismiss, and the parties do not dispute the authenticity of the document " Knievel, 393 F.3d at 1076; see also Parrino v. FHP, Inc., 146 F.3d 699, 706 (9th Cir. 1998) ("We therefore hold that a district court ruling on a motion to dismiss may consider a document the authenticity of which is not contested, and upon which the plaintiff's complaint necessarily relies."), superseded by statute on other grounds as recognized in Abrego Abrego v. Dow Chem. Co., 443 F.3d 676, 681 (9th Cir. 2006). If these elements are met, "the district court may treat such a document as part of the complaint, and thus may assume that its contents are true for purposes of a motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6)." Ritchie, 342 F.3d at 908.

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legal claims. (See, e.g., FAC ¶¶ 18-20, 22, 51(g), 96, 98.) Plaintiffs' claims for breach of contract (FAC ¶¶ 97-101) and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing (FAC ¶¶ 102-106) are expressly premised on the contract, alleging that "DEFENDANT entered into a contract with PLAINTIFFS . . . in part expressed in DEFENDANT'S user agreement," under which Facebook "agreed ... not to interject false content ... that would be visible to other Facebook users," which provision "DEFENDANT materially breached " (FAC ¶¶ 98-100; see also FAC ¶ 103 (implied covenant claim premised on "[the] contract alleged herein above"). Plaintiffs' claims for violations of the Unfair Competition Law, False Advertising Law, and Consumers Legal Remedies Act are, likewise, premised on the contract, each arising from alleged "false and misleading representations" contained within the contract (among other purported, but largely unidentified, locations on the Facebook website). (FAC ¶ 92; see also, e.g., FAC ¶ 96 (alleging that Facebook "disseminat[ed] [false] statements, including but not limited to its terms of use (including its Statement of Rights and Responsibilities and Data Use Policy)"). In support of these claims, Plaintiffs allege that they "read Facebook's terms and conditions and other information" both "[b]efore signing up for Facebook and continually thereafter" (FAC ¶¶ 18-20), and "relied on ... false and misleading representations [therein] in deciding to register for Facebook or remain registered with Facebook, provide personal information and post content" (FAC ¶¶ 99, 105).

Although the "contract" is fundamental to Plaintiffs' claims, the FAC fails to attach it or even quote from it (much less identify any specific provisions that were breached or misleading, as discussed further in the Motion to Dismiss). These circumstances present the most compelling case for incorporation-by-reference, as they implicate the core "policy concern underlying the rule: Preventing plaintiffs from [attempting to survive] a Rule 12(b)(6) motion by deliberately omitting references to documents upon which their claims are based." *Parrino*, 146 F.3d at 706. Indeed, where plaintiffs have failed to attach an agreement that underlies their claims, courts have not hesitated to consider the full terms of that agreement on a motion to dismiss. *See, e.g., id.* at 706 (district court properly considered "the terms of the plan, documents governing plan membership, coverage, and administration" where complaint referred to and "rested upon" those

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documents); *Ritchie*, 342 F.3d at 908 ("The doctrine of incorporation by reference may apply, for example, when a plaintiff's claim about insurance coverage is based on the contents of a coverage plan, or when a plaintiff's claim about stock fraud is based on the contents of SEC filings." (citations omitted)); *Swartz v. KPMG LLP*, 476 F.3d 756, 763 (9th Cir. 2007) ("Here, [plaintiff] brought a breach of contract claim against KPMG and referred explicitly to the engagement letter. The authenticity of the letter is not in dispute. Therefore, the letter was properly considered on the 12(b)(6) motions."). Otherwise, "complaints that quoted only selected and misleading portions of [the parties' agreements] could not be dismissed [under Rule 12(b)(6)] even though they would be doomed to failure." *In re Silicon Graphics, Inc. Secs. Litig.*, 970 F. Supp. 746, 758-59 (N.D. Cal. 1997) (quoting *Kramer v. Time Warner, Inc.*, 937 F.2d 767, 774 (2d Cir. 1991)).

As Plaintiffs appear to concede, the operative "contract" is Facebook's "Statement of Rights and Responsibilities" (FAC ¶ 96), which contains the "terms of service that governs [Facebook's] relationship with users and others who interact with Facebook" (Solanki Decl., Ex. A). The current version of the SRR, applicable to all current users of Facebook (including Plaintiffs), and which took effect before the original complaint in this action was filed, is attached as Exhibit A to the Solanki Declaration. (Ex. A, § 14.3.) The terms of use in effect when Plaintiffs registered for Facebook are attached as Exhibits B through D of the Solanki Declaration. ¹

Because these documents are fundamental to the FAC's claims, the Court should consider them as incorporated by reference into the FAC for purposes of Facebook's Motion to Dismiss. *See, e.g., Parrino*, 146 F.3d at 706; *Knievel*, 393 F.3d at 1076; *Ritchie*, 342 F.3d at 908.²

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WL 106792, at *1 (finding content on plaintiffs' website to be proper matter for judicial notice).

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FACEBOOK'S REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF DOCUMENTS CASE NO. 5:14-CV-00132-PJH

¹ As Plaintiff DiTirro's allegations regarding when he joined Facebook do not match the publicly available information in his account profile, Facebook includes in this Motion the various versions of the SRR that may have been in effect when DiTirro joined.

The current version of the SRR is, additionally, the proper subject of judicial notice because its contents are not subject to reasonable dispute and are capable of accurate and ready determination by resort to Facebook's website (*see* https://www.facebook.com/legal/terms). *See* Fed. R. Evid. 201(b) (judicial notice is proper as to matters "capable of accurate and ready determination by resort to sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be questioned"); *Caldwell v. Caldwell*, No. C 05-4166, 2006 WL 618511, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 13, 2006) ("as a general matter, websites and their contents may be proper subjects for judicial notice"); *Frances Kenny Family Trust*, 2005

1	IV.	Conclusion		
2	For the foregoing reasons, Facebook respectfully requests that the Court consider Exhibits			
3	A through D to the Solanki Declaration in connection with Facebook's Motion to Dismiss.			
4	Dated	: April 15, 2014	COOLEY LLP	
5			/S/ Jeffrey M. Gutkin	
6			Jeffrey M. Gutkin Attorneys for Defendant Facebook, Inc.	
7			Attorneys for Defendant Pacebook, file.	
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