Connectu, Inc. v. Facebook, Inc. et al

Case 1:07-cv-10593-DPW Document 86-2 Filed 08/29/2007 Page 1 of 14

EXHIBIT 1

Doc. 86 Att. 1

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                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                        DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
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     CONNECTU, INC., et al,
                                              Civil Action
                          Plaintiff :
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                                              No. 07-10593-DPW
     V. : Courtroom No. 1
: 1 Courthouse Way
: Boston, MA 02210

FACEBOOK, INC., et al, : 2:30 p.m., Wednesday
Defendant : July 25, 2007
 5
                V.
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                                Motion Hearing
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     Before: THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS P. WOODLOCK,
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                         UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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     APPEARANCES:
     Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP,
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     (by John F. Hornick, Esq., Margaret A. Esquenet, Esq.
15
       and Meredith Schoenfeld, Esq.)
       901 New York Ave., NW, Washington, DC 2001-4413,
16
       on behalf of the Plaintiffs.
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     Griesinger, Tighe & Maffei, LLP,
       (by Scott McConchie, Esq.)
18
        176 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110-2214,
        on behalf of the Plaintiffs.
19
     Holland & Knight LLP, (by Daniel K. Hampton, Esq.),
20
       10 St. James Avenue, Boston, MA 02116,
       on behalf of the Defendant, Eduardo Saverin.
21
     Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP, (by I. Neel
       Chatterjee, Esq. and G. Hopkins Guy, III, Esq.),
22
       1000 Marsh Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025-1021,
23
       on behalf of the Defendants.
     Heller Ehrman, LLP, (by Annette L. Hurst, Esq.),
24
       333 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94104-2878,
       on behalf of the Defendant, Eduardo Saverin.
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             THE CLERK: ConnectU, Inc. v. Facebook, Inc.,
   07-10593.
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             THE COURT: Well, let me approach this a little
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   bit differently with the parties. I guess,
   Mr. Chatterjee, you're going to speak generally for the
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   defendants?
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            MR. CHATTERJEE: Your Honor, I'll be speaking for
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   all of the defendants, except Eduardo Saverin, who is
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   represented by Ms. Hurst.
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            THE COURT:
                         Okay.
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            Let me understand from you what difference this
   proliferation of claims is going to have before this is in
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   discovery.
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            MR. CHATTERJEE:
                              Thank you, your Honor.
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             I think there are a couple of differences that
   this proliferation of claims has, two in particular.
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            The first one is basically this case, I think
   your Honor correctly noted at the last hearing, has kind
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   of spun in a lot of directions and somewhat out of
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   control. And, what we see in the current complaint is
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   actually broader than the complaint that was filed by
   ConnectU, LLC, which is a different entity than the
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   plaintiff here, today, and in this case.
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            THE COURT:
                         The original complaint, not the
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   amended complaint?
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            MR. CHATTERJEE: No, the original complaint and
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things. That's a legal call.

The unjust enrichment claim, obviously, they've pled a lot of causes of action here and there is -- there are adequate remedies along that should not be in the case.

As far as, you know --

THE COURT: You mean where there's an adequate remedy you don't have unjust enrichment?

MR. CHATTERJEE: It may be an available damage under other causes of action. But, for example, a copyright infringement, there's going to be an adequate remedy of law or remedy associated with the copyright infringement for which unjust enrichment shouldn't be available. Or, to the extent that they think there is something separate, perhaps your Honor's suggestion as to Twombly is correct and they need to provide detailed factual allegations. I would support that kind of pleading.

THE COURT: All right.

Well, let me understand from the plaintiff why these aren't just for consideration.

MR. HORNICK: Well, your Honor, would you like me to address all those points or did you have a paricular question?

THE COURT: Well, this. This is a -- it's not

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been a long time to mount every complaint --
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             MR. HORNICK: Yes.
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             THE COURT: -- here.
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             In fact, you appeared with this one almost
   simultaneously with the dismissal of the case. It remains
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   notice pleading here.
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            Now, tell me what is different with the factor
   through the prism of copyright preemption.
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   different here?
            You're using the complaint itself. Maybe the way
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   to deal with it is just to start with the questions and a
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   contract. Go over the terms and conditions of the
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   contract.
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            MR. HORNICK: Well, the contract, your Honor --
   I'll just turn to my notes here.
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            THE COURT: What were the terms and conditions of
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   the contract?
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            MR. HORNICK: The contract was that
   Mr. Zuckerberg was going to complete the Harvard
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   connection code and he was going to become a member of the
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   Harvard connection team to help finish the website, launch
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   it, help it grow, and profit from the case success.
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            THE COURT: Okay. Now, let's assume that he
   finished the code and they refused to let him be part of a
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   team. How would you oppose the contract?
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MR. HORNICK: Well, there's no allegation that they refused to allow him --THE COURT: No. The way we're looking at the bilateral character of the contract that you just identified. And, I want to know what the terms and conditions are. You've given me this kind of loose --MR. HORNICK: No, your Honor. THE COURT: Just a moment. You've given me this kind of loose description. I've been through your complaint. It's gossimer thin on the question of contract, as a contract. And so, I'm giving you an opportunity to tell me what the contract is and what the terms and conditions of the contract are. MR. HORNICK: We are, as I was saying, the service that Mr. Zuckerberg was supposed to provide under the contract was to finish the Harvard connection code, to become a member of the team, and wherever that meant, to help get this website launched and --THE COURT: Now, this is a contract, the object of which is whatever that meant? MR. HORNICK: No, your Honor. This is --THE COURT: I didn't follow you. That's why I made the statement. MR. HORNICK: I said it's to become a member of the team. And, once you become a member of a team who's

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going to launch a website, there are a lot of things that
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   you would do. But, as a member of the team, you would do
   anything that is needed to be done to launch that website
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   because you are going to be profiting from it. So --
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            THE COURT: What are you going to receive?
            MR. HORNICK: What you're going to receive
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   immediately is sweat equity.
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            THE COURT: Whatever do you mean? A third?
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            MR. HORNICK: No. The parties were thinking
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   about a quarter.
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            THE COURT:
                        They were thinking about a quarter,
   but they hadn't said anything --
            MR. HORNICK: No, no.
            THE COURT: -- about a quarter?
            MR. HORNICK: Your Honor, they were thinking
   about a quarter at the time because there were four people
   at the time.
            THE COURT: Right.
            And, there was an agreement that there would be a
   quarter?
            MR. HORNICK:
                          That is our position, yes.
            THE COURT: Where is that in the complaint?
            MR. HORNICK:
                          The complaint does not say how much
   or what percentage Mr. Zuckerberg --
                        Isn't that an important term or
            THE COURT:
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condition of the contract?
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             MR. HORNICK: Yes, it is, your Honor.
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             THE COURT: Okay.
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             MR. HORNICK: But, I --
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             THE COURT: But, it's not in the complaint?
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             MR. HORNICK: That is not in the complaint, no.
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    But, the complaint does say that Mr. Zuckerberg would
   obtain equity in exchange for --
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             THE COURT: What does "equity" mean? You've got
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   to describe it with some degree of particularity.
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            MR. HORNICK: Well, your Honor --
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            THE COURT: You're going to have to prove it with
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   some degree of particularity.
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            MR. HORNICK: Proving it I don't view as a
   difficulty. Pleading it, I also don't view as a
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   difficulty. If necessary, we can amend the complaint.
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            But, at the time, we believed --
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            THE COURT: It would be your third amendment?
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            MR. HORNICK: No, your Honor. I would actually
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   view it as the second and I'll tell you why.
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            There are substantially no differences between --
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   in the facts that are alleged -- between the original
   complaint, the amended complaint and the complaint filed
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   in this new case --
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            THE COURT: Is there a new cause of action in
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    this complaint?
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             MR. HORNICK: There is one new claim. There are
    no new causes of action.
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             THE COURT: May I suggest the use of numbers here
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    because it's a little bit elusive?
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            MR. HORNICK: Yes. The tenth -- there were nine
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    -- there were -- I believe there were eight claims, seven
   claims in the original complaint. The amended complaint I
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   believe -- I'd have to check, but I believe that added
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   copyright in the 93A claim.
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            The complaint in this case --
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            THE COURT: That's the second one. Now, there's
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   a third one.
            MR. HORNICK: And, in this case, the new case --
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            THE COURT: This is the third one. Right?
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            MR. HORNICK -- the third complaint, yes. This
   adds the tenth claim which is the breach of confidence.
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            Now, the reason that I said that amending would
   only be the second try, really, is because when we served
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   the original complaint, the defendants didn't answer
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   before we amended. We amended the complaint and added the
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   copyright claim and the 93A claim. And, then, they
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   answered without any objections to pleading sufficiency.
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            THE COURT: Do they have to?
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            MR. HORNICK: They do not have to, no, your
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Honor.
        But, then, what we refiled was essentially the
             We didn't see any reason to beef up the facts
same facts.
because they didn't complain about pleading sufficiency
the first time around. So, we did actually beef up some
of the facts. We added anything that they admitted from
the answer to the amended complaint. We also expanded on
some of the other facts. But, we didn't see a reason to
expand them any more because they didn't object the first
time.
         So, now, we're being told no, it's not
sufficient, you need to plead more facts. I can plead
more facts. But, I would argue that it's not necessary
under the prevailing standards in Bell Atlantic.
         THE COURT: Do you want to go forward on your
third complaint or not, understanding that this would be
without -- with prejudice as to any of the claims?
you want an opportunity to replead?
        MR. HORNICK: You're asking me: Do I want to
stand on the complaint as we filed it?
        THE COURT: Yes.
        MR. HORNICK: With no prejudice to amend it at
any time later on?
        THE COURT:
                    Right.
        MR. HORNICK: Well --
        THE COURT: Without -- with no prejudice --
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excuse me -- with prejudice in this case, if claims are
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    found to be insufficent as alleged.
             MR. HORNICK: Well, faced with that question,
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    your Honor, I think I would have to say that I'd prefer to
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 5
    amend.
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             THE COURT: M-hm.
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             MR. HORNICK: I would be crazy not to say that in
    the face of that question.
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             THE COURT: And, will this amendment then tell us
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   what the terms and conditions of the contract are?
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   is 25 or 24 or 26 or 27? Or, will it just say that's what
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12
   we're kind of thinking about?
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            MR. HORNICK: The amendment will say that at the
   time Mr. Zuckerberg joined the team, the parties intended
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   that he would obtain 25 percent of the profits if any
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   profits that came --
            THE COURT: Not just the parties' intention, the
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   parties' agreement, you alleged a contract. There was an
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   agreement that he would receive 25 percent. Is that what
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   you're saying?
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            MR. HORNICK: Yes, your Honor. And, an agreement
   expresses the parties' intent and that's what the contract
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   would say.
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            THE COURT: No. An agreement may express the
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parties' intent and it may not.

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MR. HORNICK: If it's a vague contract, yes, I
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    would agree, that it might not express the parties' intent
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             THE COURT: It might be no contract at all.
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             MR. HORNICK: What we're talking about here is
   not a written contract. We're talking about an oral
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 7
   contract --
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             THE COURT: A written contract or an oral
   contract that absolutely included all the relevant and
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   material terms and conditions and understanding that this
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   is an oral contract in which they agreed that there would
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   be a 25 percent allocation among the four individuals
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13
   involved.
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            MR. HORNICK: At that time, yes.
            THE COURT: Well, that's the time that the
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16
   contract was --
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            MR. HORNICK: Yes.
            But, what Im trying to get at, your Honor, is
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   that that percentage could change depending on whether the
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   parties didn't perform equally.
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            THE COURT: And --
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            MR. HORNICK: And, there was other consideration
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   as well.
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            THE COURT:
                        And, this unfolding contract that
   we're learning a bit more about now, it changes over a
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period of time? And, the parties agreed that it would
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    change over a period of time?
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            MR. HORNICK: Yeah. I think that's the nature of
    any oral contract or implied contract.
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 5
            THE COURT: Oh, not necessarily. That's the
   nature of an illusory contract.
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            MR. HORNICK: No. The parties could always agree
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   to change their --
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            THE COURT: They could. They could.
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            Did they here?
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            MR. HORNICK: Well, Mr. Zuckerberg left before --
            THE COURT: So, they didn't do that?
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13
            MR. HORNICK: No.
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            THE COURT: Okay.
            So, interesting, that other contracts might do
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16
   that. But, this one, as you tell me, does not.
            Now, what exactly did they agree to do? They
17
   agreed to have Mr. -- from your perspective -- they agreed
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   to have Mr. Zuckerman do the code. Right?
19
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            MR. HORNICK: Yes.
            THE COURT: And, he will get 25 percent of the
21
   business? Is that it?
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23
            MR. HORNICK: Yes.
            THE COURT: Any other terms and conditions of the
24
25
   contract?
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plaintiff will have -- I will come to rue the day I said
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    this -- additional pages to respond -- reasonable
 2
    additional pages to respond. All right? And,
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    "reasonable" means, I think, 40 pages.
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 5
             All right. Anything else?
             MR. CHATTERJEE: Thank you, your Honor.
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             MR. HORNICK: No, your Honor. Thank you.
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             MS. HURST: Thank you, your Honor.
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             (Whereupon the hearing was concluded.)
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11
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                            CERTIFICATE
             I, Marie L. Cloonan, Official Reporter of the
13
   United States District Court, do hereby certify that the
14
   foregoing transcript, from Page 1 to Page 72, constitutes
15
   to the best of my skill and ability a true and accurate
16
   transcription of my stenotype notes taken in the matter of
17
   Civil Action No. 07-10593-DPW, ConnectU, et al v.
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   Facebook, Inc., et al.
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                          Marie & Clooner
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