Anderson v. Domino's Pizza, Inc. et al

Doc. 101

This lawsuit relates to robo-calls made in Pierce County, Washington by Four Our Families, Inc. ("FOFI") an independent Domino's franchisee, between June and August 2009. See, Ex. 3 to Godwin Dec.: Portions of Brown Deposition p. 34: 14-19. Anderson asserts Federal claims under U.S.C. 227 (b)(1)(B) and Washington claims RCW 80.36.400. Anderson has moved for class certification of the Washington claims. Anderson has abandoned class certification of the Federal claims. Any claims under the Federal TCPA are personal to Washington resident Anderson.

On December 8, 2011, Anderson sent Fourth Requests for Production to Domino's. On December 12, 2011, Anderson sent Fifth Requests for Production to Domino's. Domino's timely moved for a protective order related to that and other discovery. Domino's motion for a protective order was granted in part and denied in part in an Order dated March 30, 2012 ("Order"). Anderson sent Amended Fourth and Fifth Requests for Production to Domino's on April 11, 2012. Domino's has answered all discovery required under the Order.

A telephone conference between counsel for Domino's, Brant Godwin, and counsel for Anderson, Rob Williamson, was held on May 3, 2012. Both parties made a good faith effort to resolve issues related to the Amended Fourth and Fifth Requests for Production. See, B. Godwin Dec. Even after the conference counsel disagree on whether a large amount of the discovery should be allowed.

All objections are thoroughly outlined in Domino's Responses.

### III.ISSUES PRESENTED

DOMINO'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER RE:  $4^{TH}$  AND  $5^{TH}$  AMENDED DISCOVERY - 2

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- 1. Whether discovery should be produced when it is irrelevant and beyond the scope allowed in this Court's March 30, 2012 Order?
- 2. Whether discovery should be produced when it is overly broad and unduly burdensome?

#### IV. EVIDENCE RELIED UPON

- 1. This Motion; and
- 2. Declaration of Brant Godwin

### V. ARGUMENT

1. Amended Request for Production No. 27 Violates this Court's Order as it Seeks Out of State Discovery without Basis.

Request No. 27 seeks "all e-mails or letters to RPM from you or to RPM from you [sic] regarding a. RPM's use of Call-Em-All or any other vendor that makes or facilitates the making of pre-recorded calls, the names of the other franchises using such vendors, your awareness of RPM/s [sic] marketing with pre-recorded calls, the names of all your employees award of the marketing, any statements either approving or disapproving of the marketing."

This case centers on the actions of one franchisee, FOFI, located in Pierce County,
Washington. The Order noted that Anderson is not seeking national class certification and "has
not therefore established a basis to seek discovery nationally." See, Order p. 3: lns. 12-14.

Anderson still has not established any basis for the national discovery sought by No. 27. Further,
the Order noted that "while communications between Domino's and RPM may reflect in general

DOMINO'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER RE:  $4^{TH}$  AND  $5^{TH}$  AMENDED DISCOVERY - 3

the degree of control Domino's exercises over franchisees, Plaintiff fails to explain why the same issue cannot be more efficiently explored through a search of communications between Domino's and Four Our Families – the relevant parties here." See, Order p. 3: lns. 14-18.

Anderson has actually done such discovery. As will be discussed in more detail below, the individuals with the most knowledge on this issue from both FOFI and Domino's have been deposed. The representative of FOFI was available for another deposition, which Anderson opted not to take. Finally, the Order ruled that as far as Request No. 27 goes, "Plaintiff may seek specific documents about Domino's efforts at compliance following the *Spillman* litigation...."

See, Order p. 4: lns. 3-5. The Amended Request as drafted goes well beyond this scope in both time (no limit on time) and material sought (not limited to attempts at compliance after *Spillman*). The requested discovery violates the terms of the Order.

The Amended Request, to the extent it seeks material related to franchisees who operated pizza stores outside the State of Washington, is still irrelevant since this litigation relates solely to calls made by FOFI in Pierce County, Washington between June and August of 2009. See, Ex. 3 to Godwin Dec.: Portions of Brown Deposition p. 34: 14-19.

## 2. <u>Amended Request No. 28 is Still Overbroad as to Time and Scope in Violation of this Court's Order.</u>

DOMINO'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER RE:  $4^{TH}$  AND  $5^{TH}$  AMENDED DISCOVERY - 4

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plaintiff has deposed Wayne Pederson – V.P. Ops technology & Support; Natalie Haydon – Marketing Area Leader; Chris Roeser – Manager Precision Marketing; Joe Devereaux – Director of Franchise Services and Mike Brown- Controlling Shareholder of FOFI. All have testified that FOFI made the decision to implement the automated dialing marketing campaign on its own without any involvement from Domino's Pizza LLC.

This Request seeks "all documents related to the PULSE program from January 1, 2008 to present ..." related to a number of issues.

Plaintiff previously was able to delve into the capabilities and use of the PULSE System during the FCRP deposition of the Domino's person most knowledgeable concerning the PULSE System, Wayne Pederson, the V.P. Ops Technology & Support at Domino's, testified that PULSE is the point of sale and back of house system used in Domino's Pizza stores. See EX 5 to Godwin Dec.: Portions of Pederson Deposition p. 5:6-10. Franchisees, such as FOFI, are not required by Domino's Pizza LLC to utilize all the functionality of the PULSE System. See EX 5 to Godwin Dec.: Portions of Pederson Deposition p. 6:7-13. Of critical importance to the issues in this litigation, PULSE has no capabilities that enable the system to be used to make robo-calls, such as those made by FOFI. See EX 5 to Godwin Dec.: Portions of Pederson Deposition p. 28:2-4.

The Order noted that discovery regarding PULSE could be relevant but called on Anderson to limit the discovery in scope and time. See, Order p. 5: lns. 1-2.

Anderson's Request as drafted is overbroad to time. FOFI has testified that calls were only made between June and August of 2009. See, Ex. 3 to Godwin Dec.: Portions of Brown Deposition p. 34: 14-19. This is the relevant time period. Discovery before and after is not reasonably limited in time. Further, the Request as drafted seeks information related to out of state franchisees. As the Court has noted, out of state discovery is irrelevant given Anderson's choice not to pursue Federal TCPA claims. See, Order p. 3: ln. 14. Anderson might argue such DOMINO'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

RE: 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> AMENDED DISCOVERY - 5

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DOMINO'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER RE: 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> AMENDED DISCOVERY - 6

discovery is relevant to show control by Domino's but the Court noted in its Order this issue can be better explored by looking at interactions between Domino's and FOFI, which Anderson has had the opportunity to do. See, Order p. 3: lns. 16-18. Request No. 28 violates the reasonable limitations placed by the Order.

Further, the Request seeks all documents related to "reports" that can be generated using PULSE. PULSE allows franchisees to access their own customer data in variety of ways without assistance from or knowledge of Domino's. This Request calls for potentially irrelevant documents unrelated to any issue in this case.

## 3. Amended Request No. 29 is Overbroad to Scope in Violation of the Order.

Request No. 29 seeks information related to the "opt in" program on Domino's web page, including documents related to RPM and out of State franchisees. Domino's has provided a Response to this Request but seeks clarification on the scope. For the reasons stated above, this Request should be limited to the "opt in" program as it relates to Washington State franchisees only, as Anderson's claims only potentially relate to Washington calls. There has been nothing offered to establish the relevance of the remaining information sought.

# 4. Amended Request Nos. 32 and 45 are Simply a Re-Wording of Discovery the Court Earlier Determined was Inappropriate.

Amended Request No. 32 seeks "all discovery and responses thereto, including all depositions, from *Spillman v. Domino's Pizza*, *LLC et al.* in which the topic of transmitting pre-recorded solicitation telephone calls using an automatic dialing and announcing device is

discussed." Anderson's original Request simply sought all discovery from the *Spillman* litigation.

Amended Request No. 45 seeks all documents "produced by you to any party in discovery or to the Court in *Spillman* v. Domino's Pizza, LLC that relate to marketing with prerecorded telephone calls, use of Call-Em-All or other similar vendors, and communications to and from RPM regarding the calls."

The Order noted that "Plaintiff has not shown grounds to force Domino's to recreate the *Spillman* discovery wholesale." See, Order p. 4: lns. 5-6. Yet, that is exactly what Amended Request Nos. 32 and 45 seek. The subject matter of the *Spillman* case was ADAD calls. Thus, all discovery in the *Spillman* case arguably relates to ADAD calls. Anderson has simply changed the wording of her Requests slightly but the end result is the same; she is seeking to force Domino's to recreate wholesale the discovery from the *Spillman* case despite the Court's clear Order prohibiting this.

This request is also objectionable for the reasons stated above as to Request No. 27 as it seeks out of State discovery and Anderson has provided without basis.

# 5. Amended Request Nos. 34, 38 and 41 are Overbroad to Time and Scope and Seek Information in Violation of this Court's Earlier Order.

Amended Request No. 34 seeks "all documents from or to Rick Rezler, related to marketing with pre-recorded telephone calls by any franchisees and communications with any other or your employees on the topic."

Amended Request No. 38 seeks "all documents from or to any of your employees involved in the production of Exhibit 2 which related to marketing with pre-recorded telephone calls by any franchisees and communication with any other of your employees on the topic."

Amended Request No. 41 seeks "all documents related to creation of the telephone opt in program or functionality, and communications to or from franchisees regarding the functionality including any documents like those described by Mr. Roeser at page 45 of his deposition."

The March 30, 2012 Order noted that such inquiries could be relevant but noted that the original Request "lacks any sort of reasonable limitation on scope or time." See, Order p. 5: ln. 9. The Amended Requests also lack any limitation on time, seeking "all documents" related to communications with any employee related to such marketing. The relevant time period for these claims is between June 2009 (when the first call was made) and August 2009 (when the last call was made). Any Request outside of that time period violates the Order and should be denied.

The Order also noted that that since Anderson abandoned the national class claims, she "has not therefore established a basis to seek discovery nationally." See, Order p. 3: lns. 5-6. Yet, Amended Requests No. 34, 38 and 41 still seek information from out of Washington State, thus violating the scope of allowed discovery in the Order.

Anderson has made no showing as to why such discovery is relevant and, as noted in the Order, any possible "control" issues can be more efficiently explored by looking at interactions between the Washington franchisee involved in this case and Domino's. See, Order p. 3: lns. 16DOMINO'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER
RE: 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> AMENDED DISCOVERY - 8

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18. As noted above, Anderson has had the opportunity to conduct such discovery at multiple depositions of both Domino's representatives and the owner/President of FOFI. To explore the issue of control, Anderson deposed: 1. Domino's Director of Franchise Services, Joseph Devereaux, who indicated that FOFI controlled its own local advertising; 2. FOFI Controlling Shareholder, Michael Brown, who indicated that he made the unilateral decision to create and implement the local marketing campaign that utilized these calls on his own without Domino's input or knowledge; 3. Domino's Area Leader-Field Marketing for Washington, Natalie Haydon, who confirmed that Domino's was unaware of FOFI robo-calls; 4. Wayne Pederson who testified that the PULSE System has no link to robo-calling and has no functionality that would enable it to be used in making robo-calling; and 5. Chris Roeser and determined Domino's has a national policy discouraging robo-calling. The critical issue of Domino's control over FOFI has been thoroughly explored as to the franchisee at issue in this Washington case.

Further, FOFI has testified that it was not aware of and did not use the "opt in" feature referenced in Amended Request No. 41. FOFI has also testified that it never told Domino's about the planned calls and was not directed to make the calls by Domino's. See, Ex. 4 to Godwin Dec.: Declaration of M. Brown. The scope of Amended Requests 34, 38 and 41 violate the Order by seeking irrelevant out of State discovery without providing any basis for doing so.

# 6. <u>In Addition to Violating this Court's Order, All of the Amended Requests Seek Irrelevant Information as Drafted.</u>

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DOMINO'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER RE: 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> AMENDED DISCOVERY - 10 26

Relevant evidence is defined as "evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence." ER 401. Discovery is generally allowed "regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claim or defense..." FRCP 26(b)(1).

This litigation is about two calls made to Carolyn Anderson in Washington in August of 2009. We know who made the calls here, a single Washington franchisee FOFI. We know there were no calls made outside of Washington. See, Ex. 1 to Godwin Dec: FOFI Answer to Interrogatory No. 20. There is no testimony or evidence that other franchisees, let alone a franchisee across the country in Louisiana, were involved in the Washington calls. We know that the Washington franchisee, FOFI, did not utilize, or even know about, Domino's "opt in" program. See, Ex. 2 to Godwin Dec: FOFI Answer to Request for Production No. 16. We know that FOFI did not tell anyone at Domino's about its plan to make these calls. See, Ex. 3 to Godwin Dec.: Portions of Brown Deposition p. 46: 1-6. We know that FOFI directed its own local marketing campaign, including the decision to utilize Call-Em All to make automated dial calls. See, Ex. 4 to Godwin Dec.: Declaration of M. Brown. We know that Domino's did not direct FOFI to make these calls. See, Ex. 4 to Godwin Dec.: Declaration of M. Brown. The issue of Domino's control over FOFI, the relevant franchisee here, has been exhaustively explored. There is no national class. Anderson's Federal TCPA claims are personal.

Discovery related to out of state franchisees should be barred as Anderson has made no showing LAW OFFICES DUNLAP & SODERLAND. P.S. 901 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 3003

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3	for its basis. Indeed, the facts outlined above demonstrate such discovery is completely
4	irrelevant.
5 6	Further, we know that FOFI made the first call in June of 2009 and the last call was made
7	in August 2009. See, Ex. 3 to Godwin Dec.: Portions of Brown Deposition p. 34: 14-19.
8	Discovery outside of this time period is irrelevant.
9	VI. CONCLUSION
10	For the above stated reasons Domino's respectfully requests the Court issue a protective
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12	Order related to Anderson's Amended Fourth and Fifth Requests for Production.
13	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
14	May 8, 2012.
15	DUNLAP & SODERLAND, PS
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17	<u> </u>
18	David Soderland, WSBA#6927 Brant A. Godwin, WSBA#34424
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25	DOMINO'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER LAW OFFICES
26	RE: 4 <sup>TH</sup> AND 5 <sup>TH</sup> AMENDED DISCOVERY - 11 DUNLAP & SODERLAN

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2	The undersigned hereby certifies as follows:
3	I am employed at Dunlap & Soderland, PS, attorneys of record for Defendants Domino's
4	Pizza, Inc. and Domino's Pizza, LLC.
5	
6	On May 8, 2012, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing document to
7	be delivered to the following via email:
8	Counsel for Plaintiff: Rob Williamson
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18	Counsel for Call-Em-All, LLC:
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25	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE – 1

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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4	
5	cdimock@correronin.com
6	I de along and don more life, of monitory, and on the lower of the State of Weshington that the
7	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the
	foregoing is true and correct.
8	DATED at Seattle, Washington this 8 <sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.
9	<b>1</b>
10	Gail m Garner
11	Gail M. Garner
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE - 2

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