

July 31, 2017

VIA ECF

Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley
USDC, Northern District of California
San Francisco Courthouse Courtroom F - 15th Floor
450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Waymo LLC v. Uber Technologies, Inc., et al., N.D. Cal. Case No. 3:17-cv-00939-WHA

Dear Magistrate Judge Corley:

Plaintiff Waymo LLC (“Waymo”) submits this letter brief in support of Waymo’s motion to compel Defendants Uber Technologies, Inc. and Ottomotto LLC (collectively, “Uber”) to (1) produce all documents and communications on the subject matter of the reasons for Anthony Levandowski’s downloading of Waymo files and the reasons for his pleading the Fifth Amendment; and (2) produce an unredacted copy of the presentation Travis Kalanick and Cameron Poetzsch made to Uber’s Board of Directors on April 11, 2016 to obtain approval for the Otto deal.

I. Uber Waived Privilege Concerning Levandowski's Fifth Amendment Assertion and Levandowski's Reasons for Downloading the 14,000 Files

On June 28, (Dkt. 755), Uber disclosed for the first time its “ransom” or “bonus” explanation for why it contends Anthony Levandowski downloaded 14,000 proprietary Waymo files before he left Waymo to start a company that would be acquired by Uber. Uber stated that it “believes that the downloading was done in relation to Levandowski’s employment at Google, specifically to ensure the expected payment of Levandowski’s \$120 million bonus from Google.” (*Id.* at 13.) Since then, Uber has repeatedly expounded upon the bonus theory in both public filings and open court. (*See, e.g.*, Dkt. 854 at 10 (“For example, after the allegations in this case arose, but before he took the Fifth, Levandowski told Travis Kalanick (and perhaps others) that he downloaded files in relation to the payment of his bonus from Google”); Dkt. 1050 at 91:6-7 (“THE COURT: Who is that person who heard him say that? MS. DUNN: Mr. Kalanick heard him say that.”).) At his July 27 deposition, however, Mr. Kalanick revealed it was not just him that heard Mr. Levandowski’s “bonus” explanation. Rather, Mr. Kalanick testified that this was part of a conversation in the presence of numerous lawyers in meetings concerning Mr. Levandowski’s assertion of his Fifth Amendment privilege. As detailed further below, and unfortunately in a manner consistent with its conduct throughout this case, Uber seeks to waive the privilege as to *some* of these communications with counsel, but preclude Waymo from discovery into other communications with counsel on this very same subject. This is improper and instead results in subject matter waiver.

Mr. Kalanick testified that, [REDACTED] .¹ (Ex. 1 at 76:6-18.) [REDACTED] (*Id.* at 88:7-89:5.) However, Mr. Kalanick testified that *every* conversation he had with Mr. Levandowski about the “bonus” explanation was [REDACTED]:

[REDACTED]

(Ex. 1 at 122:10-13.) Mr. Kalanick testified extensively about these communications, describing how [REDACTED] (See, e.g., *id.* at 91:19-101:6.)

Mr. Kalanick also testified that [REDACTED] (See *id.* at 76:6-80:15; 88:7-91:2.) These conversations, too, were [REDACTED]:

¹ Mr. Kalanick did not remember the specific date, but this likely occurred just before Uber requested the secret “In-Chambers Conference” to discuss Mr. Levandowski’s assertion of the Fifth Amendment on March 28. (Dkt. 122.) A calendar invitation produced by Uber (Ex. 2) shows that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Ex. 1 at 79:7-11.) Nevertheless, Mr. Kalanick testified extensively about them, with the only objections being objections to form. (*Id.* at 76:6-80:15; 88:7-91:2; 102:24-103:12.) For example:

[REDACTED]

(Ex. 1 at 103:21-104:12.) Mr. Kalanick also testified about [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Ex. 1 at 79:12-80:15.) While Uber allowed Mr. Kalanick to testify about *some* communications at these meetings on the subject of Mr. Levandowski's "bonus" explanation and assertion of the Fifth Amendment (both of which Uber has repeated in open Court as well) , Uber instructed Mr. Kalanick not to testify about certain *other* communications where attorneys were present on the very same subject matter. The basis for the instruction as to these other conversations was that counsel was present. For example:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Ex. 1 at 86:24-88:6 and 119:2-120:3; *see also id.* at 79:24-80:19; 82:2-11; 82:23-84:19; 85:5-19; 86:18-23; 103:21-104:15; 121:19-122:9.) But, as discussed above, Mr. Kalanick confirmed that counsel was present for *all* discussions regarding the bonus explanation and pleading the Fifth with Mr. Levandowski, *including* those that Uber’s counsel allowed him to testify about and have now revealed to the Court and parties on multiple occasions.

Portnoy discussed in the privileged communications disclosed in the reexamination, and is not limited to what they knew about those issues at the time”) (emphasis in original). The Court should order that Uber has waived the attorney client privilege and work product protection on these subject matters, that Uber must produce all written documents and documents on these subject matters, and that Waymo be permitted to fully examine Uber’s witnesses about these subject matters.

II. Uber Must Produce Unredacted Copies of the “[REDACTED]” Board Presentation

The latest example of Uber’s “relentless concealment of likely probative evidence” (Dkt. 433 at 8) is the redaction of key portions of the “[REDACTED]” presentation that Mr. Kalanick and Cameron Poetzsch, Uber’s Vice President of Corporate Development, made to Uber’s Board of Directors on April 11, 2016. (Ex. 3.) This presentation was made not for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the Board, but rather for the business purpose of obtaining Board approval of the Otto deal. (Ex. 5.) Once that approval was obtained, at that April 11, 2016 Board of Directors meeting, Uber executed the Put Call Agreement, the Indemnification Agreement, and the Joint Defense Agreement just hours later the same day. (See, e.g., Ex. 4.) The attorney-client privilege does not extend to business advice or other non-legal advice. *United States v. ChevronTexaco Corp.*, 241 F. Supp. 2d 1065, 1076 (N.D. Cal. 2002). To qualify for protection under the attorney-client privilege, the party asserting the privilege must demonstrate that the communications were made “primarily for the purpose of generating legal advice.” *United States v. Chevron Corp.*, 1996 WL 264769, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 13, 1996) amended, 1996 WL 444597 (N.D. Cal. May 30, 1996) (internal quotations and citations omitted). Uber has not and cannot make that showing for any portion of this presentation, which was communicated to Uber’s Board of Directors primarily for a business purpose.

III. Mr. Kalanick’s Second Deposition

At the July 20 hearing, the Court raised the issue of Mr. Kalanick’s missing text messages and instructed Uber that “all of those text messages need to be turned over,” putting Uber “on notice” that it should be “all hands on deck” because July 20 was already “really late” for such highly relevant evidence to be unproduced. (7/20/2017 Hearing Tr. at 8:20-9:6.) Waymo noted that Mr. Kalanick’s deposition was only a week away, and the Court cautioned Uber that if it failed to produce all of Mr. Kalanick’s text messages “enough time in advance,” then Mr. Kalanick “will come back for his deposition.” (*Id.* at 9:20-22.) Waymo followed up on July 24 when no text messages had been produced since the hearing, but none of the missing text messages were produced by the date of Mr. Kalanick’s deposition.

Now, eleven days after the July 20 hearing, Uber has **still** not produced Mr. Kalanick’s text messages – and has apparently taken no action since the hearing in furtherance of their recovery and production. Rather, Uber has abdicated all responsibility for the text messages, passing the buck to Mr. Kalanick’s personal counsel at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe (“Orrick”). Orrick has apparently retained its own digital forensics expert, who has recovered over 400 of the deleted text messages, including text messages Mr. Kalanick sent to Mr. Levandowski. Orrick represents that these text messages will be produced to Waymo by tomorrow, August 1. Orrick has also represented that its expert is continuing to recover deleted text messages, and that any additional recoverable text messages will be produced later this week. Consistent with the Court’s instructions from the July 20 hearing, Uber has agreed that Mr. Kalanick will be made available for a second deposition, and that Waymo will have more than seven total hours of deposition time. To the extent there is a dispute as to the length of time that Mr. Kalanick will be made available for the second deposition, or the scope of that deposition, Waymo will raise that issue with the Court separately once Waymo has had sufficient opportunity to review the recovered text messages and once the privilege issues raised in this motion are resolved.

Respectfully,

/s/ Charles K. Verhoeven

Charles K. Verhoeven

cc: All counsel of record; Special Master John Cooper

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