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5 Attorney for Plaintiff Patrick Collins, Inc.

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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 Northern District of California
10 San Francisco Division

11 PATRICK COLLINS, INC.,

No. C 11-2766 MEJ

12 Plaintiff,

v.

**EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR
AMENDED ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFF'S EX PARTE
APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO
TAKE LIMITED EXPEDITED
DISCOVERY**

13 DOES 1-2,590,

14 Defendants.

15
16 On August 24, 2011, the Court issued its Order Granting Plaintiff's Ex Parte Application
17 for Leave to Take Limited Expedited Discovery (Dkt. No. 8.)

18 Subpoenas have been served pursuant to that Order.

19 We received an objection from a cable company with respect to a particular matter,
20 namely its view that it is obligated under the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 to
21 maintain subscriber privacy unless a court order expressly refers to 47 U.S.C. § 551(c)(2)(B).
22 Based on the undersigned's experience, some other cable companies will take the same position
23 notwithstanding that the Court's Order does instruct all ISPs to comply with subpoenas issued
24 pursuant to the Order.

25 Here is the text of the objection received from Optimum/Cablevision (a full copy of
26 which is attached hereto as Exhibit P).

27 "This letter responds to the enclosed subpoena ("Subpoena") requesting
28 subscriber records from Optimum f/k/a Bresnan Communications, LLC, a cable
modem service provided by CSC Holdings, LLC via a cable television system. You

1 have requested subscriber and account information concerning the above-referenced
 2 Subpoena. Unfortunately, after reviewing this subpoena and the accompanying
 order, it appears that Cablevision's compliance is barred by the Cable
 Communications Policy Act of 1984, 47 U.S.C. § 551(c)(2)(B) ('The Cable Act').

3 "In the Subpoena, you seek subscriber information for those individuals
 4 associated with certain Optimum IP addresses. However, the Cable Act prohibits
 the disclosure of a subscriber's personally identifiable information by a cable
 operator such as Cablevision, absent a court order authorizing such disclosure.
 5 While you have provided a court order with your subpoena, nowhere in the order
 does it direct Cablevision to disclose the information pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §
 6 551(c)(2)(B). Accordingly, until Cablevision is served with an order that clearly
 mandates such disclosure, it appears that we are prohibited by law from providing
 7 you with the requested information."

8 Rather than bring a motion to compel compliance, Plaintiff believes the better course is to
 9 request the Court to amend its Order to expressly refer to 47 U.S.C. § 551(c)(2)(B). Filed
 10 herewith is a proposed Amended Order that includes only two changes to the Court's August 24,
 11 2011 Order. They are as follows:

- 12 • An introductory paragraph at the beginning of the Amended Order stating,

13 "This Order amends and replaces the Order issued by the Court on August 24,
 14 2011 (Dkt. No. 8)."

- 15 • A new paragraph numbered 8 at the end of the Order providing,

16 "8. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that subpoenas authorized by this Order and
 issued pursuant thereto shall be deemed appropriate court orders under 47 U.S.C.
 §551. In particular, 47 U.S.C. § 551(c)(2)(B) provides as follows:

17 '(c) Disclosure of personally identifiable information

18 ***

19 '(2) A cable operator may disclose such information if the disclosure
 is—

20 '(B) subject to subsection (h) [relating to disclosures to
 governmental agencies] of this section, made pursuant to a court
 21 order authorizing such disclosure, if the subscriber is notified of
 such order by the person to whom the order is directed'

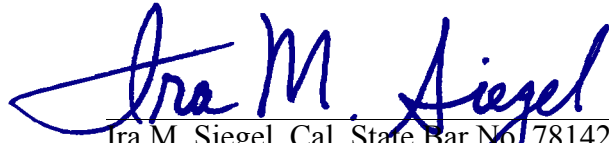
22 This Order is an order authorizing such disclosure."

23 As discussed in the originally-filed Ex Parte Application for Leave to Take Limited
 24 Discovery Prior to a Rule 26 Conference, Dkt. #5, at pp. 10-11, in the Order provision is made
 25 for ISPs to give notice of the order to their subscribers. See paragraphs numbered 2 and 3 of the
 26 Order.

1 In view of the foregoing, Plaintiff requests that the Court grant this Ex Parte Application
2 and issue the Amended Order Granting Plaintiff's Ex Parte Application for Leave to Take
3 Limited Expedited Discovery as submitted herewith.

4 Respectfully submitted,

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6 Dated: September 20, 2011



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EXHIBIT P



Patrice McCullough, Paralegal | Optimum f/k/a Bresnan Communications & Cablevision Corporate-Legal Subpoena Compliance
1111 Stewart Avenue | Bethpage, NY 11714
Tel. (516) 803-2977 | Fax 516-513-3052 (Optimum f/k/a Bresnan Communications LLC)

September 16, 2011

Via Facsimile Only

Ira Siegel, Esq.
Attorney at Law
433 N Camden Dr Ste. 970
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Re: Patrick Collins, v. Does 1-2590

Dear Mr. Siegel:

This letter responds to the enclosed subpoena ("Subpoena") requesting subscriber records from Optimum f/k/a Bresnan Communications, LLC, a cable modem service provided by CSC Holdings, LLC via a cable television system. You have requested subscriber and account information concerning the above-referenced Subpoena. Unfortunately, after reviewing this subpoena and the accompanying order, it appears that Cablevision's compliance is barred by the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, 47 U.S.C. § 551(c)(2)(B) ("The Cable Act").

In the Subpoena, you seek subscriber information for those individuals associated with certain Optimum IP addresses. However, the Cable Act prohibits the disclosure of a subscriber's personally identifiable information by a cable operator such as Cablevision, absent a court order authorizing such disclosure. While you have provided a court order with your subpoena, nowhere in the order does it direct Cablevision to disclose the information pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 551(c)(2)(B). Accordingly, until Cablevision is served with an order that clearly mandates such disclosure, it appears that we are prohibited by law from providing you with the requested information.

Should you decide to further pursue disclosure of records in this matter, please serve Cablevision with a court order that:

- Contains a detailed description of the subscriber information sought, including the **IP address 123.123.123.123, date, time and time zone**; and
- Directs Cablevision to disclose the subscriber's personally identifiable information pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 551(c)(2)(B).

Additionally, please note that the Cable Act requires Cablevision to provide advance notice of a court order to its subscribers. Accordingly, should you decide to seek a court order, the return date for compliance under the order should allow Cablevision at least five (5) additional business days to serve notice upon the subscriber and to comply with the order.

Ira Siegel, Esq.
Attorney at Law
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Please be advised that Cablevision reserves the right to obtain reimbursement of our reasonable costs (\$70.00 per IP, fees subject to change) associated with the production of such records. Further, receipt of your court order does not guarantee the availability of the information you have requested.

Please contact me at 516-803-2977 if you have any questions regarding the above matter.

Sincerely,


Patrice McCullough
Paralegal

Attachment:
Bresnan/Optimum