| 1 | IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | | | | | | |
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| 2 | POR . | IIIE DISTRICT OF | COLOFDIA | | | | |
| 3 | UNITED STATES OF AMERI | CA, | Circil Bakian | | | | |
| 4 | et al., Plaint | iffs, | Civil Action No. 1:20-cv-3010 | | | | |
| 5 | vs. | | Washington, DC September 26, 2023 | | | | |
| 6 | GOOGLE, LLC, | | 1:49 p.m. | | | | |
| 7 | Defend | lant. | Day 10 Afternoon Session | | | | |
| 8 | | | Arcemoon bession | | | | |
| 9 | ** PROCEEDINGS** | | | | | | |
| 10 | TRANSCRIPT OF BENCH TRIAL | | | | | | |
| 11 | BEFORE THE HONORABLE AMIT P. MEHTA UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE | | | | | | |
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PROCEEDINGS

| 2 | | THE | COURT: |
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THE COURT: Mr. Schmidtlein, I'm ready when you are.

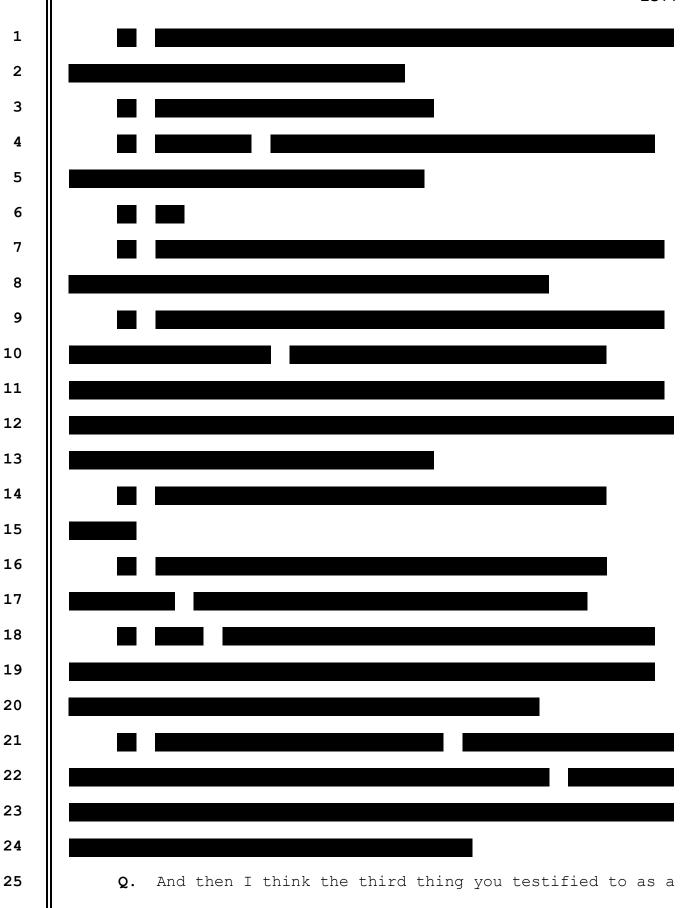
CROSS-EXAMINATION OF EDDY CUE

BY MR. SCHMIDTLEIN:

- Q. Thank you, Your Honor.
- 6 Good afternoon, Mr. Cue.
 - A. Good afternoon.
 - Q. Earlier this morning, you were asked some questions about your role in the 2015-16 negotiations that you had with Google. Do you recall that?
 - A. I do.
 - Q. And I believe you testified that you were the lead negotiator for that agreement for Apple?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. What were the most important factors that you considered when evaluating which default search engine to select for Safari during that 2015-16 timeframe?
 - A. We were interested in making sure that we picked the best one, the one that provided the best results to customers. Obviously we looked at it across multiple countries around the world. Those were the primary functions of it. Secondarily was how well they monetized. But primarily, as I said, we wanted to have the best search results for our customers.
 - Q. And I know you testified you were not the lead negotiator in prior agreements that Apple has entered into with

- Google. But based on your decades of experience as a senior executive as Apple, is the process and the factors you considered in 2015 and '16, do you believe, consistent with factors that had previously been considered by Apple?
- A. They were. As an executive team member and a person who worked directly for Steve Jobs for a long time, we were always interested in having the best experience for our customers.
- Q. In evaluating which search engine to select, has Apple evaluated questions like which default would a majority of our users be most likely to prefer; is that a question you've considered?
- A. No, that's not -- not in those terms. We were interested in what search engine did customers experience be the best one, and therefore they would like it to be the best one. But the default doesn't -- that's an effect of when we pick what we think is the best one, that's what we do with it. But we don't think of it in those terms. As I said, we make it relatively easy to change the default if you want to, so that's not the issue.
- Q. Did Apple ever get information or feedback that suggested that its decision about the default had been -- making Google the default was the wrong decision?
 - A. No, we've never felt that way.
 - Q. Now, you testified about, I think, certain goals or

things that you wanted to accomplish in the 2015-16 agreement. I think you've testified one of those was increasing the rev share; is that right? That's correct. Α. And you wanted to increase it from That's correct. Α. Did Mr. Pichai push back on your request for Yes. Look, I mean, it was a negotiation. We took a long time. There was push back from him and push back from me. So on that first goal, did the companies end up reaching a compromise? We did, we compromised on that and a few other things. Okay. I think a second goal that you testified to was Q.



1 goal was the term of the deal, that you wanted a long-term 2 deal; is that right? 3 Those were the big things, that's correct. And you wanted a deal? 4 Q. Α. I did. 5 And Google pushed back on that; is that right? 6 Q. 7 That's also correct, they didn't wanted to do a A. long-term deal. 8 9 And did the parties end up compromising on that term 10 as well? 11 Α. I believe so. 12 Does Apple today have agreements with other search 13 providers to be promoted in Safari? 14 We do. Α. 15 And who does Apple have agreements with today? 16 We have agreements with Bing, with Yahoo!, with 17 DuckDuckGo and a few others. 18 And has Apple had those agreements for a number of 19 years? 20 We've had since -- for a long time. 21 Why does Apple have agreements with other search Q. 22 providers that are not the default search engine in Safari? 23 Again, everyone gets a benefit, because it's easy to

switch. And so we give customers the ability to easily switch

to one of those search providers, and then they would get the

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traffic and the advertising and the other things and they would share that with us. And so it's all about the fact that we make our customers and our software be integrated with those search engines to make it really easy for customers to use.

- Q. And do those search engines pay a revenue share to Apple pursuant to those agreements?
 - A. They do.

- Q. And if Apple believed that those other search engines were superior to Google and users preferred them, would Apple switch the default at the conclusion of a Google agreement?
 - A. We would.
- Q. Now, you talked a little bit earlier this morning about some geographic carve-outs that were included in the Google-Safari agreement. Do you recall that?
 - A. I do.
 - Q. And did Apple seek those carve-outs from Google?
 - A. We did.
- Q. And did Apple ever seek a carve-out for the United States?
- A. No, there was no reason to. We picked carve-outs for countries where there was either somebody who was -- we thought already was better than Google at providing search results, or there was an area where it was a little bit of a question and we weren't sure, but it was clear that there was somebody who was close. And so we wanted to have the ability to switch.

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- Did Google retaliate against Apple when Apple demanded the carve-outs for particular foreign countries?
 - I'm not aware of anything. Α.
- Now, you also talked about some discussions that took place between Apple and Google -- excuse me, some discussions that took place between Apple and Microsoft in 2018. Do you recall that?
 - Α. That's correct.
- And in 2018, did Microsoft approach Apple and offer to engage and to do some sort of either joint venture or acquisition or partnership?
- A. Microsoft, over the years, has continued to approach They approached us in 2018, they've approached us later. And so that's correct, they approached us in 2018, again, saying that their search engine had improved even further from 2015-2016, from the last time, and that they had gotten better and we should do a deal together.
 - Were you involved in those 2018 discussions? Q.
- I was, not as much as the last time, honestly, because I knew they weren't good enough. And we had had JG, who was an expert in search, that had started, and he was going to do an evaluation. And so I knew he would do the evaluation, and so I didn't want to have a lot of discussions with Microsoft about promises or whatever else they had. But I had discussions with Tim around it, and once I saw the evaluation and the results,

it was clear not only was it not good enough, but it had actually gotten worse than from 2016.

- Q. And just so the Court knows, JG is a reference to John Giannandrea?
- A. Yes, I'm sorry. As you can see by the name, most people don't know how to say it -- and you did very well, but we call him JG.

- Q. Did you consider Mr. Giannandrea's opinions valuable on this issue of whether or not to acquire or invest in Bing?
- A. I did, I thought he was -- at least at Apple, I thought he was one of, if not the most experienced and relevant in understanding technologies and the engineerings of search to do that. So, yes, I thought it was highly valuable.
- Q. Did you have a reaction to Microsoft offering to sell Bing to Apple in terms of Microsoft's belief and commitment to the Bing search product?
 - A. I did.

It was clear they were not investing, as I've stated earlier. They didn't want to continue investing,

and so, to me, it was just a desperate move to get rid of it. And so I didn't see it as anything else. I mean, if it was any good, why would you -- if you think of it logically, if it was a great product -- I mean, we would never give away iOS to Microsoft for free, that's not something we would ever consider. So it's a weird offer. Q. At the time that you were having these conversations about Bing, were Apple and Microsoft engaged in discussions about other commercial issues? Yeah. In a way, that's the reason we kept talking to Microsoft. They kept bringing up search. We were interested in other things.

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Q. Can we have DX380. Mr. Cue, DX380 appears to be an e-mail that you wrote to Mr. Schindler in April 2020; is that correct?

- A. That's correct.
- **Q.** And is this the outreach that you testified to earlier this morning about contacting Google about renewing the search agreement?
- A. Yeah, I believe I may have called them ahead of time and had given them -- you know, we had started some discussion about it, telling them that I wanted to do that. But this was the details that I proposed.
- Q. And this is April 2020, so this is COVID times that we all remember, correct?
 - A. Unfortunately, that's correct.
- Q. Okay. And you write in the second paragraph there:
 "Our companies have not worked closer or been in a better
 relationship since we started the iPhone. Rather than having
 both sides wondering what the other is planning to do, given
 the deal ending, I want to preempt this and make sure we keep
 working on making it even better. I believe we both have the
 trust and incentives to extend without worrying."

What were you conveying to Mr. Schindler there?

A. Yeah, there's -- look, this is a long history, a long relationship that started back in 2002. By the time that I got involved in 2015, the relationship between Google and Apple was horrible. There was no communication between the two parties. It had just deviated over time. And one of the concerns that I had, it's hard to make the product better if you're not

communicating with each other. And so there was a lack of trust, a lack of working relationship between the two parties. And one of the things that I wanted to fix as part of this is I wanted to make sure that we had a very open relationship with Google where they could tell us what they thought would make the product better or what they wanted to do, and likewise, and we'd have those interactions. And that was the way the whole thing started.

Google was great at search. We were building Safari on the Mac, and it was all about taking two great things and making it even better for our customers. Honestly, I thought the companies had kind of deviated away from that, and I wanted to change that. And I thought that Sundar and Phillipp had done — and ourselves had done a good job of doing that. We started learning to trust each other. I told them the things that were important to us, we came to a compromise on the agreement. It wasn't everything I wanted, I know it wasn't everything he wanted. And the teams started working and bringing up ideas of how to make the products better.

And so my concern at this point is, so now we're working well together. And anytime a deal of this kind comes up, my experience with this is it causes anxiety; and it causes anxiety on both parties about, oh, are they thinking about doing something else. And my viewpoint around this is I didn't want any of the anxiety that had happened before. At that

time, I looked at it and said Google still has the best search engine by far, even more so than when I started back in 2015.

And so let's just extend this deal further and not get to the point where all of a sudden we want to open this all up for renegotiations again. And so I thought that was the right thing for us, and honestly, the right thing for Google as well.

- Q. Do you believe that the Safari agreement with Google has produced a better search experience on Safari?
- A. I think there's no question about that. It's been true for -- since the beginning, and like I said, continues to be true today.
- Q. And do you think that the collaboration between Google and Apple on the Safari default agreement has benefitted Apple's consumers?
- A. I think it's benefitted the consumers, it's benefitted Apple, it's benefitted Google. I think everyone has won in this.
- Q. Now, again, you've testified about conversations that you had in 2015 with Microsoft around considering Bing to be the default search engine. You later had more conversations -- or were involved in meetings with Microsoft about potential acquisitions or partnerships.

Have you ever told anyone at Microsoft that you believed that Bing was good enough for Apple to switch from Google to Bing as the Safari default search engine in the United States?

A. Just even the words "good enough," that's not who Apple is. We don't do things that are good enough, we do things that are great, things that are the best. So there's — those aren't the words that we would use. We don't use the words — we don't make our products good enough, that's just an unacceptable thing, and so that's not what we would do. We pick the best products.

- Q. Are you aware of anyone at Apple who has told anyone at Microsoft that Bing was good enough for Apple to switch from Google to Bing as the Safari default search engine in the United States?
- A. Again, I can't imagine anyone would, but I'm not aware of it. I know I didn't do it; I know Tim didn't do it; I know Phil Schiller didn't do it; I know Craig Federighi didn't do it. We're the executives at Apple that are responsible for Safari search, we never felt that way.

THE COURT: Mr. Schmidtlein, if I can just interrupt for a moment and just ask you to be mindful if some of these questions we can push into open session. And I know they're sort of predicated upon topics that were -- and I understand the difficulty in structuring it. But if there's specifics about, again, numbers, percentages that are in the documents, if we could get to that, and then we can open up the courtroom again.

MR. SCHMIDTLEIN: I mean, these are, again, conversations

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- Q. Have you been in meetings with Mr. Cook and Microsoft senior executives, including Mr. Nadella, where the issue of the default search engine for the Safari browser was discussed?
- Again, yes. I mean, they came in and presented the idea of it, their search engine was as good or better than Google, and they were interested in us pursuing that. So that's been their story, and was their story in 2018, and was their story again in 2021.
- In any of these meetings with Microsoft, did you or anyone else from Apple indicate that you believed that switching from Google to Bing would be a better user experience for Apple customers?
- No. It's not true, so we wouldn't -- we're not going to lie to them.
- Q. Have you ever believed that it would be in Apple's best interests to switch to Bing in the United States but keep Google as the Safari default in certain countries outside the United States?

- A. No. Again, we look at it country by country. In the United States, Google is the best search engine by far -- in most countries they are, actually. And in a few countries they're not, and in those we try to carve it out.
- Q. Did you or anyone else from Apple ever tell anyone at Microsoft that Apple was prepared to switch the Safari default from Google to Bing in the United States, but it was prevented from doing so by Apple's contract with Google?
- A. No, we wouldn't -- again, I didn't view that we were prevented from doing it. We were prevented from doing it over a time period. If we thought that Bing was the best search engine, even if we were under contract, we would have continued the discussions and done a deal with Bing whenever the term expired. There was no point in time where there was any deal to be done with Microsoft -- I've stated this before. It was never close. We never traded term sheets, we never traded a contract. Yes, it is true they came and made big offers and big statements about what they could do, but we never believed it. All of our data showed it wasn't true.
- Q. Did you ever have any concern that if Apple decided to switch from Google to Bing for the default search engine in any country, including the United States, that Google would retaliate against Apple in some way?
- A. Again -- look, Apple's a big company, Google's a big company. I wasn't worried about Google retaliating to Apple.

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It's not something I ever experienced, it wasn't something I ever heard from Google. So, no, that was not a concern for me.

- Q. Are you aware of anyone at Apple, including Mr. Cook, expressing concerns that Google would retaliate against Apple if Apple switched the Safari default search engine from Bing to Google in the United States?
- A. I don't ever recall having that discussion with anybody at Apple, and certainly with Mr. Cook.
- Q. Now, there was a period of time when Bing was the backfill in Siri; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And did you get some familiarity with Bing as the backfill for Siri?
 - A. We did. At the time, we would have --

THE COURT: I'm sorry, can you ask him what -- well, what do you mean by backfill? I didn't quite --

THE WITNESS: Yeah, let me describe it. So, as I mentioned with Siri, the goal as an assistant was really to give you answers. But if we didn't find an answer for what you were looking for, because we weren't smart enough yet to make the answer, we would give you search results. We wanted to do that deal with Google, but at the time Google wasn't interested in doing it with us. As I said, the discussions between the two companies at the time was not great. And so we looked at Bing as a can we use it as a backdrop. And I say backdrop

meaning if I don't have an answer, then I would put the search results and we used Bing as the backdrop for Siri. So obviously it gave us some experience with Bing, as search results were, in Siri for backdrops. And then when we did the deal in 2015, that was something that Google was interested in doing, and I was very interested in replacing Bing, because the search results would be better.

THE COURT: Can you help me understand, with Siri, when you say producing search results if there's no answer, the search results would appear on --

THE WITNESS: Yeah, instead of saying -- if I asked you what's the weather in Los Angeles right now, it says

84 degrees. But if I said, you know, is there a hurricane in Los Angeles today, Siri may not know how to answer that and so it would just, on your screen, show you search results.

THE COURT: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: And so, just to continue, basically at the time we did the 2015 deal, we were able to switch Siri's search results from Bing to Google which I think improved the product -- 2016, I apologize.

BY MR. SCHMIDTLEIN:

- Q. Are you familiar with a search engine called Neeva?
- A. I am. I was reading an article, as I recall, somewhere on the web that mentioned it. And it was started by a Google engineer. The article was basically starting this new

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team uses that I'm not involved with that basically evaluates

search engine that was supposed to be really cool. He had some new ideas that he thought would make search better. So I reached out to him personally, because I wanted to see what it was about to see if there was something actually interesting or innovative that would be of interest to us.

- And did you evaluate the Neeva search engine? Q.
- We did. It was very early on, so when I first called Α. him there was nothing yet that actually worked. So he told me what they were working on, but I couldn't evaluate it because it wasn't available. I think it was several months later -- I don't recall the exact timing of it, it became available, and so he sent me a note and said you can go try it. And I did, and just it was way too early, it was an early product. It had some interesting ideas, I will say, but it was in no shape to be a general search engine at that point.
- Q. Did Apple have any discussions with Neeva about adding Neeva to the list of search engines that could be made the default in Safari?
- I'm not aware of any discussions with Neeva at all that Apple had besides the one that I had, so no.
- Q. Before a search engine could be added to that list of search providers that could be made the default, would that have to be run by you?
- It wouldn't be run by me. We have a process that the

the search engine to make sure that it's actually a legitimate search engine, right, that it provides at least some basic functionality. We don't want to put things in there that really aren't general search engines. And so there's sort of a bar to cross that the team evaluates, but it's a fairly low bar.

- Q. And did Apple evaluate whether or not to include Neeva as a potential default search option?
 - A. I don't know, I was not involved in that. I would be surprised, but I don't know. I don't know the answer.
 - Q. And then just one question on DuckDuckGo, to follow up on the questions you were asked earlier. Do you know how DuckDuckGo tries to distinguish itself with its search product?
 - A. Yeah, it generally markets itself as a private -- the most private search engine.
 - Q. Do you think that DuckDuckGo's differentiation proposition makes it preferred by a majority of Apple users?
 - A. No, it's not. I think it's preferred by a small minority. I think that -- as I said, you have to -- look, privacy is incredibly important, but it's only important if you're creating a great product. So what we're trying to do is make a great product that has privacy components. In the case of DuckDuckGo, it is the Bing search results, and so it suffers from that issue. So no matter what you do on the privacy side, you have the issue that the search results just aren't good

enough. And so from a customer point of view, even if you're interested in it, when you give it a try -- and maybe the privacy thing causes you to have some interest in it, you'll try it and you won't like it, and you'll default back or switch back -- or you won't even switch, which is generally the case. But to a small minority of customers that may like that, it's, again, very easy to switch and they can do that.

MR. SCHMIDTLEIN: Your Honor, I can do the rest of mine, I think, in open session.

THE COURT: Okay, terrific. I did have a couple of follow up questions for Mr. Cue relating to a closed matter.

THE COURT: Why has Apple not invested incrementally more to develop its own search engine so that it could monetize the ad revenue that could be generated from that search engine?

THE WITNESS: That's a great question. I think it goes back to the comment I made: Doing a general search engine is a huge amount of work, and so it's not an insignificant amount of work. It's hard, it's difficult. I think we could do it, certainly Apple can do a lot of things if it sets its mind to. But if we do that, we can't do other things. So you have to

customers.

make choices in life: If you have limited engineers and resources, do you want to put all of your energies there. And our viewpoint was Google's doing a great job at general search. We have the capability in our agreement -- and this is something we haven't talked about.

And so our goal was there's things where they're not general search, the customer's just looking for a specific answer, and we'd like to give them that answer and not have it go to Google or anybody else. And so we think that's an area that we can invest in that makes a great experience for our

But building a general search engine, our viewpoint around it is Google does a great job in it. Okay, we can be as good, maybe we can be even better from that standpoint.

These are all engineers, and so you have -- ultimately we have to pick where we invest our resources, and so that just didn't make a lot of sense for us.

THE COURT: And in your consideration of that issue, did the potential loss of Google revenue share, even in the short term, did that play a role in thinking about that issue?

1 THE WITNESS: Look, something I'm unhappy with, we went 2 , so we tested this in a way. My view from 3 around it was, again, we I don't know -- I think it's difficult for me to imagine 4 5 that we would have gone off and built our own given the choices that we had. But honestly, I don't know; at some point, if you 6 7 have some discussion. I was more worried -- less about that, and more worried about making sure that Google was always 8 9 providing the best search results for our customers. In other 10 words, what I worried about was that Google would -- we compete 11 with Google aggressively. If you look at the biggest 12 competitor for iPhone, it's Android. And so one of my worries 13 was always that Google would give a better search capability 14 for Android than they would give for Apple, and so I wanted to 15 make sure that was never the case. 16 17 18 always thought we would come to an agreement with them, because 19 they were getting significant benefits from our customers and 20 so we deserved that. 21 22 23 24 25

THE WITNESS:

Again, I think it gets down to I can see -- and maybe your question -- because

I've thought of it in a way, it's like if you do your own and you keep a hundred percent, you make even more money, right?

THE COURT: Right.

THE WITNESS: And so, sure, I've thought of that, but again, it gets back to this isn't a money play. And I know it's hard for people to understand this when we're talking about the kind of money that we're talking about. But we — this deal I said was a \$\infty\$ billion deal. We're a \$400 billion company, so we have to keep everything in the perspective of the size of the company. And so, from our point of view, we have to choose what we can do and what we want to do. So we felt that us working in these other areas would differentiate our products and let us compete with Google and others in a way that would be better. Doing it with just search and not being able to develop these other products, I think, would be a detriment for us.

So, as long as we had a partner that we could work with --

and, again, that periodically if something better came along that we could switch to, I thought it was a win for us.

THE COURT: Any follow up, Mr. Schmidtlein, on those questions?

BY MR. SCHMIDTLEIN:

Q. Yeah, just a quick follow up.

Q. And does Apple today have any capabilities -- or I should say technologies or development of search advertising technology in the way that Google has search advertising technology?

- A. No, we don't.
- Q. And is one of the issues that Apple would have to confront, if it ever decided to build its own general search engine, would be how would Apple begin to either develop or implement search advertising technology?
- A. Yeah, you're just making the -- which is exactly the point I was trying to make, the work to build what Google has done over a more than 20-year period with some incredible engineers is not an insignificant amount of work to recreate.

And so, sure, it's all of the search capabilities, all of that knowledge, all of the advertising capabilities and all of that knowledge. So it is not — it is a huge, huge project to do. But we shouldn't — you know, because we need to be careful here. As I said, our number one goal here is to provide the best results for our customers.

And so our work in Siri, and our work in Spotlight, and even our work in Safari -- for example, if you type in NY in Safari, and you are an existing Safari customer, we know based on your search history -- and that's within the device, not Apple, the device knows that you go to the New York Times, for example, every day. And so we'll autofill the New York Times there, and you can just click and go, and it doesn't go to Google at all. So we're just trying to make the best experience for our customers irrespective of whether it goes to Google or with Google. Now, when it goes to Google, we would like to have the best experience there as well.

But let's not mistake the point that our number one objective and goal is to make sure we give the best answers to customers, and the best experience when they're using Safari, using Siri or using Spotlight. And if that means answering the question or giving them a different result than Google, we do that -- and we do that every day. We've done that since the beginning, and we continue to do that today, which is let's give the customers exactly what they want, if we know that. We

haven't always been great at that; sometimes we've made mistakes. Sometimes Google has showed: Hey, you guys are making a mistake here, you should fix this. But that's the way we think about it.

- Q. And does that implementation lead to situations where Apple actually forgoes revenue that it could generate if they had just sent the results to Google?
- A. Look, I'm sure the answer to your question is yes. We don't know of a way to measure that, so it's not like we've measured that or anything like that. And the teams that do that aren't even thinking, in a way, about that. We don't tell them -- you know, it's like there are people that think about it, but the teams that are doing the work, we basically -- you know, they do the work, make sure that you give the best experience for the customer, you don't worry about that. And honestly, we don't even know, because we don't understand -- we don't get detailed information from Google on how it monetizes. So I wouldn't know -- I can guess, I can do that, but I don't really know.
- Q. And those are -- the teams that are working on that are teams that report up to Mr. Giannandrea?
 - A. That's correct.
 - MR. SCHMIDTLEIN: Okay.
- 24 THE COURT: Any redirect in the closed session?

25 REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF EDDY CUE

BY MS. BELLSHAW: Q. Just briefly, Your Honor. Mr. Cue, in response to the question from the Court,

MS. BELLSHAW: And, Your Honor, the rest of my redirect can take place in open session. THE COURT: Terrific. Let's go ahead and -- I'm sorry, Mr. Cavanaugh, did you have redirect in closed session? REDIRECT EXAMINATION OF EDDY CUE BY MR. CAVANAUGH: Q. Very quickly, Your Honor. Mr. Cue, if you'd look to Exhibit DX380 which Mr. Schmidtlein handed to you. A. Sorry, that was handed to me? Q. Yeah, I think it's just one document. I just want to

understand the timing. So in April of 2020, you wrote to

(Exhibit DX380 admitted into evidence)

THE COURT: Just give us a couple of minutes, folks, we'll

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CERTIFICATE

certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of

I, Jeff M. Hook, Official Court Reporter,

the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

September 26, 2023

DATE Jeff M. Hook