

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA, SAN JOSE DIVISION

Forrest v. Meta Platforms, Inc.

No. 22-cv-03699-PCP (VKD) (N.D. Cal. Aug. 14, 2025) · No. 22-cv-03699-PCP (VKD) · Decided August 14, 2025

SUMMARY

The court addresses a discovery dispute in which plaintiff sought raw data and database schema from Meta Platforms, Inc. concerning tools and processes applied to allegedly fraudulent advertisements. The court ordered Meta to complete production of Scam Ad data, including mapping data, by August 28, 2025, and directed the parties to confer and submit a supplemental discovery letter if disputes remained.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California, San Jose Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Virginia K. DeMarchi
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
DECIDED	August 14, 2025
DOCKET	22-cv-03699-PCP (VKD)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties submitted a joint discovery letter seeking resolution of a dispute over whether Meta was required to produce raw data and database schema relating to allegedly fraudulent advertisements.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished and nonprecedential interlocutory discovery order

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- commercial litigation
- commercial
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- commercial litigation
- trademark litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Meta's production of data and mapping information concerning the Scam Ads was sufficient to resolve the discovery dispute.
2. Whether Meta should also be required to produce the database schema for the relevant data sources.

HOLDINGS

1. Because Meta's production was not yet complete and the significance of the forthcoming mapping data had not yet been evaluated by Forrest's expert, the court declined to finally resolve the sufficiency dispute and ordered Meta to complete production of the relevant Scam Ad data, including mapping data, by August 28, 2025.
2. After Forrest's expert evaluated the production, the parties were required to confer further and, if disagreement remained, submit a supplemental joint discovery letter identifying the disputed areas and proposed resolutions.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court is unable to finally resolve the parties’ disagreement about the sufficiency of Meta’s not-yet-completed production of data for each Scam Ad.” (at 2)

“After plaintiff’s expert has an opportunity to evaluate Meta’s data production, the parties must confer further regarding the sufficiency of the production.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Forrest sought raw data and database schema for relevant data sources so his expert could determine what tools or processes were applied to each Scam Ad and what those processes did between input and output. Meta represented that it had produced or was producing exported Hive data and mapping information showing the advertiser's ad input, selected tools, and creative optimizations. The court found that it could not yet determine whether the incomplete production was sufficient.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

During discovery, Forrest requested data and database schema concerning the tools and processes applied to the advertisements at issue. Meta represented at the hearing that it had produced and was continuing to produce responsive Hive data and mapping information but disputed the need to produce the database schema. The court declined to finally resolve the sufficiency of the incomplete production and ordered Meta to complete production, after which the parties were required to confer and, if necessary, submit a supplemental discovery letter.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Group, LLC, 809 F.3d 1092, 1098-99 (9th Cir.), cert. denied sub nom FCA U.S. LLC v. Ctr. for Auto Safety, 580 U.S. 815 (2016)
- Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1179-80 (9th Cir. 2006)

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