

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA**

Google LLC v. Point Financial, Inc.

Google · No. 25-cv-04033-BLF · Decided January 12, 2026

OPINION

1 2 3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 4 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 5
SAN JOSE DIVISION 6 7 GOOGLE LLC, Case No. 25-cv-04033-BLF 8 Plaintiff, ORDER
GRANTING GOOGLE LLC'S 9 v. ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO FILE UNDER SEAL 10
POINT FINANCIAL, INC., [Re: ECF No. 142] 11 Defendant. 12 13 Before the Court is Google
LLC's Administrative Motion to File Under Seal. ECF 14 No. 142 ("Mot.").

Defendant Point Financial, Inc. opposes. ECF No. 147 ("Opp."). For the 15 reasons that follow,
the Court GRANTS the motion. 16 I. LEGAL STANDARD 17 "Historically, courts have
recognized a 'general right to inspect and copy public records 18 and documents, including
judicial records and documents.'" Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of 19 Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178
(9th Cir.

2006) (quoting Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc., 435 20 U.S. 589, 597 & n.7 (1978)).
Accordingly, when considering a sealing request, "a 'strong 21 presumption in favor of access' is
the starting point." Id. (quoting Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. 22 Ins. Co., 331 F.3d 1122, 1135
(9th Cir. 2003)). Parties seeking to seal judicial records relating to 23 motions that are "more than
tangentially related to the underlying cause of action" bear the burden 24 of overcoming the
presumption with "compelling reasons" that outweigh the general history of 25 access and the
public policies favoring disclosure.

Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., 809 F.3d 26 1092, 1099–101 (9th Cir. 2016); Kamakana,
447 F.3d at 1178–80. 27 In addition, in this district, all parties requesting sealing must comply
with Civil Local 1 document under seal, including an explanation of: (i) the legitimate private or
public interests that 2 warrant sealing; (ii) the injury that will result if sealing is denied; and (iii)
why a less restrictive 3 alternative to sealing is not sufficient." Civil L.R.

79-5(c)(1). Civil Local Rule 79-5 requires the 4 moving party to provide "evidentiary support
from declarations where necessary." Civil L.R. 79- 5 5(c)(2). And the proposed order must be
"narrowly tailored to seal only the sealable material." 6 Civil L.R. 79-5(c)(3). 7 II. DISCUSSION
8 Google LLC ("Google") seeks to seal portions of its Emergency Motion to Enforce the 9
Preliminary Injunction and for Contempt Sanctions Against Point Financial, Inc. ("PFI") and 10
portions of certain exhibits thereto.

Mot. at 2. 11 Google separates its sealing requests into three categories. The first category is comprised 12 of “a single term that pertains to Google’s confidential and proprietary technology at issue in this 13 litigation.” Mot. at 3. Google argues the disclosure of this information would reveal Google’s 14 confidential technology and in turn “weaken the competitive advantage Google maintains in the 15 marketplace.” Id. 16 The second category of requests consists of “direct quotes from the Master Purchase 17 Agreement and Amendment 2 to the Statement of Work.” Id. Google argues that the disclosure 18 of this information would expose Google’s “strategic decision-making with respect to the terms 19 offered to its contracting partners” and harm its competitive advantage in the marketplace.

Id. 20 The third category of requests is the “identities of the Vendors that manufacture, test, and 21 assemble the chip at issue in this litigation,” and with which Google has confidential agreements. 22 Id. Google asserts that revealing these identities would give its competitors and potential partners 23 “unfair leverage.” Id. 24 PFI opposes Google’s sealing motion only with respect to the first two categories.

As to 25 the first category, the single term pertaining to the at-issue technology, PFI argues that absent 26 “underlying specific details of the components and manufacture of these integrated chips, the 27 single term description conveys no greater sensitive information.” Opp. at 2.

As to the second 1 is not comprised of sufficiently sensitive business information to justify sealing. Id. at 3. 2 As the sealing request relates to the Emergency Motion to Enforce the Preliminary 3 Injunction and for Contempt Sanctions, which the Court finds is “more than tangentially related to 4 the underlying cause[s] of action,” the Court will apply the “compelling reasons” standard.

Ctr. 5 for Auto Safety, 809 F.3d at 1099–101. The Court finds that compelling reasons exist to seal the 6 materials Google identifies. First, compelling reasons exist to seal trade secrets. *Kamakana*, 447 7 F.3d at 1179; *Skillz Platform Inc. v. AviaGames Inc.*, No. 21-cv-02436, 2023 WL 7678270, at *2 8 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2023).

Second, the “compelling reasons” standard is met for confidential 9 business information that would harm a party’s competitive standing if publicly disclosed. See 10 *Music Grp. Macao Com. Offshore Ltd. v. Foote*, No. 14-cv-03078, 2015 WL 3993147, at *6 (N.D. 11 Cal. June 30, 2015); *Jam Cellars, Inc. v. Wine Grp. LLC*, No. 19-cv-01878, 2020 WL 5576346, at 12 *2 (N.D.

Cal. Sept. 17, 2020) (finding compelling reasons for sealing “confidential business and 13 proprietary information”); *Fed. Trade Comm’n v. Qualcomm Inc.*, No. 17-cv-00220, 2019 WL 14 95922, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 3, 2019) (finding compelling reasons for “information that, if 15 published, may harm... competitive standing and divulges terms of confidential contracts, 16 contract negotiations, or trade secrets”); *In re Elec.*

Arts, Inc., 298 F. App'x 568, 569 (9th Cir. 17 2008) (finding sealable "business information that might harm a litigant's competitive standing"). 18 The Court also finds that the request is narrowly tailored. See Civil L.R. 79-5(c)(3). 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 1 The Court's ruling is summarized below: 2 Public ECF Document Portion(s) to Seal Ruling No. / 3 Sealed 4 ECF No. ECF Google LLC's Highlighted portions at GRANTED as containing 5 No. 141/ |Emergency Motion to | 1:11-12; 2:6, 9, 19, 25; confidential business ECF Enforce the 3:13-14, 19-20, 22, 24; information, the release of 6 No. 142-4 Preliminary 5:12, 22, 27; 6:1, 4, 11, 13- | which could cause Google Injunction and for 14, 18-19; 7:25; 8:1-2, 4, harm.

7 Contempt Sanctions | 20, 24, 28; 9:1, 3, 5. g against Point Financial, Inc. 9 ("Emergency Motion" 10 ECF Exhibit A to the Highlighted portions at 6:4- | GRANTED as containing No. 141-3 / |Emergency Motion 5, 17, 28; 13:27; 18:8-9, 22, | confidential business 11 ECF 27; 65:6, 8-10; 85:20, 24; information, the release of 2 No. 142-5 86:2, 3; 90:2-3 which could cause Google harm. & 13 ECF Exhibit D to the Highlighted portions at GRANTED as containing a No. 141-6 |Emergency Motion 1:10, 22-23, 26, 28; 2:33; confidential business v 14 ECF 3:1, 31; 4:5-6, 10, 19. information, the release of No. 142-6 which could cause Google 2 IS harm.

16 I. ORDER 17 For the foregoing reasons, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Google LLC's Administrative 18 Motion to File Under Seal, ECF No. 142, is GRANTED. 19 20 Dated: January 12, 2026 22 TH LABSON FREEMAN 33 United States District Judge 24 25 26 27 28