

1 DANIEL L. WARSHAW (Bar No. 185365)
dwarshaw@pswlaw.com
2 **PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP**
15165 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 400
3 Sherman Oaks, California 91403
4 Telephone: (818) 788-8300
Facsimile: (818) 788-8104

5
6 HASSAN A. ZAVAREEI (Bar No. 181547)
hzavareei@tzlegal.com
7 **TYCKO & ZAVAREEI LLP**
1828 L Street NW, Suite 1000
8 Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 973-0900
9 Facsimile: (202) 973-0950

10 *Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class*
11 *[Additional counsel appears on signature page]*

12
13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

15 JOHN SPARKS, individually and on behalf
of all others similarly situated,
16
Plaintiff,
17
v.
18 GOOGLE, LLC and GOOGLE
PAYMENT CORP.,
19
Defendants.
20

CASE NO.
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 Plaintiff John Sparks (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly
2 situated, and through his attorneys of record, alleges the following against Defendants Google, LLC
3 (“Google LLC”) and Google Payment Corp. (“GPC”) (together, “Google” or “Defendants”), based
4 upon personal knowledge with respect to himself, on information and belief derived from
5 investigation of counsel, and review of public documents as to all other matters.

6 **INTRODUCTION**

7 1. This is a class action arising from Google’s profiting from illegal gambling games
8 developed by Zynga, Inc. (“Zynga”) and offered, sold, and distributed by Google through its Google
9 Play Store (“Google Play”) for consumers to download and play. Google offers, sells, and
10 distributes casino-style slot machines, casino-style table games, and other common gambling games
11 to consumers through Google Play, which, for the reasons set forth herein, constitutes illegal
12 gambling pursuant to the law of various states.

13 **PARTIES**

14 2. Plaintiff is an adult citizen and resident of the state of Tennessee.

15 3. Google LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of
16 business in Mountain View, California. Google LLC is the primary operating subsidiary of the
17 publicly traded holding company, Alphabet Inc.

18 4. GPC is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Mountain
19 View, California. GPC provides in-app payment processing services to Android app developers and
20 consumers through Google Play. Google requires app developers who distribute their apps on
21 Google Play to use its billing system if they offer in-app purchases of digital goods, and to pay a
22 service fee from a percentage of the purchase, as explained in detail below.¹

23 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

24 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act
25 of 2005 (“CAFA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d). The amount in controversy exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000
26

27 ¹ See <https://android-developers.googleblog.com/2020/09/listening-to-developer-feedback-to.html>
28 (last visited March 2, 2021).

1 exclusive of interest and costs, there are more than 100 putative class members, and minimal
2 diversity exists because putative class members are citizens of a different state than Defendants.

3 6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants Google LLC and GPC because
4 they are authorized to and regularly conduct business in California and their principal place of
5 business is in California.

6 7. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because Defendants
7 Google LLC and GPC reside in this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving
8 rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this District.

9 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

10 8. Google is an American multinational technology company that specializes in
11 Internet-related services and products, which include online advertising technologies, a search
12 engine, cloud computing, software, and hardware. It is considered one of the Big Five companies
13 in the U.S. information technology industry, alongside Amazon, Facebook, Apple, and Microsoft.²
14 As per its 2019 Annual Report, Google generates most of its revenues from advertising. This
15 includes sales of apps, in-app purchases, digital content products, and hardware; and licensing and
16 service fees.³

17 9. Google operates Google Play, which is a digital distribution service that serves as the
18 official app store for certified devices running on the Android operating system ("Android"),
19 allowing consumers to browse and download applications developed with the Android software
20 development kit and published through Google ("Apps"), among other things.⁴

21 10. Google Play presents consumers with personalized collections of Apps and games,
22 based on criteria such as the user's past activity, actions they are trying to complete, location, and
23 major events. These collections are curated automatically as well as by the Google Play editorial
24 team.⁵

25
26 ² See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google> (last visited January 28, 2021).

27 ³ See <https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1652044/000165204419000004/goog10-kq42018.htm> (last visited January 28, 2021).

28 ⁴ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Play (last visited January 28, 2021).

⁵ See <https://developer.android.com/distribute/google-play> (last visited January 28, 2021).

1 11. By 2017, Google Play featured more than 3.5 million Apps. Google subsequently
2 purged many Apps from Google Play, but the number of Apps has risen back to over 3 million.⁶

3 12. Apps are available through Google Play either free of charge or at a cost. They can
4 be downloaded directly on an Android device through the proprietary Google Play mobile app or
5 by deploying the App to a device from the Google Play website.⁷

6 13. Certain Apps are initially free to download (*i.e.*, “free-to-play”), but offer additional
7 content or services for sale within the App, otherwise known as “in-app purchases,” that consumers
8 can purchase while using the App.⁸

9 14. Android consumers who want to purchase an App or make in-app purchases through
10 Google Play must pay money directly to Google (through GPC), which provides the payment
11 interface.⁹ Google consumers must register a valid method of payment to make payments to GPC
12 for any purchases made through Google Play (including in-app purchases).¹⁰

13 15. Likewise, Google mandates that App developers who distribute their Apps on
14 Google Play must use Google Play’s billing system as the method of payment if they offer in-app
15 purchases of digital goods, and to pay a service fee from a percentage of the purchase.¹¹ Google is
16 contractually obligated to these App developers to facilitate a transaction between the developers
17 and end users, for which it earns a commission.¹² Specifically, Google retains a service fee from
18 sales of Apps and in-app purchases offered through Google Play equivalent to 30% of the payment.
19 The developer, here, Zynga, receives 70% of the payment.¹³

20
21 ⁶ See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Play (last visited January 28, 2021).

22 ⁷ *Id.*

23 ⁸ See <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1061913?hl=en> (last visited January 28,
2021).

24 ⁹ See <https://play.google.com/about/play-terms/index.html> (last visited January 28, 2021).

25 ¹⁰ See [https://payments.google.com/payments/apis-
secure/get_legal_document?ldo=0&ldt=buyertos&ldr=us](https://payments.google.com/payments/apis-secure/get_legal_document?ldo=0&ldt=buyertos&ldr=us) (last visited January 28, 2021).

26 ¹¹ See <https://android-developers.googleblog.com/2020/09/listening-to-developer-feedback-to.html>
(last visited January 28, 2021); [https://support.google.com/googleplay/android-
developer/answer/9858738?hl=en](https://support.google.com/googleplay/android-developer/answer/9858738?hl=en) (last visited January 28, 2021).

27 ¹² See [https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1652044/000165204419000004/goog10-
kq42018.htm](https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1652044/000165204419000004/goog10-kq42018.htm) (last visited January 28, 2021).

28 ¹³ See <https://support.google.com/googleplay/android-developer/answer/112622?hl=en> (last
visited January 28, 2021).

1 16. The Apps referenced herein could not be downloaded by Google consumers, and
 2 Google consumers would not be able to make in-app purchases in these Apps, without Google’s
 3 offering and distributing of the Apps (and selling of coins through in-app purchases) through Google
 4 Play.

5 17. Google also provides marketing guidance, tools, promotional offers, and more to
 6 help drive discovery of Apps and in-app purchases.¹⁴ For example, Google offers App Campaigns
 7 to promote Apps through Google Play and ensure that developers’ Apps are shown to consumers
 8 who are most likely to drive the Apps’ business by optimizing installations and engagement.¹⁵

9 18. In fact, Google even advises developers that it may “run promotional activities
 10 offering coupons, credits, and/or other promotional incentives for paid transactions and/or user
 11 actions for Your Products and in-app transactions solely in connection with Google Play promotions
 12 and, for gift card promotions, also on Google authorized third-party channels.”¹⁶ Notably, these
 13 promotional activities, which are aimed at increasing in-app purchases and increase Google’s
 14 profits, are provided by Google to developers free of charge.¹⁷

15 19. Google and Zynga are both responsible for the creation or development of the Apps
 16 at issue here. Google reassures its developers that they will work together as a team: “Your
 17 innovation is what drives our shared success, but with it comes responsibility. These Developer
 18 Program Policies, along with the Developer Distribution Agreement, ensure that together we
 19 continue to deliver the world’s most innovative and trusted apps to over a billion people through
 20 Google Play....”¹⁸

Casino-Style Apps Offered Through Google Play

22 20. Google permits and facilitates illegal gambling by operating as an unlicensed casino.

25 ¹⁴ See <https://ads.google.com/home/campaigns/app-ads/> (last accessed February 10, 2021).

26 ¹⁵ See *id.*

27 ¹⁶ See <https://play.google.com/about/developer-distribution-agreement.html> (last visited February 10, 2021).

28 ¹⁷ See *id.*

¹⁸ See <https://support.google.com/googleplay/android-developer/topic/9858052?hl=en> (last visited February 10, 2021).

1 21. Google sells, offers, and distributes several free-to-play casino-style games (*i.e.*, slot
2 machines and casino-style table games) developed by Zynga through Google Play (“Zynga Casino
3 Apps”) for consumers to download and play, including, but not limited to, 101 YüzBir Okey Plus,
4 Bid Whist Plus, Black Diamond Casino Slots, Game of Thrones Slots Casino, Gin Rummy Plus,
5 Hit it Rich! Slots, Okey Plus, Solitaire, Spades Plus, Willy Wonka Slots, Wizard of Oz Slots, Zero21
6 Solitaire, and Zynga Poker.

7 22. When a consumer downloads and initially opens a Zynga Casino App, the consumer
8 is given free “coins” or “chips” to start with, *i.e.*, 100,000 or 1,000,000, to play the game. The Zynga
9 Casino Apps work essentially like a casino slot machine or other Las Vegas-style games like
10 blackjack, roulette, poker, keno, bingo, and other card and gambling games. A loss results in a loss
11 of coins or chips, but the consumer has an opportunity to win additional coins or chips. Ultimately,
12 the consumer will run out of coins or chips and will be prompted to use real money to purchase
13 additional coins or chips for the chance to continue playing the game.

14 23. Consumers do not have the ability to collect actual cash as a result of “winning”
15 games, but they do have the ability to win and therefore acquire more playing time.

16 24. Paying money in a game for a chance to win more playing time violates the anti-
17 gambling laws of the twenty-five states that are at issue in this case. *See* Ala. Code § 13A-12-20
18 (Alabama); Ark. Code Ann. § 16-118-103 (Arkansas); Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-278a (Connecticut);
19 OCGA § 16-12-20 (Georgia); 720 ILCS 5/28-1 (Illinois); IC §35-45-5-1 (Indiana); KRS 528.101
20 (Kansas); Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 137, § 1 (Massachusetts); MN ST § 609.75 (Minnesota); MS ST §
21 87-1-5 (Mississippi); Mo. Rev. Stat. § 572.010 (Missouri); MT Code § 23-5-112(14) (Montana);
22 N.H. Rev. Stat. § 647.2 (New Hampshire); N.J. Stat. § 2C:37-1 (New Jersey); N.M. Stat. § 30-19-1
23 (New Mexico); N.Y. Penal L. 225.00 (New York); Ohio Rev. Code § 2915.01 (Ohio); Or. Rev. Stat.
24 § 167.117 (Oregon); S.C. Code § 32-1-10 (South Carolina); S.D. Codified Laws § 22-25A (South
25 Dakota); Tenn. Code § 39-17-501 (Tennessee); 13 V.S.A. § 2141 (Vermont); Va. Code § 18.2-325
26 (Virginia); Wash. Rev. Code § 9.46.010 (Washington); W. Va. Code §61-10-5 (West Virginia).

27 ///

28 ///

1 25. In 2019, people in the United States lost approximately \$3.5 billion playing “free-to-
2 play” Apps like the Zynga Casino Apps.¹⁹ Despite the fact that these Zynga Casino Apps do not
3 offer an opportunity to win real money or prizes, the money spent by consumers to purchase
4 additional coins or chips to continue playing the Apps can lead to devastating consequences for
5 those who get addicted.²⁰

6 26. A study analyzing “free-to-play” casino-style Apps stated:

7 [Researchers] found that [free-to-play] casino gamers share many similar
8 sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., employment, education, income) with online
9 gamblers. Given these similarities, it is perhaps not surprising that a strong predictor
10 of online gambling is engagement in [free-to-play] casino games. Putting a dark line
11 under these findings, over half (58.3%) of disordered gamblers who were seeking
12 treatment stated that social casino games were their first experiences with gambling.

11 ...

12 According to [another study], the purchase of virtual credits or virtual items makes
13 the activity of [free-to-play] casino gaming more similar to gambling. Thus, micro-
14 transactions²¹ may be a crucial predictor in the migration to online gambling, as these
15 players have now crossed a line by paying to engage in these activities. Although,
16 [sic] only 1–5% of [free-to-play] casino gamers make micro-transactions, those who
17 purchase virtual credits spend an average of \$78. Despite the limited numbers of
18 social casino gamers purchasing virtual credits, revenues from micro-transactions
19 account for 60% of all [free-to-play] casino gaming revenue. Thus, a significant
20 amount of revenue is based on players’ desire to purchase virtual credits above and
21 beyond what is provided to the player in seed credits.²²

20

21 ¹⁹ See [https://www.king5.com/article/life/wellness/social-casino-free-to-play-gambling-
addiction-help/281-e79beef2-9ca6-4d9d-9e92-b99042f1d1cc](https://www.king5.com/article/life/wellness/social-casino-free-to-play-gambling-addiction-help/281-e79beef2-9ca6-4d9d-9e92-b99042f1d1cc) (last accessed January 28, 2021)
22 (hereinafter, “King5”).

23 ²⁰ *Id.*

24 ²¹ “Microtransactions, often abbreviated as MTX, are a business model where users can purchase
25 virtual goods with micropayments. Microtransactions are often used in free-to-play games to
provide a revenue source for the developers.” See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microtransaction>
(last visited February 9, 2021).

26 ²² Hyoun S. Kim, Michael J. A. Wohl, *et al.*, *Do Social Casino Gamers Migrate to Online*
27 *Gambling? An Assessment of Migration Rate and Potential Predictors*, Journal of gambling
28 studies / co-sponsored by the National Council on Problem Gambling and Institute for the Study
of Gambling and Commercial Gaming (Nov. 14, 2014), available at
<http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2Fs10899-014-9511-0.pdf> (citations omitted).

1 27. Most of the revenue earned from these casino-style Apps (*i.e.*, 80-90%) is made from
2 a small portion (*i.e.*, about 3%) of their players, who are specifically targeted because of the large
3 amounts they will spend.²³

4 28. Nate Halverson, a journalist with Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting
5 said:

6 They're using artificial intelligence to target those specific players who, like [a
7 woman] I reported on will spend \$400,000. She didn't have \$400,000.

8 In a regular casino, they would have seen that she didn't have the income to be
9 spending \$400k. Further, she asked them nearly a dozen times to cut her off, told
10 them she had a problem, that she couldn't stop spending. And what did they do? They
11 just gave her free chips and encouraged her to keep spending. That wouldn't happen
12 in a real casino. This is a wild west; this is a lawless land.²⁴

13 29. Governments across the world have acted to limit the availability of micro-
14 transaction-based games of chance (like the Zynga Casino Apps) due to their similarity to games of
15 chance found in actual casinos.²⁵ Regrettably, such games have avoided regulation in the United
16 States, resulting in thousands of consumers spending millions of dollars to become addicted to these
17 unlawful games that they downloaded from Google Play, while Google earns a substantial profit.

18 30. Since Google is responsible, in part, for the creation or development of the Zynga
19 Casino Apps and provides the *sole* means by which Zynga can offer, distribute, and sell their Zynga
20 Casino Apps to Google consumers (*i.e.*, through Google Play), Google functions as an information
21 content provider for the subject Zynga Casino Apps.

22 31. Accordingly, Google actively enables, permits, promotes, and profits from illegal
23 gambling.

23 ²³ King5, *supra* note 19.

24 ²⁴ *Id.*

25 ²⁵ In late August 2014, South Korea began regulating “social gambling” games, including games
26 similar to the Zynga Casino Apps, by “ban[ning] all financial transactions directed” to the games.
27 PokerNews.com, *Korea Shuts Down All Facebook Games In Attempt To Regulate Social*
28 *Gambling* | *PokerNews*, <https://www.pokernews.com/news/2014/09/korea-shuts-down-facebook-games-19204.htm> (last visited Feb. 11, 2019). Similarly, “the Maltese Lotteries and Gambling Authority (LGA) invited the national Parliament to regulate all digital games with prizes by the end of 2014.” *Id.*

The History of Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses

23. Purportedly, “[i]n the seventeenth and eighteenth centur[ies], gambling among the British gentry was rampant.”²⁶ Problems were created for England’s land-based aristocracy because of large transfers of wealth or property related to gambling. This problem apparently led the English in 1710 to adopt “[a]n Act for the better preventing of excessive and deceitful gaming,” 9 Anne, ch. 14 (1710), which is known as the *Statute of Anne* (named after Britain’s then reigning Queen).²⁷

33. “England’s *Statute of Anne*...provided for a recovery action by the losing gambler, or any other person on the gambler’s behalf, for gambling debts already paid.”²⁸ It stated, in pertinent part, that:

[A]ny Person . . . who shall . . . by playing at Cards, Dice, Tables, or other Game or Games whatsoever, or by betting on the Sides or Hands of such as do play any of the Games aforesaid, lose to any . . . Person . . . so playing or betting in the whole, the Sum or Value of ten Pounds, and shall pay or deliver the same or any Part thereof, the Person . . . losing and paying or delivering the same, shall be at Liberty within three Months then next, to sue for and recover the Money or Goods so lost, and paid or delivered or any Part thereof, from the respective Winner . . . thereof, with Costs of Suit, by Action of Debt²⁹

34. The twenty-five states at issue here – Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia – have enacted civil remedy statutes designed to curtail excessive gambling losses based on legal principals adopted from the *Statute of Anne*.

²⁶ Ronald J. Rychlak, *The Introduction of Casino Gambling: Public Policy and the Law*, 64 Miss. L.J. 291, 296 n.32 (1995).

²⁷ State of Tennessee Office of the Attorney General, *Applicability of Statute of Anne Provisions Regarding Gambling*, Opinion No. 04-046 (March 18, 2004), available at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/attorneygeneral/documents/ops/2004/op04-046.pdf> (last visited January 28, 2021).

²⁸ Joseph Kelly, *Caught in the Intersection Between Public Policy and Practicality: A Survey of the Legal Treatment of Gambling-Related Obligations in the United States*, 5 Chap. L. Rev. 87 (2002).

²⁹ An Act for the Better Preventing of Excessive and Deceitful Gaming, 1710, 9 Ann. c. 14, § 2 (Eng.).

1 35. These states have similar statutes that prohibit profiting from unlawful gambling
2 activity and provide a statutory civil cause of action to recover money paid and lost due to gambling:
3 Ala. Code § 8-1-150; Ark. Code Ann. § 16-118-103; Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-554; OCGA § 13-8-3;
4 720 ILCS 5/28-8; IC 34-16-1-2; KRS 372.020; Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 137, § 1; MN ST § 541.20;
5 MS ST § 87-1-5; Mo. Rev. Stat. § 434.030; MT Code § 23-5-131; N.H. Rev. Stat. § 338:3; N.J. Stat.
6 § 2A:40-5; N.M. Stat. § 44-5-1; N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law §§ 5-419, 5-421; Ohio Rev. Code § 3763.02;
7 Or. Rev. Stat. § 30.740; S.C. Code § 32-1-10; S.D. Codified Laws § 21-6-1; Tenn. Code § 28-3-
8 106; 9 V.S.A. § 3981; Va. Code § 11-15; Wash. Rev. Code § 4.24.070; and W. Va. Code § 55-9-3
9 (“Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses”).

10 **Facts Specific to Plaintiff**

11 36. In or about February 2017, Plaintiff downloaded a Zynga Casino App, Willy Wonka
12 Slots, on his Android device from Google Play. Plaintiff initially played Willy Wonka Slots for
13 free, but eventually purchased coins through in-app purchases (paid directly to Google) so he could
14 continue playing. Plaintiff purchased coins in various increments on multiple occasions. In the
15 three (3) months prior to the filing of this Complaint, Plaintiff paid approximately \$160.00 in coin
16 purchases to Google to continue playing Willy Wonka Slots.

17 37. Accordingly, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, seeks to
18 recover money paid and lost due to gambling on the Zynga Casino Apps pursuant to state law, as
19 set forth herein.

20 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

21 38. Pursuant to the provisions of Rules 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of
22 Civil Procedure, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and the following Multistate Class
23 and State Classes (collectively “Class”):

24 **Multistate Class:**

25 All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps
26 and reside in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky,
27 Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New
28 Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota,
Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Alabama State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Alabama.

Arkansas State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Arkansas.

Connecticut State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Connecticut.

Georgia State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Georgia.

Illinois State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Illinois.

Indiana State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Indiana.

Kentucky State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Kentucky.

Massachusetts State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Massachusetts.

Minnesota State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Minnesota.

Mississippi State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Mississippi.

///
///

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Montana State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Montana.

New Hampshire State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in New Hampshire.

New Jersey State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in New Jersey.

New Mexico State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in New Mexico.

New York State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in New York.

Ohio State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Ohio.

Oregon State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Oregon.

South Carolina State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in South Carolina.

South Dakota State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in South Dakota.

Tennessee State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps and reside in Tennessee.

Vermont State Class:

All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps

1 and reside in Vermont.

2 **Virginia State Class:**

3 All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps
4 and reside in Virginia.

5 **Washington State Class:**

6 All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps
7 and reside in Washington.

8 **West Virginia State Class:**

9 All persons who paid money to Google for coins to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps
10 and reside in West Virginia.

11 39. Excluded from the Class are Zynga and its officers, directors, legal representatives,
12 successors, subsidiaries, and assigns; Google itself, any entity in which Google has controlling
13 interests, and Google's officers, directors, legal representatives, successors, subsidiaries, and
14 assigns; and any judicial officer presiding over this matter, members of their immediate family,
15 members of their judicial staff, and any judge sitting in the presiding court system who may hear an
16 appeal of any judgment entered.

17 40. Certification of Plaintiff's claims for classwide treatment is appropriate because
18 Plaintiff can prove the elements of his claims on a classwide basis using the same evidence as would
19 be used to prove those elements in individual actions asserting the same claims.

20 41. This action has been brought and may be properly maintained on behalf of the
21 Multistate and/or State Classes proposed herein under Rule 23 of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
22 and satisfies the numerosity, commonality, typicality, adequacy, predominance, and superiority
23 requirements of its provisions.

24 42. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Multistate and State Class definitions based
25 on information learned through discovery.

26 43. **Numerosity. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1).** Consistent with Rule 23(a)(1), the members
27 of the Class are so numerous and geographically dispersed that the joinder of all members is
28 impractical. While the exact number of class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time, there
are millions of reviews for some Gambling Apps, suggesting that at least hundreds of thousands of

1 people have downloaded and played the subject Zynga Gambling Apps. The members of the Class
2 can be readily identified through Google's records.

3 44. **Commonality and Predominance. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2) and (b)(3).** This action
4 involves common questions of law and fact that predominate over any questions affecting individual
5 Class members. The common questions include, but are not limited to:

- 6 a. Whether Defendants engaged in the conduct alleged herein;
- 7 b. Whether these virtually identical Zynga Casino Apps offered and distributed
8 by Google for download and for sale of in-app purchases through Defendants' Google Play violate
9 the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses;
- 10 c. Whether gambling for additional playtime constitutes a thing of value under
11 the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses;
- 12 d. Whether Defendants violated the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of
13 Gambling Losses through their active participation in the promotion and sale of in-app purchases
14 through Google Play;
- 15 e. Whether Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to recover the money
16 they lost on the Zynga Casino Apps under the Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling
17 Losses;
- 18 f. Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched under applicable state laws;
19 and
- 20 g. Such other common factual and legal issues as are apparent from the
21 allegations and causes of action asserted in the Complaint.

22 45. **Typicality. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3).** Plaintiff's claims are typical of other Class
23 members' claims because Plaintiff and Class members were subjected to the same allegedly
24 unlawful conduct and damaged in the same way, *i.e.*, they all lost money to Google in an effort to
25 win additional playtime on the Zynga Casino Apps.

26 46. **Adequacy. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4).** Consistent with Rule 23(a)(4), Plaintiff will
27 fairly and adequately represent the Class. Plaintiff has the best interests of the members of the Class
28 in mind. Plaintiff has no conflicts of interest with the Class. Plaintiff's counsel are competent and

1 experienced in litigating class actions, including extensive experience in consumer protection
2 claims. Plaintiff intends to vigorously prosecute this case.

3 47. **Superiority. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3).** A class action is superior to other available
4 methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of these claims because individual joinder of the
5 claims of all members of the Class is impracticable. Many members of the Class are without the
6 financial resources necessary to pursue this matter. Even if some could afford to litigate claims
7 separately, such a result would be unduly burdensome to the courts in which the individualized cases
8 would proceed. Individual litigation increases the time and expense of resolving a common dispute
9 concerning Defendants' actions toward an entire group of individuals. Class action procedures
10 allow for far fewer management difficulties in matters of this type and provide the unique benefits
11 of unitary adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision over the entire
12 controversy by a single judge in a single court.

13 48. The Class may be certified pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil
14 Procedure because Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby
15 making final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief appropriate with respect to the
16 claims raised by the Class.

17 49. The Class may also be certified pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of
18 Civil Procedure because questions of law and fact common to members of the Class will
19 predominate over questions affecting individual members, and a class action is superior to other
20 methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy and causes of action described in this
21 Complaint.

22 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

23 **COUNT I**

24 **VIOLATION OF CIVIL REMEDY STATUTES**
25 **FOR RECOVERY OF GAMBLING LOSSES**

26 50. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the preceding paragraphs, as if fully set forth
27 herein.

28 51. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of himself and the Multistate Class under the

1 Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses, which are materially uniform in the states
2 of Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts,
3 Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,
4 Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West
5 Virginia. In the alternative, Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of each State Class under the Civil
6 Remedy Statute for Recovery of Gambling Losses enacted under the law of each state.

7 52. The twenty-five states identified above have enacted the following Civil Remedy
8 Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses, all of which are materially similar and were designed to
9 effectuate the states' public policy against gambling.

10 a. Ala. Code § 8-1-150(a) (“Any person who has paid any money or delivered
11 any thing of value lost upon any game or wager may recover such money, thing, or its value by an
12 action commenced within six months from the time of such payment or delivery.”);

13 b. Ark. Code Ann. § 16-118-103(a)(1)(A)(i) (“Any person who loses any money
14 or property at any game or gambling device, or any bet or wager whatever, may recover the money
15 or property by obtaining a judgment ordering the return of the money or property following an action
16 against the person winning the money or property.”);

17 c. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-554 (“Any person who, by playing at any game, or
18 betting on the sides or hands of such as play at any game...loses the sum or value of one dollar in
19 the whole and pays or delivers the same or any part thereof, may, within three months next
20 following, recover from the winner the money or the value of the goods so lost and paid or
21 delivered....”);

22 d. OCGA § 13-8-3(b) (“Money paid or property delivered upon a gambling
23 consideration may be recovered from the winner by the loser by institution of an action for the same
24 within six months after the loss and, after the expiration of that time, by institution of an action by
25 any person, at any time within four years, for the joint use of himself and the educational fund of
26 the county.”);

27 e. 720 ILCS 5/28-8(a) (“Any person who by gambling shall lose to any other
28 person, any sum of money or thing of value, amounting to the sum of \$50 or more and shall pay or

1 deliver the same or any part thereof, may sue for and recover the money or other thing of value, so
2 lost and paid or delivered, in a civil action against the winner thereof, with costs, in the circuit
3 court...”);

4 f. IC 34-16-1-2 (“If a person, by betting on a game or on the hands or sides of
5 persons playing a game: (1) loses any money or other property; and (2) delivers any part of the
6 money or other property; the person may bring a civil action, within one hundred eighty (180) days,
7 to recover the money or other property so lost and delivered.”);

8 g. KRS 372.020 (“If any person loses to another at one (1) time, or within
9 twenty-four (24) hours, five dollars (\$5) or more, or anything of that value, and pays, transfers or
10 delivers it, the loser or any of his creditors may recover it, or its value, from the winner, or any
11 transferee of the winner, having notice of the consideration, by action brought within five (5) years
12 after the payment, transfer or delivery.”);

13 h. Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 137, § 1 (“Whoever, by playing at cards, dice or other
14 game, or by betting on the sides or hands of those gaming, except for gaming conducted in licensed
15 gaming establishments pursuant to chapter 23K, loses to a person so playing or betting money or
16 goods, and pays or delivers the same or any part thereof to the winner, or whoever pays or delivers
17 money or other thing of value to another person for or in consideration of a lottery, policy or pool
18 ticket, certificate, check or slip, or for or in consideration of a chance of drawing or obtaining any
19 money, prize or other thing of value in a lottery or policy game, pool or combination, or other bet,
20 may recover such money or the value of such goods in contract....”);

21 i. MN ST § 541.20 (“Every person who, by playing at cards, dice, or other
22 game, or by betting on the hands or sides of such as are gambling, shall lose to any person so playing
23 or betting any sum of money or any goods, and pays or delivers the same, or any part thereof, to the
24 winner, may sue for and recover such money by a civil action, before any court of competent
25 jurisdiction.”);

26 j. MS ST § 87-1-5 (“If any person, by playing at any game whatever, or by
27 betting on the sides or hands of such as do play at any game...or by any wager whatever, shall lose
28 any money, property, or other valuable thing, real or personal, and shall pay or deliver the same or

1 any part thereof, the person so losing and paying or delivering the same, or his wife or children, may
2 sue for and recover such money, property, or other valuable thing so lost and paid or delivered, or
3 any part thereof, from the person knowingly receiving the same, with costs.”);

4 k. Mo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 434.030 (“Any person who shall lose any money or
5 property at any game, gambling device or by any bet or wager whatever, may recover the same by
6 a civil action.”);

7 l. MT Code § 23-5-131 (“A person, or the person’s dependent or guardian, who,
8 by playing or betting at an illegal gambling device or illegal gambling enterprise, loses money,
9 property, or any other thing of value and pays and delivers it to another person connected with the
10 operation or conduct of the illegal gambling device or illegal gambling enterprise, within 1 year
11 following the person’s loss, may: (1) bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to
12 recover the loss; (2) recover the costs of the civil action and exemplary damages of no less than
13 \$500 and no more than \$5,000; and (3) join as a defendant any person having an interest in the
14 illegal gambling device or illegal gambling enterprise.”);

15 m. N.H. Rev. Stat. § 338:3 (“If any person shall receive any money or property,
16 won by him upon any bet or wager as aforesaid, he shall be liable to the person losing it, in an action
17 of assumpsit, trover or other form proper to recover it; and any security given for the payment of
18 such loss shall be void.”);

19 n. N.J. Stat. § 2A:40-5 (“If any person shall lose any money, goods, chattels or
20 other valuable thing, in violation of section 2A:40-1 of this title, and shall pay or deliver the same
21 or any part thereof to the winner, or to any person to his use, or to a stakeholder, such person may
22 sue for and recover such money, or the value of such goods, chattels, or other valuable thing, from
23 such winner, or from such depository, or from such stakeholder, whether the same has been
24 delivered or paid over by such stakeholder or not, in a civil action provided such action is brought
25 within 6 calendar months after payment or delivery.”);

26 o. N.M. Stat. § 44-5-1 (“Any person who shall lose any money or property at
27 any game at cards, or at any gambling device, may recover the same by action of debt, if money; if
28 property, by action of trover, replevin or detinue.”);

1 p. N.Y. Gen. Oblig. Law § 5-419 (“Any person who shall pay, deliver or deposit
2 any money, property or thing in action, upon the event of any wager or bet prohibited, may sue
3 for and recover the same of the winner or person to whom the same shall be paid or delivered, and
4 of the stakeholder or other person in whose hands shall be deposited any such wager, bet or stake,
5 or any part thereof, whether the same shall have been paid over by such stakeholder or not, and
6 whether any such wager be lost or not.”); § 5-421 (“Every person who shall, by playing at any game,
7 or by betting on the sides or hands of such as do play, lose at any time or sitting, the sum or value
8 of twenty-five dollars or upwards, and shall pay or deliver the same or any part thereof, may, within
9 three calendar months after such payment or delivery, sue for and recover the money or value of the
10 things so lost and paid or delivered, from the winner thereof.”);

11 q. Ohio Rev. Code § 3763.02 (“If a person, by playing a game, or by a wager,
12 loses to another, money or other thing of value, and pays or delivers it or a part thereof, to the winner
13 thereof, such person losing and paying or delivering, within six months after such loss and payment
14 or delivery, may sue for and recover such money or thing of value or part thereof, from the winner
15 thereof, with costs of suit.”);

16 r. Or. Rev. Stat. § 30.740 (“All persons losing money or anything of value at or
17 on any unlawful game described in ORS 167.117 (Definitions for ORS 167.108 to 167.164 and
18 464.270 to 464.530), 167.122 (Unlawful gambling in the second degree) and 167.127 (Unlawful
19 gambling in the first degree) shall have a cause of action to recover from the dealer winning the
20 same, or proprietor for whose benefit such game was played or dealt, or such money or thing of
21 value won, twice the amount of the money or double the value of the thing so lost.”);

22 s. S.C. Code § 32-1-10 (“Any person who shall at any time or sitting, by playing
23 at cards, dice table or any other game whatsoever or by betting on the sides or hands of such as do
24 play at any of the games aforesaid, lose to any person or persons so playing or betting, in the whole,
25 the sum or value of fifty dollars and shall pay or deliver such sum or value or any part thereof shall
26 be at liberty, within three months then next ensuing, to sue for and recover the money or goods so
27 lost and paid or delivered or any part thereof from the respective winner or winners thereof, with
28 costs of suit, by action to be prosecuted in any court of competent jurisdiction.);

1 t. S.D. Codified Laws § 21-6-1 (“Any person who shall lose any thing of value
2 at any game, or by betting on any game, may recover the same or the value thereof from any other
3 person playing at the game at which such thing was lost, or from the person with whom the bet was
4 made, or from the proprietor of the place where the game was played, in a civil action, in which
5 such proprietor and all persons engaged in the game may be joined as parties; provided that such
6 action shall have been commenced within six months after the date of such loss.”);

7 u. Tenn. Code § 28-3-106 (“Actions to recover money or goods lost at any kind
8 of gambling or betting, and paid or delivered: (1) If brought by the loser, shall be commenced within
9 ninety (90) days next after such payment or delivery; (2) If brought for the use of the spouse, child
10 or children, or next of kin, within twelve (12) months from the expiration of the ninety (90) days;
11 (3) If by a creditor of the loser, within twenty-four (24) months from the end of the ninety (90)
12 days.”).

13 v. 9 V.S.A. § 3981 (“A person who pays money or other valuable thing lost at
14 a game...may recover the value thereof of the person to whom it was paid in a civil action, if
15 commenced within one month from the time of payment.”);

16 w. Va. Code § 11-15 (“Any person who shall, by playing at any game or betting
17 on the sides or hands of such as play at any game, lose within twenty-four hours, the sum or value
18 of five dollars, or more, and pay or deliver the same, or any part thereof, may, within three months
19 next following, recover from the winner, the money or the value of the goods so lost and paid or
20 delivered, with costs of suit in civil action, either by suit or warrant, according to the amount or
21 value thereof.”);

22 x. Wash. Rev. Code § 4.24.070 (“All persons losing money or anything of value
23 at or on any illegal gambling games shall have a cause of action to recover from the dealer or player
24 winning, or from the proprietor for whose benefit such game was played or dealt, or such money or
25 things of value won, the amount of the money or the value of the thing so lost.”); and

26 y. W. Va. Code § 55-9-3 (“If any person shall lose to another within twenty-
27 four hours \$10 or more, or property of that value, and shall pay or deliver the same, or any part
28 thereof, such loser may recover back from the winner the money or property, or in lieu of the

1 property the value thereof, so lost, by suit in court, or before a justice, according to the amount or
2 value, brought within three months after such payment or delivery....”).

3 53. The Civil Remedy Statutes for Recovery of Gambling Losses prohibit a person from
4 profiting from gambling activity and provide for the recovery of money paid and lost due to such
5 gambling activity.

6 54. By purchasing coins from Google to wager on the Zynga Casino Apps, Plaintiff and
7 each member of the Multistate Class gambled and lost money within the meaning of the Civil
8 Remedy Statute for Recovery of Gambling Losses.

9 55. Google has profited and continues to profit from gambling activity in violation of the
10 Civil Remedy Statute for Recovery of Gambling Losses by: (1) providing marketing guidance, tools,
11 promotional offers and more to help drive discovery of Zynga Casino Apps and in-app purchases;
12 (2) contributing to the creation and development of Zynga Casino Apps; and (3) offering and
13 distributing the Zynga Casino Apps through Google Play and selling in-app purchases for the Zynga
14 Casino Apps in exchange for a significant percentage of the money paid and lost by Plaintiff and
15 the members of the Class to gamble using the Zynga Casino Apps.

16 56. Plaintiff and the members of the Class are, therefore, entitled to recover from Google
17 the amounts they lost when gambling on the Zynga Casino Apps through Google Play.

18 **COUNT II**

19 **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

20 57. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the preceding paragraphs, as if fully set forth
21 herein.

22 58. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of himself and the Multistate Class under the
23 common law of unjust enrichment, which is materially uniform in the states of Alabama, Arkansas,
24 Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi,
25 Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South
26 Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia. In the
27 alternative, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of each State Class under the common law of each
28 state, which is materially uniform in all such states.

- 1 E. An award of attorneys’ fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as allowed by law;
- 2 F. Prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded; and
- 3 G. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

4
5 Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class of all others similarly situated, hereby demands
6 a trial by jury on all issues so triable pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

By: /s/ Daniel L. Warshaw
 DANIEL L. WARSHAW
Daniel L. Warshaw (Bar No. 185365)
PEARSON, SIMON & WARSHAW, LLP
15165 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 400
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
Telephone: (818) 788-8300
Facsimile: (818) 788-8104
Email: dwarshaw@pswlaw.com

Hassan A. Zavareei (Bar No. 181547)
Andrea R. Gold (*Pro Hac Vice Forthcoming*)
TYCKO & ZAVAREEI LLP
1828 L Street NW, Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 973-0900
Facsimile: (202) 973-0950
Email: hzavareei@tzlegal.com
 agold@tzlegal.com

Jeff Ostrow (*Pro Hac Vice Forthcoming*)
Jason H. Alperstein (*Pro Hac Vice Forthcoming*)
Kristen Lake Cardoso (*Pro Hac Vice Forthcoming*)
KOPELOWITZ OSTROW
FERGUSON WEISELBERG GILBERT
1 West Las Olas Blvd., Suite 500
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Telephone: (954) 525-4100
Facsimile: (954) 525-4300
E-Mail: ostrow@kolawyers.com
 alperstein@kolawyers.com

Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class