٩	ase 5.05-cv-04626-Rivivy Document 166 i	Filed 05/17/2006 Page 1 01 36				
1 2 3 4 5 6	PATRICK A. CATHCART (CA SBN 65413) BRET A. FAUSETT (CA SBN 198410) IMANI GANDY (CA SBN 223084) CATHCART COLLINS & KNEAFSEY LLP 444 South Flower Street, 42 nd Floor Los Angeles, California 90071 Telephone: (213) 225-6600 Facsimile: (213) 225-6601 Attorneys for Plaintiff Coalition for ICANN Transparency, Inc.					
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT					
9	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA					
10	SAN JOSE DIVISION					
11						
12	COALITION FOR ICANN TRANSPARENCY, INC., a Delaware Corporation,	Case No. 05-4826 (RMW) PVT				
13	Plaintiff,	REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE OF PLAINTIFF CFIT IN SUPPORT OF				
14	V.	ITS CONSOLIDATED MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND				
15	VERISIGN, INC., a Delaware Corporation;	AUTHORITIES IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS TO				
16	INTERNET CORPORATION FOR ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS, a California	DISMISS CFIT'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT				
17	Corporation,	DATE: JUNE 9, 2006				
18	Defendants.	Time: 9:00 a.m.				
19		Ctrm: 6				
20		Honorable Ronald M. Whyte				
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Document 166

Filed 05/17/2006

Page 1 of 36

CATHCART COLLINS & KNEAFSEY LLP

Case 5:05-cv-04826-RMW

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Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 201, Plaintiff Coalition for ICANN Transparency, Inc. ("CFIT") requests judicial notice of the documents identified below in support of its Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Opposition to Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers' ("ICANN") and VeriSign, Inc.'s ("VeriSign") Motions for Judgment on the Pleadings.

Courts may "consider facts that are contained in materials of which the court may take judicial notice" when deciding Rule 12(c) motions. Heliotrope Gen., Inc. v. Ford Motor Co., 189 F.3d 971, 981 n.18 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal citations omitted). Judicial notice is proper where a fact is "not subject to reasonable dispute in that its either (1) generally known within the territorial jurisdiction of the trial court or (2) capable of accurate and ready determination by resort to sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be questioned." Fed.R.Evid. 201(b). A district court may "consider a document the authenticity of which is not contested, and upon which the plaintiff's complaint necessarily relies." Parrino v. FHP, Inc., 146 F.3d 699, 706 (9th Cir. 1998). In addition, a court may take judicial notice of "matters of public record." George W. v. U.S. Dep't of Educ., 149 F. Supp. 2d 1195, 1201-02 (E.D. Cal. 2000). Taking judicial notice of matters of public record and/or matters not reasonably subjected to dispute does not convert a Rule 12(c) motion into a motion for summary judgment. GE Engine Serv. UNC Holding I, Inc. v. Century Indemn. Co., 250 F. Supp. 2d 1237, 1240 (C.D. Cal. 2001). Attached hereto as Exhibit C is the declaration of Imani Gandy authenticating the documents attached as Exhibits A through B. Accordingly CFIT request judicial notice of the following documents:

Excerpts from VeriSign First Amended Complaint (VeriSign FAC) in VeriSign, (A) Inc. v. Internet Corp. for Assigned Names and Numbers, Case No. CV 04-1292 (AHM) (C.D. Cal. June 14, 2004), true and correct copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit A. This document is judicially noticeable because it is a public record and its authenticity cannot reasonably be

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based on virtually the same market definitions that CFIT alleged in the First Amended Complain					
and that VeriSign now contends are inadequate as a matter of law.					
(B) Excerpts from VeriSign's Opening Brief in VeriSign, Inc. v. Internet Corp. for					
Assigned Names and Numbers, Ninth Circuit Case No. 04-56761, dated December 17, 2004, true					
and correct copies of which are attached hereto as Exhibit B. This document is judicially					

disputed. The document is relevant to show that VeriSign has sought to enforce antitrust claims

noticeable because it is a public record and its authenticity cannot reasonably be disputed. The document is relevant to show that VeriSign has sought to enforce antitrust claims based on virtually the same market definitions that CFIT alleged in the First Amended Complaint, and that VeriSign now contends are inadequate as a matter of law.

For the foregoing reasons, CFIT respectfully requests that the Court take judicial notice of Exhibits A through B, attached hereto.

DATED: May 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

CATHCART COLLINS & KNEAFSEY LLP

By:

COALITION FOR ICANN TRANSPARENCY INC.

EXHIBIT A

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RONALD L. JOHNSTON (State Bar No. 057418)
LAURENCE J. HUTT (State Bar No. 066269)
SUZANNE V. WILSON (State Bar No. 152399)
JAMES BLACKBURN (State Bar No. 169134)
 1
 2
        ARNOLD & PORTER LLP
 3
       1900 Avenue of the Stars, 17th Floor Los Angeles, California 90067-4408 Telephone: (310) 552-2500 Facsimile: (310) 552-1191
 4
 5
       Of Counsel:
RICHARD L. ROSEN (pro hac vice)
ARNOLD & PORTER LLP
 6
 7
        555 Twelfth Street NW
       Washington, D.C. 20004-1206
Telephone: (202) 942-5000
Facsimile: (202) 942-5999
 8
 9
        Brian A. Davis (pro hac vice)
10
        VeriSign, Inc.
       21355 Ridgetop Circle
Dulles, Virginia 20166
Telephone: (703) 948-2300
Facsimile: (703) 450-7326
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        Attorneys for Plaintiff
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        VeriSign, Inc.
                                      UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                                   CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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                                                                  Case No. CV 04-1292 AHM (CTx)
        VERISIGN, INC., a Delaware
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        corporation.
                                                                 FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR VIOLATION OF THE
ANTITRUST LAWS, SPECIFIC
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                                  Plaintiff.
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                                                                  PERFORMANCE OF
CONTRACT, DAMAGES FOR
BREACH OF CONTRACT,
                 ٧.
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        INTERNET CORPORATION FOR
                                                                  INTERFERENCE WITH
CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS,
DECLARATORY AND
        ASSIGNED NAMES AND
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        NUMBERS, a California corporation
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                                                                  INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
                                  Defendants.
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                 Plaintiff VERISIGN, INC. ("VeriSign") alleges, upon information and belief,
27
        as follows:
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would further delay VeriSign's offering of WLS, decrease its utility and attractiveness for consumers, and otherwise adversely affect the WLS service in restraint of trade.

Injury to Competition

106. There is a relevant product market for the provision of services for the secondary domain name market, including the provision of domain name "backorder" and similar services. The relevant geographic market is worldwide. The secondary domain name market includes the market for registered (or existing) domain names, including various forms of direct sales and auctions. "Backorder" and similar services consist of various services designed to register a domain name in the name of a new registrant in the event the domain name is deleted from the registry, including related auctions.

107. There are several means by which a prospective party can obtain an existing (or currently registered) domain name of his or her choice. The prospective registrant can seek to obtain the registration for that domain name from the current registrant, either through a direct transaction or through a domain name auction. Alternatively, the prospective registrant can take advantage of one or more "backorder" services that seek to register the name for the prospective registrant in the event that domain name is deleted or otherwise becomes available for new registration.

108. At all relevant times, the WLS co-conspirators have been existing or potential competitors of VeriSign for the WLS service. From at least early 2002, the WLS co-conspirators have offered the following services for prospective registrants wishing to secure an existing domain name: eNom's Club Drop service, Dotster's NameWinner service, Alice Registry's backorder service, and TuCows' backordering service (offered to consumers through its resellers). Since at least early 2003, POOL.com's Domain Marketplace and Backorder services, and GoDaddy's

DomainAlert Monitoring, Backordering, and PowerGrab services have been operating. WLS competes with such "backorder" and similar services.

- that their customers will receive the chosen domain name because a competing registrar may be able to register the domain name first on behalf of another party (or itself, such as to auction the domain name to others). For example, multiple potential registrants may pay (indeed, to the same registrar) to "backorder" the same domain name, despite the fact that none of them will secure the registration even if the domain name is deleted from the registry. As a result, existing services are wasteful of consumer resources, and uncertain, unreliable, inefficient and overly costly to consumers. Furthermore, such services impose demands on the registry system by transmitting continuous automated "add" requests, using registry system resources, potentially blocking other registrars' access to the registry, and imposing unreimbursed costs on VeriSign.
- 110. The WLS subscriptions would be distributed by ICANN-accredited domain name registrars, rather than directly by VeriSign to registrants. All ICANN-accredited registrars would have an equal opportunity, at an equal wholesale price, to participate in the WLS and to sell WLS subscriptions to prospective registrants. Those registrars that offer "backorder" and similar services are seeking to distribute these services through many of the same domain name registrars who are VeriSign's potential customers.
- offered by others, including the WLS co-conspirators, who cannot offer a guarantee of registration if the sought-after domain name becomes available for registration, but who can compete for the business of prospective registrants in other ways. The WLS would also compete with the "backorder services" of WLS co-conspirators in offering domain name registrars, as distributors, a value-added service that can be provided along with their other domain name registration services.

implementation of WLS for almost three years and have imposed anti-competitive

112. ICANN and the WLS co-conspirators have blocked and delayed the

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- conditions on its implementation. The WLS co-conspirators have used this delay to introduce competitive but inferior, and often higher priced, products to WLS, beating VeriSign to the market by reason of their conspiratorial conduct. By reason of these delays, among other things, consumers have been denied a superior service and have paid arificially inflated prices for inferior services.

 113. The WLS would have expanded the range of alternatives available to
- prospective registrants seeking to register currently-registered second-level domain names and to registrars seeking to offer such "backorder" services to customers.

 None of the currently available backorder services is able to guarantee that its customer will obtain the desired domain name registration if it becomes available. Indeed, many providers of competitive services exploit this inefficiency in the system to auction a domain name to multiple "backorder" customers who have paid for the same domain name, thereby using the uncertainty in existing services to cause a further waste of consumer resources.
- 114. In contrast to current competitive services, a WLS subscriber would be guaranteed that it would get the domain name if that domain name became available. The WLS would thereby have been a superior service that would have stimulated quality and price competition in the relevant markets.
- 115. As of the filing of this Complaint, ICANN still has not agreed to terms for the introduction WLS, and WLS has not been made available to registrars or registrants.
- 116. Representatives of ICANN repeatedly have acknowledged the unique benefits for consumers and competition that the WLS would provide. In July 2003, for example, ICANN's President testified before a Senate Committee that "[t]he VeriSign [WLS] proposal offered a significant improvement from a consumer perspective to the various services already offered by registrars," and that "[I]t would

be anomalous to 'protect' competition between providers of non-guaranteed products by preventing the new competition of a guaranteed product that at least some consumers would likely prefer."

- 117. Notwithstanding that ICANN recognized the clear benefits that WLS would have provided to competition and consumers, ICANN insisted on conditions, proposed at the behest of the registrars who stood to benefit competitively from any obstacles thrown in WLS's path, that made the WLS service uneconomical and that, at a minimum, would delay its introduction.
- 118. By preventing and delaying the offering of WLS and imposing conditions that would materially interfere with the WLS and adversely impact its availability and attractiveness to consumers, the WLS co-conspirators have deprived consumers of a new, superior competitive service that would have offered them substantial and unique benefits over existing competitive services. In addition, the WLS would have forced the co-conspirators to improve the service, pricing or terms on which they offered competing services.
- 119. The WLS co-conspirators had an economic and competitive interest in preventing plaintiff from offering the WLS. These co-conspirators captured, controlled and manipulated the processes of ICANN, as set forth above, and combined and conspired with ICANN to delay VeriSign's offering of WLS and to force VeriSign to accept conditions on the offering of WLS that would make it less competitive with domain name "backorder" and similar services offered by those co-conspirators and others.
- 120. The operation of TLD registries also is a relevant product market. The relevant geographic market is worldwide.
- 121. In addition to its pro-competitive impact on the markets for services to the secondary domain name market and for domain name "backorder" and similar services, WLS also would have increased the utility of second-level domain names registered in the .com gTLD, which would have stimulated competition between the

.com registry and other TLD registries. VeriSign competes with other TLD registries.

- 122. VeriSign's revenue from .com registrations is a function of the desirability of second level domain names in the .com gTLD as compared with other TLDs. Thus, VeriSign, like operators of other TLD registries, is continually seeking ways to assure that potential domain name registrants will choose to register second level domain names in the .com gTLD rather than to register in or switch to competing TLDs. Other TLD registries do the same.
- as well as other TLDs. The WLS would have increased the utility and popularity of second-level domain names registered in the .com gTLD, by making it easier and less costly for potential domain name registrants to reserve the ability to register a desired domain name in the .com gTLD even if that name were currently registered. This in turn would have stimulated competition between the .com registry and other TLD registries.
- 124. By preventing the offering of the WLS and imposing conditions on the service as alleged above, the WLS co-conspirators injured competition among TLD registries by denying VeriSign, as the operator of the .com registry, the ability to offer a service that would have induced registrants to seek out domain names within the .com gTLD rather than domain names offered in other TLDs, thereby stimulating competition among TLD registries.
- 125. The WLS co-conspirators had an economic and competitive interest in preventing plaintiff from offering the WLS. These conspirators captured, controlled and manipulated the processes of ICANN, as set forth above, and combined and conspired with ICANN to delay its offering of the WLS and to force VeriSign to accept conditions on the offering of the WLS that would make it less competitive with domain name backorder services offered by those conspirators and others.

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126. The conduct of ICANN and the WLS co-conspirators denied consumers and registrars a superior service at lower prices and, instead, forced consumers to purchase inferior services at artificially high, anti-competitive prices. Such conduct further restricted output, including, without limitation, by limiting the efficient transfer of existing domain name registrations.

127. Through their actions in preventing the offering of the WLS and imposing conditions that made it less viable, ICANN and the WLS co-conspirators restrained and lessened competition in the markets for the operation of TLD registries and services for secondary domain names, including the provision of domain name "backorder" and similar services, and the operation of submarkets thereof, and have deprived consumers of the benefits of free and open competition in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

The Site Finder Service

The Conspiracy to Restrain Competition

128. ICANN, existing and potential competitors of VeriSign, and those sharing economic interests with VeriSign's competitors, have conspired to control, and in fact have controlled, ICANN's processes improperly to close down the Site Finder service in restraint of trade in the relevant markets and submarkets alleged below. The co-conspirators who have combined with ICANN to restrain competition with respect to Site Finder include, among others: Afilias Limited; Alice's Registry, Inc.; Paul Vixie; certain registrars; and Steve Crocker (the "Site Finder coconspirators"). As more specifically alleged below, the Site Finder co-conspirators include existing and potential operators of registries competing with VeriSign's .com registry, potential providers of competitive Site Finder type services, and others sharing similar economic interests with VeriSign's competitors.

129. The Site Finder service is not a Registry Service within the meaning of the 2001 .com Registry Agreement nor otherwise properly subject to control by ICANN. Despite these facts, at or about the time Site Finder was introduced, the

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Site Finder co-conspirators joined and agreed with ICANN that ICANN would assert control over Site Finder as a purported Registry Service and would shut down the service.

- 130. The Site Finder co-conspirators specifically identified above are all members of ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee ("SECSAC") either themselves (in the case of the individual Site Finder co-conspirators) or through employees of theirs (in the case of the company Site Finder co-conspirators). At all times relevant hereto, the Site Finder co-conspirators captured and controlled the processes of SECSAC with respect to Site Finder.
- 131. Pursuant to ICANN's Bylaws, SECSAC is an advisory committee that reports to the ICANN Board. The SECSAC is composed of part time volunteers. The Committee's website notes that "[b]ecause the Committee is composed of people actively working in the field, conflicts of interest arise from time to time." Indeed, the website explicitly acknowledges that "several members work for companies . . . competing with VeriSign."
- 132. In connection with the conduct of SECSAC alleged herein, no members of SECSAC working for companies competing with VeriSign recused themselves from the SECSAC proceedings and decision regarding Site Finder. In addition, contrary to the Bylaws of ICANN, during the course of the SECSAC proceedings concerning Site Finder, the Site Finder co-conspirators, who dominated and controlled the proceedings, added to SECSAC outspoken opponents of the Site Finder service, including persons affiliated with Site Finder co-conspirators, specifically in order to secure and retain control of SECSAC, bias the proceedings against VeriSign and Site Finder, dictate the conclusions and contents of SECSAC reports concerning Site Finder, and compel ICANN to take action to terminate Site Finder.
- 133. On September 19, 2003, just four days after VeriSign launched the Site Finder service, the Chairman of SECSAC, Steve Crocker, circulated to certain

committee members a draft "report" entitled Recommendations Regarding VeriSign's 1 Introduction of Wild Card Response to Unregistered Domains within .com and .net. 2 This draft "report" already included what purported to be SECSAC's opinions and 3 recommendations that the Site Finder service should be terminated, but no facts, 4 evidence, or analysis was included in the report – nor existed. To the contrary, the 5 draft report reads: "This is where we need to include the factual information to 6 support the opinions and recommendations that follow. Paul Vixie and Suzanne. 7 among others, please dump stuff into this section." Paul Vixie is a Site Finder co-8 conspirator, and Suzanne Woolf was an outspoken critic of Site Finder, improperly 9 added to SECSAC by the Site Finder co-conspirators, and a Vixie collaborator. At 10 the time of circulating the draft report, members of SECSAC, which was controlled, 11 with respect to Site Finder, by the Site Finder co-conspirators, had reached a 12 13 "conclusion" to stop Site Finder, despite having no evidence that the service affected 14 the security or stability of the domain name system or of the infrastructure of the 15 Internet. 16

134. SECSAC issued its report based on the above-referenced draft on September 22, 2003. The SECSAC report was, in fact, a subterfuge and pretext to attempt to justify the actions of ICANN, the Site Finder co-conspirators and SECSAC in forcing the termination of VeriSign's Site Finder service. The report does not include any facts concerning the effects of Site Finder or any analysis supporting the report's opinions and recommendations that the service be immediately terminated.

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135. The SECSAC Report itself admits that rather than setting forth facts supporting its conclusions, SECSAC would meet the following month purportedly to gather facts to support its predetermined conclusion. However, despite subsequent, repeated promises by SECSAC that a report with supporting facts would be issued in November 2003, after almost *nine months* from the issuance of the SECSAC Report, SECSAC has yet to issue any report to support its conclusions. No such support in fact exists.

136. Pursuant to the conspiracy among ICANN and the Site Finder coconspirators, and despite the fact that Site Finder is neither a Registry Service nor
otherwise properly subject to control by ICANN or SECSAC, in September 2003,
ICANN purported to assert "authority" over Site Finder and took action based on the
SECSAC Report, and without proper independent review or consideration, to force
VeriSign to shut down the service, with the specific purpose and intent to interfere
with the service and to restrain trade in the market and submarkets alleged below.

- 137. As contemplated and intended by ICANN and the Site Finder coconspirators, ICANN used the SECSAC report, which itself was a product of SECSAC proceedings captured and controlled by Site Finder co-conspirators, as a pretext to justify its action in furtherance of the conspiracy, including ICANN's demand that Site Finder be suspended.
- 138. At the time ICANN took these actions, Steve Crocker, one of the Site Finder co-conspirators and the author of the SECSAC report, sat on the ICANN board as a non-voting liaison. The Board of Directors of ICANN never adopted a lawful resolution regulating Site Finder.
- 139. The actions of SECSAC and ICANN were not open or transparent, but rather were staged, arbitrary and in furtherance of the conspiracy among them. ICANN did not adopt independent review procedures, as required by the 2001 .com Registry Agreement, among other sources, and ICANN did not act with accountability. In this manner, ICANN further encouraged, facilitated, and contributed to the domination and control of its processes by the Site Finder coconspirators.

Injury to Competition

140. There is a relevant product market for the provision of Web address directory assistance services. Such services include various services designed to help Internet users locate a pre-determined website. The relevant geographic market is worldwide.

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141. The Site Finder co-conspirators consist of existing and potential providers of TLD registry operations and web address directory assistance services in competition with VeriSign, and those who share similar economic interests with them. Afilias Limited is an existing provider of competitive gTLD and ccTLD registry operations, a competitor of VeriSign for new registry operations, and a potential provider of web address directory assistance services in competition with VeriSign. Paul Vixie is an existing provider of competitive services for registry operations, including providing TLD domain name hosting services for ccTLDs and gTLDs, and a competitor of VeriSign for new registry operations. Alice's Registry, Inc. is an existing and potential competitor of VeriSign for various services, including a competitor for new registry operations and services relating to secondary domain name registrations, and it shares economic interests with other VeriSign competitors. Steve Crocker is a consultant regarding Internet services. The Site Finder coconspirators have combined with other VeriSign competitors to prevent the offering of Site Finder on the grounds that Site Finder would make VeriSign a more effective competitor and stimulate and enhance competition in the relevant markets alleged herein.

- 142. Prior to the introduction of Site Finder, a user who typed an erroneous web address or a web address that included a non-existent domain and received a 404 error message, received no assistance in locating the chosen website. Such a user would have to resort to other inferior services or means to attempt to find the web address he or she was seeking. To utilize a search engine for web address directory assistance, for example, the user would be required to access and separately launch a search engine, and then to formulate an appropriate query to reach a desired website.
- 143. In contrast to such general purpose search services, with Site Finder, when a non-existent web address is typed, the user does not receive a 404 error message page and, instead, is automatically presented with a web page suggesting possible alternative addresses for the webpage the user is seeking, a search engine

the address of the site. to such a browser or ISP.

box, and other useful information. Thus, for many consumers, Site Finder would have offered substantially more efficient and convenient functionality than existing search engine services. Site Finder would have been a material improvement for Internet users who otherwise receive error messages when attempting to locate a predetermined website and who have to engage in multiple steps to attempt to find the address of the site.

- 144. Certain web browsers and Internet service providers ("ISP") also provide web address directory assistance services as an integral feature of their service. However, an Internet user would have access to such directory services only if the user employed a specific web browser or ISP that provided the service as a feature of the web browser or ISP service. Many millions of Internet users do not have access to such a browser or ISP
- 145. During the several days that Site Finder was operational, more than 40,000,000 Internet users made use of the service and benefitted from it. Before Site Finder was launched, and after Site Finder was closed down, many of these users had no such service available to them.
- 146. Certain entities that have shared economic relationships with registrars market services to Internet users that they claim will assist users in finding a correct web address.
- 147. Site Finder would also have provided a unique alternative for sponsors of web links and advertisers choosing to reach Internet users. Those link sponsors and advertisers contract with search providers to provide links to their content and advertisers aimed at Internet users who are seeking particular types of content. Because Site Finder would reach a large number of users seeking more specialized content, and because it would offer greater ease of use for them than competing services, Site Finder would offer significant and unique benefits to many sponsors of web links and advertisers, and thus stimulate competition with other web address directory assistance services.

- 148. The operation of TLD registries and submarkets thereof also are a relevant product market. The relevant geographic market for such services is worldwide.
- 149. In addition to competing with existing and potential providers of web address directory assistance services, VeriSign also competes with other TLD registries. VeriSign's revenue from .com registrations is a function of the desirability of second level domain names in the .com TLD as compared with other TLDs. Thus, VeriSign, like operators of other TLD registries, is continually seeking ways to assure that potential domain name registrants will choose to register second level domain names in the .com TLD rather than to register in or switch to competing TLDs. Other TLD registries do the same.
- 150. Site Finder would have increased the utility of second-level domain names registered in the .com TLD, by making it easier for Internet users to locate websites that include a .com name as part of the web address in the .com TLD when they were unsure of the web address. This in turn would have stimulated competition between the .com registry and other TLD registries.
- 151. Some other gTLD and ccTLD registries that compete with the .com gTLD registry, including the .museum gTLD registry, with which ICANN has a registry agreement, and ccTLD registries, are currently offering services similar to Site Finder, and the operators of other gTLD and ccTLD registries have either already tested or stated that they intend to launch similar services. These registries recognize the unfulfilled demand for services similar to Site Finder. However, none of their services could be used to locate web addresses for domain names registered in the .com registry.
- 152. There are approximately 32,000,000 second level domain names registered in the .com registry. While more than 40,000,000 consumers used Site Finder to locate pre-determined websites with domains registered in the .com registry during the brief period Site Finder was operational. On an annualized basis Site

Finder would have created a huge benefit both for Internet users and websites using

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domain names registered in the .com registry, and an equal loss to consumers was caused by reason of ICANN shutting down Site Finder. 153. Plaintiff projected that Site Finder would generate profits of

- approximately \$12.75 million in 2004. This also reflects the impact it would have on competition in the market for web address directory assistance services and on the market for the operation of TLD registries.
- 154. The conspiracy between ICANN and its co-conspirators has deprived consumers of a beneficial new service and VeriSign of revenues and profits it would have generated and would generate in the future from and in connection with Site Finder.
- 155. The Site Finder co-conspirators had an economic and competitive interest in preventing VeriSign from offering Site Finder in that, as described above, each of them operates or has been seeking to operate a competitive registry or provides services for registries competing with VeriSign's .com registry. These conspirators captured, controlled and manipulated the processes of ICANN, as set forth above, and combined and conspired with ICANN to force VeriSign to withdraw its offering of Site Finder.
- 156. By forcing VeriSign to withdraw its offering of Site Finder, ICANN and the Site Finder co-conspirators restrained and eliminated competition in the market for web address directory assistance services and in the market for the operation of TLD registries and submarkets thereof, and have deprived consumers of the benefits of free and open competition in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

Internationalized Domain Names

The Conspiracy to Restrain Trade

157. ICANN and existing and potential competitors of VeriSign have combined and conspired to delay and limit the offering of internationized domain

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gTLD.

an IDN Registry Implementation Committee ("RIC") to "consider and exchange information on ways to resolve the issues associated with implementation of IDN capabilities in existing top level domains." In January 2003, as part of forming the RIC, the President of ICANN explained: "It is important to emphasize that the committee is not intended to set hard rules for registries, but rather to facilitate dialogue and information sharing so that IDNA project managers can educate and learn from each other and develop common solutions to common problems."

159. On or about February 4, 2003, ICANN's RIC began work on formulating a set of guidelines for the deployment of IDNs into TLDs around the globe. VeriSign, as well as certain gTLDs and ccTLDs, including the IDN coconspirators, became participants in this group.

160. Prior to or upon the formation of RIC, the IDN co-conspirators combined to pursue a common plan to delay VeriSign's introduction of IDN services

in order to secure a head start for the ccTLD registries they operate in the introduction of their own competitive IDN services and thereby to allow the IDN co-conspirators to be first to enter the market for such services with respect to the language spoken in their countries. Pursuant to this combination, the IDN co-conspirators determined to capture and control the IDN process at ICANN, including the process of the RIC, and to secure the agreement of ICANN to impose conditions delaying VeriSign's introduction of an IDN service. During times relevant to this claim, ICANN and the IDN co-conspirators combined to accomplish, and in fact accomplished, these unlawful objectives.

161. The ICANN guidelines, as originally conceived, were intended to be just that -- guidelines, voluntary and providing guidance and suggestions but not legal requirements or operational directives. Mandatory guidelines, by contrast, would operate to VeriSign's competitive disadvantage, including as alleged more specifically below.

- 162. On or about March 13, 2003, ICANN published a report acknowledging its responsibility under Appendix K of the Registry Agreement "to expressly authorize the registration of IDNA-compliant internationalized domain names." Nonetheless, because of the combination alleged herein, including the domination and control of the IDN co-conspirators over the processes of ICANN relating to IDN, including the RIC, the report proposed that the "guidelines" be "mandatory requirements that the registries would be required to agree as the conditions for ICANN authorization to begin accepting IDNA-compliant domain name registrations."
- 163. On or about March 27, 2003, the ICANN Board simply adopted and "endorsed the IDN implementation approach set forth in the draft Guidelines" and authorized the President of ICANN "to implement the Guidelines by authorizing registration of IDNs in registries with agreements with ICANN on the basis of those Guidelines." At times relevant hereto, the consultant to the Board on IDN also served

as a consultant to CNNIC, one of the DNS co-conspirators, and participated in the RIC meetings; and a representative of CNNIC joined the Board of ICANN.

- 164. On June 20, 2003, ICANN proceeded to use its approval authority effectively to expand the scope of its authority under registry agreements, by publishing IDN Registry Implementation Committee (RIC) Guidelines for the Deployment of IDNs and establishing the "Guidelines" as the gating requirement for approval under Appendix K of the 2001 .com Registry Agreement between VeriSign and ICANN. The Guidelines specified numerous conditions to obtain ICANN approval for IDN services.
- 165. Adopting the *Guidelines* as mandatory requirements for the offering of IDN services operated to the competitive disadvantage of VeriSign. Unlike ccTLDs, who would be VeriSign's primary competitors for offering IDN services and would offer the IDN services only for a single language, VeriSign, as the operator of the global .com TLD, would be required to design its IDN services in such a manner as to accommodate, and be operational for, a large number of languages with varying requirements.
- 166. Mandatory individual guidelines further operated to VeriSign's competitive disadvantage. One of the guidelines required the use of variant tables to be developed in cooperation with local Internet authorities and DNS registries in individual countries. There are not identifiable authorities for the adoption of such tables in certain countries, there are no country boundaries for certain languages, and the DNS registries in individual countries are competitors of VeriSign and in a position use the adoption of such tables to delay the introduction of an IDN service by VeriSign or other gTLDs. For purposes of Chinese languages, for example, VeriSign was required by the *Guidelines* to work with local stakeholders who included the IDN co-conspirators and who were thus empowered by the *Guidelines* to delay and impede VeriSign's IDN efforts by their own conduct while they launched their competitive IDN services.

- 167. The *Guidelines* further imposed on VeriSign long-term, fixed obligations that would require the implementation of costly and burdensome procedures over and above compliance with the extensive technical standards for IDN (the IDNA standard) set by other groups. If implemented by VeriSign, these *Guidelines* would hinder its ability to solve operational inefficiencies and to market its IDN services effectively to serve the enormous preexisting demand worldwide for second level domain names in non-Roman characters.
- 168. On or about June 20, 2003, ICANN provided written authorization to the co-conspirator's to deploy IDNs. VeriSign would have launched its IDN service in or before mid 2003, but for the delays imposed by the conduct of ICANN and the IDN co-conspirators. Instead, as a consequence of the conduct alleged herein, VeriSign was unable to launch IDN until approximately April 2004.

Injury to Competition

- 169. IDNs are a relevant product market. The relevant geographic market for IDNs is worldwide.
- 170. IDN service offered by VeriSign is a new and innovative service that will allow domain name registrants to use a .com domain name to reach Internet users around the world even if those users do not speak or read English or any other language using the Roman alphabet. IDN allows domain names represented by characters used in other languages, such as Chinese, Japanese and others that use non-ASCII character sets, to be recognized within the .com TLD registry. Thus, a website in, for example, Chinese, could use a .com domain name as part of the address for the website with Mandarin Chinese characters, that would resolve to the registrant's website.
- 171. At times relevant hereto, ICANN repeatedly "recognized the importance of adding to the domain-name system Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) capabilities to enhance the accessibility of the domain-name system to all those using non-Roman alphabets." Nonetheless, the conduct alleged herein delayed the

introduction of a system by VeriSign that would have brought IDN to millions of Internet users using non-Roman alphabets worldwide.

- 172. IDN meets the important need for a global multilingual DNS solution, supporting the billions of people who require or want Internet access in their native languages. IDN enhances the ability of domain name registrants to reach audiences around the world through a single web identity irrespective of the target audience's language. It expands competition among TLD registries that could offer domain names in non-ASCII character sets; at times relevant to this action, no TLDs offered such services.
- 173. The operation of TLD registries also is a relevant product market. The relevant geographic market is worldwide.
- 174. IDN significantly increases Internet availability and e-commerce opportunities for speakers of non-English languages and for those who do business with them, and it would therefore increase the value and attractiveness of second-level domain names in the .com gTLD.
- 175. In contrast, without IDN, a business that wants its website to be accessible to Internet users who speak and read languages that do not use ASCII character sets is forced separately to register an additional domain name in one of the few TLDs that utilize the language of the desired target audience. For example, without IDN, a registrant seeking to reach native speakers of Mandarin Chinese would be forced to register a domain name in the .cn TLD or .tw TLD. Similarly, at times relevant hereto, .jp has been the only TLD registry using Japanese characters for web addresses.
- 176. The IDN co-conspirators had a strong economic and competitive interest in preventing VeriSign from offering IDN. The greatest demand for IDN services is in East Asian languages, and the IDN co-conspirators are major competitors of VeriSign in the offering of IDN services to domain name registrants seeking to reach Internet users in Asia. By controlling and manipulating the processes of ICANN,

including the RIC, as set forth above, and by combining and conspiring with ICANN, the conspirators eliminated VeriSign from offering IDN services in that market (or elsewhere) for almost an entire year after such services first became available to registrants, enabling the IDN co-conspirators to capture for their ccTLD registries increased registrations, market share, and revenues than they would have been able to obtain in competition with VeriSign.

- 177. Most registrants of Internet domain names find ASCII characters completely satisfactory for their needs and do not have any need for IDNs. Those registrants who wish to reach multilingual audiences and who seek to maintain a single, consistent web identity are the potential consumers of IDNs. Without IDN, these registrants are required to register domain names in multiple TLDs supporting each language and character set that they need. The IDN co-conspirators used the delay in VeriSign's receipt of authorization from ICANN to offer IDN services a delay they had brought about in combination and conspiracy with ICANN to reduce the output of IDN services to registrants and to channel registrants to their ccTLDs and away from VeriSign's .com gTLD.
- 178. As of the commencement of this action, VeriSign had not yet received formal authorization to implement its IDN service, while other registries, expressing their mere "support" for but not agreement to comply with the Guidelines, received immediate written authorization from ICANN to launch competitive IDN services. Indeed, ICANN attempted to impose on VeriSign's offering of IDN services conditions over and beyond even those set forth in the *Guidelines*.
- 179. The delay in approving VeriSign's entry into the relevant market and submarkets for IDN has had the effect of artificially raising prices for and restricting output for IDN services for the following, among other, reasons. First, VeriSign's IDN service was a small fraction of the price charged by CNNIC prior to VeriSign's entry into the market. Second, the increase in usage of IDN services once VeriSign entered the market demonstrates the unmet demand of consumers while ICANN and

the IDN co-conspirators delayed VeriSign's entry into the IDN market. Third, consumers were denied important product choices by the delay of VeriSign's entry into the market. VeriSign's IDN product was superior to the IDN product offered by CNNIC, including in terms of its reliability and features. Consumers also would have been able to choose from a wider group of registrars and ISPs if VeriSign's entry had not been delayed.

- 180. The delay in introducing IDN caused by the conduct of ICANN and the IDN co-conspirators has therefore deprived consumers of a beneficial new service and has deprived VeriSign of the revenues and profits it would have generated from and in connection with IDN. In addition, by unjustifiably imposing the numerous conditions of the *Guidelines* on the service, ICANN has attempted to deprive VeriSign of the ability to formulate and to offer a service in the manner best designed to meet the needs of customers and the competitive and financial goals of VeriSign. At the same time, the delay has benefited other registries and businesses that offer similar or competitive services, including those who have acted in concert with ICANN to cause ICANN to impose the foregoing conditions and impediments on VeriSign.
- 181. During the delays in launching its IDN service due to the conspiracy of ICANN and the IDN co-conspirators alleged above, VeriSign lost significant numbers of both IDN and other registrations by registrants interested in IDN, as well as related market share. Furthermore, during the delay, VeriSign's largest registrars, questioning whether VeriSign would ever get to offer IDN, simply dropped out of the intended IDN program.
- 182. By preventing and delaying VeriSign from offering IDN, ICANN and the IDN co-conspirators restrained and eliminated competition in the market for the operation of TLD registries and submarkets thereof, and have deprived consumers of the benefits of free and open competition in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.

EXHIBIT B

NO. 04-56761

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

VERISIGN, INC.,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

INTERNET CORPORATION FOR ASSIGNED NAMES &

Defendant-Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Central District of California No. CV 04-1292 AHM Honorable Howard A. Matz

OPENING BRIEF OF APPELLANT VERISIGN, INC.

ARNOLD & PORTER LLP Ronald L. Johnston (State Bar No. 057418) Laurence J. Hutt (State Bar No. 066269) Ronald C. Redcay (State Bar No. 067236) 777 South Figueroa Street, 44th Floor Los Angeles, California 90017 Telephone: (213) 243-4000 Facsimile: (213) 243-4199

Counsel for Plaintiff-Appellant VeriSign, Inc.

VERISIGN, INC. Brian A. Davis 21355 Ridgetop Circle Dulles, Virginia 20166 Telephone: (703) 948-3200 Facsimile: (703) 450-7326

NO. 04-56761

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

VERISIGN, INC.,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

٧.

INTERNET CORPORATION FOR ASSIGNED NAMES & NUMBERS,

Defendant-Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Central District of California No. CV 04-1292 AHM Honorable Howard A. Matz

OPENING BRIEF OF APPELLANT VERISIGN, INC.

ARNOLD & PORTER LLP Ronald L. Johnston (State Bar No. 057418) Laurence J. Hutt (State Bar No. 066269) Ronald C. Redcay (State Bar No. 067236) 777 South Figueroa Street, 44th Floor Los Angeles, California 90017

Telephone: (213) 243-4000 Facsimile: (213) 243-4199

Counsel for Plaintiff-Appellant VeriSign, Inc.

VERISIGN, INC. Brian A. Davis 21355 Ridgetop Circle Dulles, Virginia 20166 Telephone: (703) 948-3200 Facsimile: (703) 450-7326 adequately to plead concerted action. Whether VeriSign can ultimately prove capture is not the question on a motion to dismiss. *See Swierkiewicz*, 534 U.S. at 515. That, however, appears to be the standard applied by the district court.

C. The FAC Pleads an Injury to Competition

The district court found it unnecessary to determine the sufficiency of the allegations of injury to competition in the FAC. (ER267.) However, those allegations are sufficient and, furthermore, establish that VeriSign's injury is "antitrust injury" because it flows directly from the adverse effects on competition of ICANN's conduct.²⁵

Injury to competition can be shown by proof of either (i) a relevant market and harm to competition in that market, or (ii) "actual detrimental effects, such as a reduction of output, [which] can obviate the need [for]

⁽Footnote Cont'd From Previous Page)
"majority" of funding was necessary to control or greatly influence ICANN's decisions.

Injury to competition, either as proven in a rule of reason case or presumed in a per se case, necessary for a violation of Sherman Act Section 1 focuses on competition in general (i.e., consumer welfare). Antitrust injury necessary for standing under Clayton Act Section 4, 15 U.S.C. §15, by comparison, requires that the specific plaintiff prove that its injury flows from the violation or, stated differently, that the injury to the plaintiff reflects the reason why the challenged conduct is illegal. Antitrust injury, therefore, focuses not on the market but on the specific plaintiff and the source of its injury. Atl. Richfield Co. v. USA Petroleum Co., 495 U.S. 328, 342 (1990) ("antitrust injury requirement is.... [to ensure] that the harm

elaborate market analysis." FTC v. Ind. Fed'n of Dentists, 476 U.S. 447, 460-61 (1986); see also Oltz v. St. Peter's Cmty. Hosp., 861 F.2d 1440, 1448 (9th Cir. 1988) ("Given that the ability to raise price and to exclude competition are hallmarks of market power, the finding of actual harm to competition suffices under Sherman Act §1 even in the absence of extended market analysis."); Les Shockley Racing, Inc. v. Nat'l Hot Rod Ass'n, 884 F.2d 504, 508 (9th Cir. 1989); Sherman v. British Leland Motors, Ltd., 601 F.2d 429, 449 (9th Cir. 1979). The FAC pleads injury to competition in both forms for each of the services.

WLS. The FAC contains detailed allegations of injury to competition from the restraints ICANN and the WLS co-conspirators placed on WLS. (ER139-44/¶106-27.) For example, the FAC defines the relevant markets (ER139/¶106 (secondary domain name market), 142/¶120 (operation of TLD registries)), identifies the competitors and competitive products (ER139/¶108), and alleges how those markets operate (ER139/¶107; 140/¶109-11; 141-43/¶113-21). The FAC also specifically alleges actual anticompetitive effects, and thus injury to competition, from the foreclosure

⁽Footnote Cont'd From Previous Page) claimed by the plaintiff corresponds to the rationale for finding a violation of the antitrust laws. . . . ").

of WLS. Among other allegations, the FAC avers with particularity the foreclosure from the market of superior services, resulting in artificially inflated prices, less efficient services and reduced output in the relevant markets. (ER141/¶112-14; 142/¶118; 143/¶123; 144/¶126.) In addition, the FAC specifically alleges the respects in which WLS had superior features to competitive products otherwise available and would have stimulated competition in the market as a whole had its introduction not been blocked by ICANN and its co-conspirators. (*Id.*) Finally, the FAC alleges admissions by ICANN of the unique and innovative qualities of WLS that would have caused "new competition" by a superior product (ER141-42/¶116).

Site Finder. The FAC contains independently sufficient allegations that ICANN and the Site Finder co-conspirators harmed competition in the market for the operation of TLD registries (ER150/¶148) and the market for the provision of web address directory assistance services (ER148-149/¶143). For example, the FAC alleges the relevant markets for Site Finder, relevant competitors and competitive products (ER148/¶141; 150/¶149), and how those markets operate (ER148-49/¶¶142-44; 150/¶¶149-50). Additionally, the FAC specifically alleges actual anticompetitive effects, and thus injury to competition, as a result of the foreclosure of a beneficial new service for

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Internet users, holders of second-level domain names in the .com registry, as well as advertisers and sponsors of web links. (ER148-49/¶143; 149/¶¶145, 147; 150-151/¶¶151-52.) Among other anticompetitive effects of Site Finder's foreclosure from the market, the efficiency and beneficial features of Site Finder were lost for 32,000,000 holders of second-level domain names in the .com registry (whom Internet users may try to locate) and the 40,000,000 Internet consumers who used the service during the brief period it was running, before Site Finder was shut down by ICANN and its coconspirators. (ER150/¶152.)

IDN. Finally, the FAC contains sufficient allegations that ICANN and the IDN co-conspirators harmed competition in the market for the operation of TLD registries (ER156/¶173) and in the IDN market (ER155/¶169). For example, the FAC alleges the relevant markets, competitors and products (ER151-52/¶157; 155/¶170; 156-57/¶¶175-76), and the manner in which those markets operate (ER155/¶170; 156/¶172; 156/¶174-75; 157/¶177). It further alleges anticompetitive effects, and thus injury to competition, as a direct result of the unlawful acts of the conspirators, including: the denial of a beneficial and more efficient new service to millions of Internet users; restrictions in output of services in relevant markets; and inflated prices for competitive services.

(ER156/¶¶172, 174; 157-58/¶¶177, 179.) Finally, the FAC alleges specific admissions by ICANN of the "importance of [IDN]... to enhance the accessibility of the domain-name system to all those using non-Roman alphabets." (ER155/¶171.)

VII. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, plaintiff-appellant respectfully requests that the district court's judgment be reversed and that this case be remanded to the district court for further proceedings.

Dated: December 17, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

ARNOLD & PORTER LLP Ronald L. Johnston Laurence J. Hutt Ronald C. Redcay

VERISIGN, INC. Brian A. Davis

Ronald L. Johnston

Attorneys for Appellant

VeriSign, Inc.

#342631

EXHIBIT C

O	ase 5:05-cv-04826-RMW	Document 166	Filed 05/17/2006	Page 35 of 36		
1 2	PATRICK A. CATHCART (CA SBN 65413) BRET A. FAUSETT (CA SBN 198410) IMANI GANDY (CA SBN 223084) CATHCART COLLINS & KNEAFSEY LLP 444 South Flower Street, 42 nd Floor Los Angeles, California 90071 Telephone: (213) 225-6600 Facsimile: (213) 225-6601					
3						
4						
5						
6	Attorneys for Plaintiff Coalition for ICANN Transparency, Inc.					
7						
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT					
9	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA					
10	SAN JOSE DIVISION					
11						
12	COALITION FOR ICANN INC., a Delaware Corporation		Case No. 05-482	6 (RMW) PVT		
13	Plaintiff,	···,				
14	v.		DECLARATION	N OF IMANI GANDY IN		
15	VERISIGN, INC., a Delawa	are Corporation;	SUPPORT OF R JUDICIAL NOT			
16	INTERNET CORPORATION NAMES AND NUMBERS,		Honorable Ronald	i M. Whyte		
17	Corporation,					
18	Defendants.					
19						
20	I, Imani Gandy, decla	I, Imani Gandy, declare:				
21	1. I am an attorney with Cathcart Collins & Kneafsey LLP, counsel of record for					
22	Plaintiff Coalition for ICANN Transparency Inc. ("CFIT") in the above-entitled case. I am					
23	admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.					
24	I make this declaration in support of Plaintiff CFIT's Request for Judicial Notice in Support of					
25	Opposition to Defendants' M	Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss CFIT's First Amended Complaint ("RJN".) I have				
26	personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and if called upon as a witness could testify					
27	competently thereto.					
28						
		<u></u> 1	-			

DECLARATION OF IMANI GANDY IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE

CATHCART COLLINS & KNEAFSEY LLP 444 South Flower Street, 42nd Flr. Los Angeles, California 90071

2.	Attached as Exhibit A to the RJN is a true and correct copy of excerpts of a
document ent	titled "First Amended Complaint for Violation of the Antitrust Laws, Specific
Performance	of Contract, Damages for Breach of Contract, Interference with Contractual
Relations, De	eclaratory and Injunctive Relief," bearing the caption VeriSign Inc. v. Internet Corp
for Assigned	Names and Numbers, Case No. CV 04-1292 (AHM) (CTx) (C.D. Cal.), and dated
June 14, 2004	4.

3. Attached as Exhibit B to the RJN is a true and correct copy of excerpts of a document entitled "Opening Brief of Appellant Verisign, Inc." bearing the caption VeriSign, Inc. v. Internet Corp. for Assigned Names and Numbers, Ninth Circuit Case No. 04-56761, and dated December 17, 2004.

Executed this 17th day of May, 2006, at Los Angeles, California.