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Plaintiffs BANK JULIUS BAER & CO. LTD ("BJB") and JULIUS BAER
 BANK AND TRUST CO. LTD ("JBBT") (collectively, "JB" and/or "Plaintiffs")
 hereby respectfully submit this Supplemental Brief in Support of Plaintiffs'
 Application for Preliminary Injunction re Response to Issues Raised in the Reporters
 Committee for Freedom of the Press, et. al.'s, proposed Amici Curiae Brief, filed
 February 26, 2008.

## I.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiffs want to set the record straight. This action has been brought
solely to prevent the unlawful dissemination of stolen bank records and personal
account information of its customers. Many of those documents have also been
altered and forged. This matter has nothing to do with censorship or prior restraint
of First Amendment rights. It has everything to do with the protection of the
privacy rights of bank customers.

15 The key issue is whether a court may enjoin the public dissemination of bank customers' stolen confidential financial information. The answer is yes. 16 Contrary to the position of *Amici*, the issue in this case is not whether the court's 17 18 TRO is a prior restraint in violation of the First Amendment. The plain and simple truth is that the private bank records at issue in this case enjoy both federal and state 19 constitutional rights of privacy. That constitutional interest - - the right to privacy 20 in financial records - - is in present danger of being lost due to the widespread public 21 dissemination of it. And, the imminent threat to each individual whose bank account 22 23 information is displayed is real, not speculative, as reported by one of the Amici, The Los Angeles Times. (See accompanying declaration of Evan Spiegel ("Spiegel 24 Decl."), ¶6, Exh. "C" - sample copies of a few of the numerous articles published 25 by the Amici parties with regard to data security and identity theft). 26

27 The *Amici* further glosses over the fact that Wikileaks, Wikileaks.org
28 and the Does (collectively referred to as, "Wikileaks") posted stolen confidential

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bank records of individuals. These friends of the court should be the first to 1 recognize that the First Amendment extends the right of privacy to an individual's 2 confidential financial affairs. Valley Bank of Nevada v. Sup. Crt., 15 Cal.3d 652, 3 656, 125 Cal. Rptr. 553 (1975) (California constitutional right to privacy extends to 4 5 financial information); Burrows v. Sup. Crt, 13 Cal.3d 238, 243, 118 Cal. Rptr. 166 (1974); see also Whalen v. Roe, 429 U.S. 589, 599, 97 S.Ct. 869 (1977) (the 6 constitutional right to privacy includes the "individual interest in avoiding disclosure 7 of personal matters"); Doe v. Attorney General, 941 F.2d 780, 795 (9th Cir. 1991) 8 (recognizing that the right to privacy encompasses medical information). 9

Ouite obviously there will be harm from the widespread dissemination 10 of private and confidential banking information, including account numbers, 11 personal identification numbers, account transactions and history, and account 12 balances. Wikileaks has laid bare a road map for the unsavory to engage in identity 13 theft and electronic theft of account balances. The legitimate business interest of JB 14 has been placed in jeopardy because its bank customers are now insecure about the 15 confidentiality of their finances given the widespread disclosure of sensitive bank 16 customer information. Cf. Charles O. Bradley Trust v. Zenith Capital LLC., No. 17 C-04-2239 JSW, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21671 (N.D. Cal. March 24, 2006). 18 Because a grave threat to the constitutional right to privacy is posed by Wikileaks 19 20 dissemination of confidential private banking information, this court was justified in its issuance of a TRO against Wikileaks. Compare Procter & Gamble Co. v. 21 Bankers Trust Co., 78 F.3d 219 (6th Cir. 1996) (publication of documents which 22 23 contain trade secrets or other confidential research, development or commercial information did not pose a grave threat to a constitutional right sufficient to justify 24 25 the district court's injunctive orders) and Ford Motor Company v. Lane, 67 F.Supp.2d 745 (E.D. Mich. 1999) (trade secrets are not a constitutionally protected 26 right sufficient to justify an injunction restraining publication of those trade secrets). 27 28 //

The *Amici* simply miss the point of this court's temporary restraining 1 2 order. It is narrowly designed to protect the privacy interest of JB bank customers. That type of order does not violate the First Amendment; rather, it embraces and 3 upholds the First Amendment right to privacy in this type of financial information. 4 5 Indeed, it is Wikileaks and by extension *Amici* who threaten to violate the First Amendment rights of the JB bank customers. *Amici* appear to argue that First 6 Amendment privacy rights somehow take a backseat to those rights of the press. 7 There is no support for the notion that privacy rights are subordinate to those of the 8 However, there is support for the notion that when privacy rights are 9 press. threatened, the rights of the press may be subordinated to the privacy interest. See, 10 e.g., Shulman v. Group W Productions, Inc., 18 Cal.4th 200, 74 Cal.Rptr.2d 843 11 (1998) (disclosure of private and confidential information such as this cannot be of 12 any legitimate public concern and the disclosure of which would be highly offensive 13 to a reasonable person and would thereby violate a person's right of privacy); Virgil 14 v. Time, Inc., 527 F.2d 1122, 1128 (9th Cir. 1975) (If the public has no right to 15 know, can it yet be said that the press has a constitutional right to inquire and to 16 inform? In our view it cannot); In re McClatchy Newspapers, Inc., 288 F.3d 369, 17 18 374 (9th Cir. 2002) (the need to protect individual privacy rights may rise to the 19 level of a substantial governmental interest and defeats right of access claims).

In sum, this court's order was specifically drawn to prevent further
harm to the constitutional rights of the JB bank customers. This court's order is not
an attack on a free press. Instead, it is a shield against an assault of the First
Amendment rights of the JB bank customers.<sup>1</sup>

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This brief does *not* attempt to address all of the points raised by the Amici Curiae The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press et. al. because of time constraints. Instead, it focuses on the core issue presented to this Court. Namely, whether Wikileaks' posting of stolen confidential bank and financial information constitutes a grave threat to the constitutional privacy rights of the JB bank augments aufficient to justify issuence of an injunction.

<sup>27</sup> bank customers sufficient to justify issuance of an injunction. (Spiegel Decl., ¶2<sup>28</sup> 3). This brief also briefly addresses the fact that Wikileaks is not protected by any immunity, and that the Amici Curiae lack standing to raise new issues or to seek

Case 3:08-cv-00824-JSW Document 77 Filed 02/27/2008 Page 8 of 16 Document hosted at JDSUPRA http://www.jdsupra.com/post/documentViewer.aspx?fid=870b0ab9-335d-4e50-b647-a9fa9337d790 II. 1 ARGUMENT 2 THE COURT'S INJUNCTION PROTECTS THE FIRST AMENDMENT 3 А. PRIVACY RIGHTS OF THE JB BANK CUSTOMERS. 4 Valley Bank of Nevada v. Superior Court, 15 Cal.3d 652, 658, 125 Cal. 5 Rptr. 553 (1975), explains that the right of privacy is an "inalienable right" 6 expressly protected by force of constitutional mandate. (Cal. Const., Art. I, § 1). 7 "[T]he right of privacy extends to one's confidential financial affairs as well as to 8 the details of one's personal life." Valley Bank of Nevada, 15 Cal.3d at 658. 9 The California Supreme Court has further explained that there is a 10 "reasonable expectation of privacy" which a bank customer entertains with respect 11 to financial information disclosed to his bank. Burrows v. Sup. Crt., 13 Cal.3d 238, 12 118 Cal.Rptr. 166 (1974). The court noted that it is the general rule in other 13 jurisdictions that a bank impliedly agrees not to divulge confidential information 14 without the customer's consent unless compelled by court order. Valley Bank of 15 Nevada, 15 Cal.3d at 657 citing, First National Bank in Lenox v. Brown, 181 16 N.W.2d 178, 183 (Iowa 1970); Milohnich v. First National Bank of Miami Springs, 17 224 So.2d 759, 761 (Fla.App. 1969). 18 19 The Ninth Circuit has explained that the First Amendment encompass 20 a right of privacy, whose contours include within it a right to make personal decisions and a right to keep personal matters private. In re Crawford, 194 F.3d 21 954, 958 (9th Cir. 1999). It is also a generally accepted notion that the 22 constitutional right to privacy includes the "individual interest in avoiding disclosure 23 of personal matters." Whalen v. Roe, 429 U.S. 589, 599, 97 S. Ct. 869 (1977); see 24 25 also Doe v. Attorney General, 941 F.2d 780, 795 (9th Cir. 1991) (recognizing that 26

 $^{28}$  || to manage the case through motion practice, as set forth herein.

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1 || the right to privacy encompasses medical information).<sup>2</sup>

It is beyond dispute that the pilfered and altered documents which have
been disseminated on the Wikileaks website contain private personal financial
information. That type of financial information is protected by the First Amendment
right of privacy. Publication of this financial information threatens core interest
protected by the First Amendment. JB has therefore presented this court with a
critical constitutional right sufficient to justify the issuance of an injunction.

*Amici* argue that JB must establish that "(1) the activity restrained poses
either a clear and present danger or a serious and imminent threat to a protected
competing interest, (2) the order is narrowly drawn, and (3) less restrictive
alternatives are not available." (Amici brief, page 13, lines 4 to 8.) Yet, *Amici*conveniently ignores the very first element of their own test. Application of this test
to these facts reveal that JB exceeds the required threshold.

14 There is a First Amendment right to privacy at stake in this case. The
15 privacy rights of individual bank customers are clearly in danger because of the
16 unabated widespread disclosure of these personal matters. That disclosure of
17 confidential banking affairs is a serious threat to the bank customers reasonable
18 expectation of privacy as well as the real danger attributable to identity theft and

<sup>20</sup> <sup>2</sup> Indeed, California recognizes a tort cause of action for violation of the right to privacy. *See Diaz v. Oakland Tribune, Inc.*, 139 Cal. App. 3d 118, 188 21 Cal. Rptr. 762 (1983). One of the distinct torts included under the rubric of right to privacy is public disclosure of private facts. *Diaz*, 139 Cal.App. 3d at 126, 188 Cal. Rptr. at 767. Elements of the tort of public disclosure of private facts are (1) public disclosure (2) of a private fact (3) which would be offensive and objectionable to the reasonable person and (4) which is not of legitimate public 22 23 concern. *Diaz*, 139 Cal.App.3d at 126, 188 Cal.Rptr. at 768. *See Aisenson v. American Broadcasting Co., Inc.*, 220 Cal. App. 3d 146, 269 Cal. Rptr. 379, 387 (Ct. App. 1990). Here, JB meets all of the requisite elements of this 24 25 cognizable tort. There has been a public disclosure of private and confidential financial bank information, which is offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person, and which is not of legitimate public concern. As set forth in JB's 26 moving papers, no legitimate member of the media published the personal data 27 and detailed bank account information. Yet, Wikileaks brazenly published this type of private information regardless of the harm that would befall the account 28 holders.

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1 electronic theft of their assets.

Second, the court's TRO was narrowly drawn against Wikileaks. That 2 order merely prohibits Wikileaks from further dissemination of this private and 3 confidential financial information. Third, there simply is no less restrictive 4 5 alternative available. Amici argues that simple redaction of the offending information would suffice. Yet, Wikileaks hides behind anonymity to escape the 6 orders of this court. Absent compliance with the current order there is no guarantee 7 that Wikileaks would even comply with an order to redact the offending information. 8 Thus, there is no realistic less restrictive alternative available to JB. All of these 9 factors therefore support the court's issuance of the injunction. 10

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It is therefore appropriate for the court to preliminary enjoin Wikileaks.

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## B. <u>THE COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT DOES NOT PROVIDE</u> <u>WIKILEAKS IMMUNITY</u>.

An "interactive computer service" is not entitled to Section 230 15 immunity when the person or entity in question is also an "information content 16 provider" with respect to any portion of the information or conduct at issue. Section 17 230 of the Communications Decency Act (the "CDA") provides protection for 18 "online service providers" from action against them for the speech actions solely of 19 20 others. It does not, however, provide immunity for one's own actions and conduct if that defendant is involved in the process of creation, development or publication 21 of any of the harmful or illegal content (*i.e.*, an "information content provider"), 22 23 regardless of whether or not the defendant could also be considered an online service provider.<sup>3</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(3). 24

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<sup>3</sup> The immunity created by § 230(c)(1) is not absolute and is limited, including by § 230(f)(3), which provides that "content providers" are not immune, and by § 230(e)(2), which requires the court to construe Section 230(c)(1) in a manner that would neither limit or expand any law pertaining to intellectual property. Thus, the Ninth Circuit has held that the CDA does not clothe service providers in immunity if they provide content at issue nor does it provide immunity from

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In *MCW v. badbusinessbureau.com*, 2004 WL 833595, \*2 (N.D.Tex.
 2004) (*unpublished*) the court rejected a defendant's motion to dismiss on grounds
 of Section 230 immunity. The court determined that plaintiff's allegations that the
 defendants wrote disparaging report titles and heading, and that the defendants wrote
 disparaging editorial messages about plaintiff, rendered the defendants information
 content providers.

Hy Cite Corp. v. badbusinessbureau.com, 418 F.Supp.2d 1142, 1149 7 (D. Ariz. 2005) is also instructive. In *Hy Cite Corp.*, the Plaintiff stated, among 8 other claims, a claim for common law unfair competition. It was alleged that 9 Defendants are "responsible... for the creation or development of information 10 provided by individuals ... in response to Defendants' solicitation" and could be 11 considered an "information content provider" under Section 230, and thus, not 12 immune for its conduct. Based on those allegations the court determined that 13 Defendants are not entitled to immunity under the CDA at this stage of the case. 14

Carafano v. Metrosplash.com, 339 F.3d 1119, 1123 (9th Cir. 2003) 15 holds that "an 'interactive computer service' qualifies for immunity so long as it 16 does not also function as an 'information content provider' for the portion of the 17 statement or publication at issue." Anthony v. Yahoo Inc., 421 F.Supp.2d 1257, 18 1262-63 (N.D.Cal. 2006) found that unfair trade practice claims were not barred by 19 20 CDA's publisher immunity provision where it was alleged that the defendant created the tortious content. See also, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Rule 32.1(a); 21 Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley v. Roommates.com, LLC, 489 F.3d 22 23 921, 35 Media L. Rep. 1801 (9th Cir. 2007) (depublished and rehr'g granted en *banc October 2007*) (Ninth Circuit reasoned that, to the extent that an operator was 24 25 responsible, in whole or in part, for creating or developing information, it is an 26 "information content provider" and not entitled to CDA immunity).

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**28** laws pertaining to intellectual property. See, *Perfect 10, Inc. v. CCBill LLC*, 488 F.3d 1102, 1118 (9th Cir. 2007) (citations omitted).

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A content provider is "any person or entity that is responsible, in whole 1 2 or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through the Internet." 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(3). In other words, if the defendants only passively 3 publish information provided by others, the CDA may protect it from liability that 4 5 would otherwise attach under state or federal law as a result of such publication. But, if they are responsible, in whole or in part, for soliciting, creating or 6 developing or publishing the specific information, it becomes a content provider and 7 is not entitled to CDA immunity. As the Ninth Circuit explained in *Carafano*, "an 8 'interactive computer service' qualifies for immunity so long as it does not also 9 function as an 'information content provider' for the portion of the statement or 10 publication at issue." 339 F.3d at 1123. "The distinction between merely publishing 11 information provided by a third-party as an interactive computer service and actually 12 creating or developing any of the information posted as an information content 13 provider is critical." MCW, Inc. v. Badbusinessbureau.com LLC, 2004 WL 833595, 14 \*8 (N.D.Tex.2004), citing Carafano v. Metrosplash.com, Inc., 207 F.Supp.2d 15 1055, 1067 (C.D.Cal 2002), aff'd on other grounds, 339 F.3d 1119 (9th Cir.2003). 16

*Carafano* differs from this case in at least one significant respect: The 17 malicious prankster in *Carafano* provided information that was not specifically 18 19 solicited by the operator of the website. The website sought information about the 20 individual posting the information, not about unwitting third parties. Nothing in the questions the dating service in *Carafano* asked, suggested, encouraged or solicited 21 posting the profile of another person, and the website's policies prohibited altogether 22 the posting of last names and contact information. Id. at 1121. While Carafano is 23 written in broad terms, the Ninth Circuit has itself acknowledged that it should be 24 25 read in light of its facts. *Carafano* provided CDA immunity for information posted by a third party that was not, in any sense, created or developed by the website 26 operator-indeed, that was provided <u>despite</u> the website's rules and policies. *Id*. 27 Carafano and like cases do not control in a situation where defamatory, private or 28

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1 otherwise tortious or unlawful information was provided by users in direct response
2 to questions and prompts from the operator of the website.<sup>4</sup>

The Complaint and Application for TRO and OSC re Preliminary 3 Injunction very clearly allege and provide ample supporting exhibit evidence that the 4 5 Defendants did not merely provide an online forum upon which, without their involvement, a third-party posted harmful speech or engaged in harmful conduct. 6 In this matter, a third-party did not solely himself post harmful speech, nor even the 7 stolen content, the Wikileaks Defendants did so. (Spiegel Decl., ¶5, Exh. "A" -8 9 Wikileaks website statement admission that it is actively engaged in the publication, stating that "Wikileaks will keep on publishing" the stolen property and other 10 documents; Exh. "B" - an example, from many, of content and extensive edits 11 provided by Wikileaks; See also, Application for TRO, Documents Filed Under 12 Seal, Exhs. "A" through "O" - further examples of content provided by Wikileaks). 13 A third-party, upon solicitation and direct request from the Wikileaks Defendants for 14

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For example of an applicable hypothetical (but not cited as precedent), in the *depublished* opinion of the Ninth Circuit in *Fair Housing Council of San*<sup>7</sup> *Fernando Valley v. Roommates.com, LLC*, 489 F.3d 921, 928 (9th Cir. 2007), the Court provided the following analogous hypothetical and evaluation, under

which it reasoned that CDA immunity might not apply: 18 "Imagine, for example, www. harrassthem. com with the slogan 'Don't Get Mad, Get Even.' A visitor to this website would be encouraged to 19 provide private, sensitive and/or defamatory information about others-all to be posted online for a fee. To post the information, the individual would be invited to answer questions about the target's name, addresses, phone numbers, social security number, credit cards, bank accounts, mother's 20 21 maiden name, sexual orientation, drinking habits and the like. In addition, the website would encourage the poster to provide dirt on the victim, with instructions that the information need not be confirmed, but could be based 22 on rumor, conjecture or fabrication. ... It is not clear to us that the 23 operator of this hypothetical website would be protected by the logic of Carafano. The date match website in Carafano had no involvement in the 24 creation and development of the defamatory and private information; the hypothetical operator of harrassthem.com would. By providing a forum designed to publish sensitive and defamatory information, and suggesting 25 the type of information that might be disclosed to best harass and endanger the targets, this website operator might well be held responsible for creating and developing the tortious information. *Carafano* did not consider 26 27 whether the CDA protected such websites, and we do not read that opinion as granting CDA immunity to those who actively encourage, solicit and 28 profit from the tortious and unlawful communications of others.

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"leaked" confidential documents, provided "leaked" stolen confidential documents. 1 The Wikileaks Defendants received the stolen confidential bank records and data. 2 Wikileaks than posted these legally protected stolen materials on their own website, 3 and themselves wrote and published countless articles, summaries and other 4 5 information which included and repeated and summarized the various stolen protected consumer records. This is a far cry from the case of a third-party writing 6 original harmful speech on an open message or forum board made available by an 7 online service provider for third-party use. The Wikileaks Defendants are 8 "information content providers," or at least co-providers, under Section 230, and 9 thus, not immune for its own tortious and unlawful conduct. 10 Plaintiffs have alleged more than sufficient facts and provided ample evidence 11 in this matter that they have a strong likelihood of success on the merits of their 12 various claims for relief, including with regard to any potential defenses by the 13 Defendants of which they have not themselves advanced or asserted. 14

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## SET ASIDE THE STIPULATION AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION.

AMICI LACK STANDING TO ASK THE COURT TO MODIFY OR

"Lacking party status, an amicus has no right to review by appeal of any 18 decision affecting its identified substantive interests," including review of 19 20 constitutional issues. Newark Branch, N.A.A.C.P. v. Town of Harrison, 940 F.2d 792, 808 (3d Cir. 1991) (brackets omitted) (quoting Newport News Shipbuilding and 21 Drydock Co. v. Peninsula Shipbuilders Ass'n, 646 F.2d 117, 122 (4th Cir. 1981)). 22 An amicus curiae "lacks standing to prosecute independently any rehearing or 23 appeal." United States v. Louisiana, 718 F. Supp. 525, 528 (E.D. La. 1989). State 24 25 courts are in agreement that "relief beyond that which is sought by the parties cannot be requested by amicus curiae." Vermillion Parish Police Jury v. Williams, 824 So. 26 2d 466, 470 (La. App. 2002). An amicus has "no control over the litigation and no 27 right to institute any proceedings therein; he must accept the case before the court 28

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with the issues made by the parties." Pennsylvania v. Cotto, 708 A.2d 806, 808 1 2 (Pa. 1998) (emphasis original). Decisions have held that "[m]otion practice by *amici* is not permitted," and that a "trial court was not authorized . . . to permit amici 3 curiae to file a motion to dismiss as would a litigant before the court." In re Petition 4 5 to Call Election, 517 N.E.2d 1188, 1190 (Ill. App. 1987); see Mid-Atlantic Power Supply Ass'n v. Pa. Public Utities Comm'n, 746 A.2d 1196, 1200 n.8 (Pa. 2000) 6 (holding that amici have no right to institute proceedings in the court.). An amicus 7 has no standing in court, and allowing an amicus to "seek to widen the issues raised 8 by the parties" is inappropriate. Lyons v. Lederle Labs., 440 N.W.2d 769, 770 & 9 n.2 (N.D. 1989). The amicus must "take the case as he finds it." Briggs v. United 10 States, 597 A.2d 370, 373 (D.C. Ct. App. 1991). In fact, courts have long held: 11 An amicus curiae can neither take upon himself the management of the 12 cause as counsel; nor file a demurrer; nor take exceptions to the ruling 13 of the court; . . . nor file a petition for a rehearing. 14 15 Oregon v. McDonald, 128 P. 835, 837 (Or. 1912). In this matter the Amici, as well as other third-parties who have sought leave 16 to intervene and/or file amici curiae briefs,<sup>5</sup> improperly seek to initiate legal 17

proceedings, request additional relief, set-aside stipulated injunctive orders between 18 the parties, assert affirmative defenses and raise issues not raised by the parties, and 19 20 engage in motion practice. The amicus curiae lack standing other than to, at most, and only if granted leave of the Court (but which Plaintiffs' oppose), to provide 21 briefing on the legal issues raised by the parties. The amicus curiae cannot attack, 22 nor appeal, nor ask the court to modify or set aside the stipulation and permanent 23 injunction. The Court should therefore deny amicus curiae's requests and disregard 24 25 any pleadings and issues other than the legal issues specifically raised by the parties.

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**28** <sup>5</sup> Which, due to time constraints, the proposed other third-party briefs and motions are not specifically addressed in this Supplemental Brief.

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1	III.				
2	CONCLUSION				
3	Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court issue a				
4	Preliminary Injunction in the form set forth in the Amended [Proposed] Preliminary				
5	Injunction, and for such other alternative and further relief as the Court may deem				
6	to be just and appropriate.				
7	Respectfully submitted,				
8	DATED: February 27, 2008 LAVELY & SINGER				
9	PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION MARTIN D. SINGER				
10	WILLIAM J. BRIGGS, II EVAN N. SPIEGEL				
11 12	/s/ William J. Briggs, II By:				
12	WILLIAM J. BRIGGS, II				
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