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BRENT O. HATCH

March 11, 2010

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Hand Delivered

Honorable Ted Stewart U.S. District Court Judge 350 S. Main St. Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

Re:

Maureen O'Gara deposition designations

Your Honor:

We object to the enumerated designations from Ms. O'Gara's testimony on the grounds that they are unnecessarily cumulative, they are significantly more prejudicial than probative, and they create undue potential for outside sources and commentary to prejudice the jury.

As an initial matter, the designations are cumulative. Novell seeks to undermine the credibility of Ms. O'Gara, a longstanding reporter in the technology field, by showing that she communicated with Blake Stowell, who was SCO's director of press relations for a period of time. The parties have agreed that Novell is permitted to designate testimony that clearly demonstrates such communications. (See 29:13-19; 33:6-24; 37:8-38:25.) The designations at issue here serve merely to make the same point, and thus are not necessary.

The designations are also significantly more prejudicial than probative. In the first designation at issue (39:2-19), Ms. O'Gara is asked about the content of an e-mail that she forwarded to Mr. Stowell. In the e-mail, one of Ms. O'Gara's readers claims that she "take[s] SCO's side like Hillary took Bill Clinton's side when he was being accused of fooling around with Monica." The reader's view is irrelevant and hearsay, and the reference to the Clintons has no place in this trial. In addition, the testimony that precedes these references is coming in. The disputed testimony adds nothing.

In the second designation at issue (47:3-48:25), Novell seeks to designate testimony concerning an e-mail between Mr. Stowell and Ms. O'Gara in which Novell's counsel asks Ms. O'Gara about the source of humor in e-mails between herself and Mr. Stowell. In seeking to explain the humor in the exchange, Ms. O'Gara explains that Mr. Stowell is "a Mormon," which she explains as referring to "those kinds of family values that we're all supposed to admire so much." This humorous exchange has nothing to do with any substantive issue in this case, and Ms. O'Gara's use of the word "Mormon" and the associated reference has the potential for extreme prejudice in this jurisdiction -- one way or the other. The potential for undue prejudice from this e-mail far outweighs any small, cumulative probative value to the fact of the exchange between Mr. Stowell and Ms. O'Gara.

In the lengthy, third set of designations at issue (64:10-65:3; 66:9-12, 66:17-67:13; 67:23-69:24), Novell's counsel points to an e-mail exchange between Mr. Stowell and Ms. O'Gara concerning the anti-SCO website Groklaw.com and the fact that she wrote an article about the website concerning the individual who purportedly started and was maintaining the website. The testimony is cumulative on the issue of the fact of e-mail exchanges between Mr. Stowell and Ms. O'Gara and contains no discussion of any substantive issue in the case. To the contrary, the discussion about Groklaw has the potential for extreme prejudice. At the beginning of the trial, counsel for SCO argued that "[w]e don't think we need to mention the name of Groklaw or something like that to make any arguments that relevant in this trial," and the Court stated: "I would agree. I do want there to be no temptation for these jurors to be doing research on their own... I do not want to do anything that would make it any easier for a juror in a three-week trial becoming really interested and trying to find out something on their own." (February 25, 2010, Pretrial Conference Hearing Transcript at 57.) The Court then instructed both sides to tell their witnesses not to refer to such websites by name. (Id. at 58.)

The references in the designations both to Groklaw and to the question of who really operates the website creates undue temptation for jurors to pursue their own research on the issue. That would contaminate the proceedings and would decimate any prospect of impartiality in any such juror's mind.

SCO respectfully submits, for all of these reasons, that the Court should exclude the testimony at issue.

Sincerely yours,

Brent O. Hatch

encl.

c:

Michael Jacobs (via email)

Maureen O'Gara

	Page 1
1	
2	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
3	FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION
4	~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
5	THE SCO GROUP, INC., a Delaware Corporation,
6	
7	Plaintiff,
8	
9	vs. 2:04CV00139
10	
1.1	NOVELL, INC., a Delaware Corporation.
1.2	
1.3	Defendant.
1.4	
15	
16	
1.7	VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF MAUREEN O'GARA
18	Friday, March 23, 2007
19	11:00 a.m.
20	
21	
22	
23	Reported by:
24	Joan Urzia, RPR
25	JOB NO. 192768

		1	2 00
	Page 20	1 .	Page 28
1	O'Gara	1	O'Gara
2	2003, Exhibit 1080.	2	for that statement from its public
3	A Yes.	3	relations people, as a lever to get that
4	Q It looks to me that the way you	4	statement I repeated what Stone had said
5	reported it, to use the terminology you and	5	to me.
6	I have started to adopt here	6	Q What exactly did you state when
7	A Yes.	7	you repeated what Stone had said to you?
8	Q you reported one and two, but	8	A Whatever his exact words were at
9	not causality?	9	the time. I'm sorry.
10	A Right.	10	Q Were you reading from notes?
11	Q Do you agree with that?	111	A I don't think you had to because
12	A Yes.	12	it was just a sentence.
13	Q Why is that?	13	Q Your best recollection is you
	A I didn't know what to do with	14	had no notes?
14		15	A No, I have notes, but you know,
15	it, quite frankly, and the story wasn't	16	they're not understandable, they're not
16	about from my point of view the story wasn't about that.	17	notes like full sentences, they're not
17		18	verbatim everything. If I took shorthand,
18	Q And why is that?	1	
19	A Because I'm not a lawyer.	19	you'd be handy to have around.
20	Q You saw no news value in a		Q Do you have those shorthand notes still?
21	statement to you by a Novell executive that	21	
22	conveyed to you that the reason Novell was		A No, i don't do shorthand.
23	releasing its statement on a particular	23	Q I used the word inadvisably.
24	date was because SCO was reporting its	24	You're being more precise than I am.
25	quarterly results that same date?	25	A Yes, yes.
1	Page 27 O'Gara A I know that that seems in	1	O'Gara O Do you have the notes of the
2	isolation like that should be really	3	Q Do you have the notes of the short phrases still?
3	important, okay, but there were so many	4	A No.
5	issues in this very complicated matter that	5	Q What is your practice of the
6	that would make a great sidebar or a	6	short phrases, if you will, in terms of
	follow-up maybe, but we were talking about	7	whether you keep them or not?
7		1	
8	something else in this story and I	8	A I throw everything out.
9	thought I didn't know where it was all	9	Q When do you do that?
10	going to go, and I've known Chris a long time. Sometimes I get protective.	10	A If not when the story is
11	Q Did you subsequently convey to	12	written, then every week, and I've been doing that since 1972
12			
13	someone at SCO that you had heard from Chris Stone that the reason Novell had	13	Q When you conferred with the public relations people at SCO, first of
14		14	all, were you conferring with Blake
15	issued its statement that day was because SCO was to time it with the earnings	15 16	Stowell?
16 17	announcement?	17	A Conferring? I don't confer with
18	A As far as I remember, and	18	the PR people. I called Blake Stowell,
19	according to the evidence in front of me	19_	ves.
20	here, we were breaking this news. Okay?	20	Q What did you mean, why did you
20	In the normal course of	21	object to the word confer?
22	reporting, I went back to the other guy,	22	A I find it difficult to use that
23	being SCO, who as far as I know didn't know	23	verb, when I'm talking about a flak, no.
24	anything about this, for a statement.	24	You don't have conferences with PR people.
		1	, ou don't have controlled their it people.
25	During the course of my asking	25	Q You called him up you told I
25	During the course of my asking	25	Q You called him up, you told

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	Page 30		Page 32
1	O'Gara	1	O'Gara
2	him	2	the part of Mr. Stowell to give me a
3	A From the same phone I talked to	3	reaction to that, I pushed further and used
4	Chris on.	4	the expressions that Stone had said to me,
5	Q You told him what Chris had said	5	and the substance of which is that the
6	to you and you asked him whether he had any	6	reason that they were doing it tomorrow was
7	comment?	7	because you're going to have your earnings
8	A No. I told, I said to them what	8	call.
9	I knew, which is the substance of this	9	Q And you're confident as you sit
10	story, that the next day that they were	10	here today, it's 4 years later, that you
11	going to issue this cease and desist	11	didn't embellish on what Mr. Stone had said
12	letter, and in order to get a statement	12	to you?
13	from SCO as a lever, I threw in what Chris	13	A No.
14	had said. It wasn't as scandalous to me as	14	Q In order to elicit comment from
15	a regular business reporter than it has	15	Mr. Stowell?
16	become under these circumstances. Do you	16	A No, absolutely not.
17	understand what I mean?	17	Q You're not confident, or you're
18	Q I'm trying to figure out which	18	confident you did not?
19	of the I think setting aside the	19	A I am absolutely confident that I
20	chortling for a minute, we've talked about	20	did not. That would be a lie.
21	three components again, the fact of the	21	Q Would you regard that as a
22	date of the planned issuance of the Novell	22	breach of your ethics as a journalist?
23	statement, the fact of the date of the SCO	23	A Absolutely.
24	earnings release and the causal	24	Q It's sort of like
25	relationship between one and two.	25	cross-examining a witness when you don't
	3.00		
	Page 31		Page 33
1	Page 31 ' O'Gara	1	Page 33 O'Gara
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1 2 3	O'Gara		O'Gara
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	Page 34		Page 36	5
1 1	O'Gara	1	O'Gara	
2	any time that you took let me start over	2	190.	1
3	again.	3	(Whereupon, Exhibit 190 was	
4	How did you view the SCO versus	4	marked for Identification.)	
5	IBM SCO versus Novell dispute as it was	5	MR. JACOBS: 190 is an e-mail	1
6	brewing in the spring and summer of 2003?	6	string with the date on the top of	J
7		7	July 20, 2004. So it's after the	
	A As a good story.	8	period you and I were talking about	
8	Q Did you believe that you were			
9	taking a particular side in that story?	9	before. It's produced by SCO at	İ
10	A I have no side.	10	1648756 to 759.	
111	Q Did you understand that people	11	A Yeah. So?	
12	thought you were taking sides during that	12	Q So this is a string of messages	
13	period?	13	that you forwarded to SCO, correct?	1
14	A I think that my stories stand	14	A I don't, I don't know.	
15	for that. I think that - I would refer	15	Q Well, do you see the e-mail at	1
16	you to my stories. I don't see any bias in	16	the bottom of 756 from O'Gara to Blake	
17	any of my stories. It's just a completely	17	Stowell?	1
18	objective recitation of the facts.	18	A I see from Frank somebody or	
19	Q So my question, though, is do	19	another to O'Gara.	
20	you think that there were, didn't you in	20	Q And look at the bottom of the	
21	fact and I promise you I won't ask you a	21	first page.	1
22	question unless I have a basis for it	22	A Then I see the bottom of the	1
23	didn't you, in fact, receive communications	23	first -	
				1
24	from people who thought you were taking	24	Q The string is in reverse order.	i
25	SCO's side in the dispute?	25	A Yeah, I see. I don't know what	1
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4	Page 35	4	Page 37	
7 2	O'Gara	1	O'Gara	
2	O'Gara A If I were to say that most	2	O'Gara the context is.	
2	O'Gara A If I were to say that most people can't read, would you understand	2 3	O'Gara the context is. MS. FOLEY: Just actually listen	
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1 O'Gara
2 SCO under an e-mail "I want war pay"?
3 MR. GONZALEZ: Objection.

A I don't remember the context of the thing, but --

MS. FOLEY: Do you remember why you forwarded it?

THE WITNESS: No.

Q Does it strike you as peculiar that a journalist would forward to one of the sides in a dispute a string of e-mails she got from a reader?

A I don't know what the right answer to that question is because I don't know the context.

Q Well, what's the context here?

A I'm probably just complaining about getting this kind of crap all, you know, all the time.

People who can't read and don't know what the heck is going on and got it wrong to begin with just, you know, saying that, you know, you think you've got it tough, Blake, you should see it from my side. That's no big deal.

O'Gara

yes.

Q And it reads, "SCO needs AIX and DYNEX because it is charging IBM with copying AIX and DYNEX line for line into Linux. It is not charging IBM with copying UNIX line for line into Linux. It is charging IBM with copying derivative copy line for line into Linux.

Page 40

Page 41

Do you see that?

A Yes.

Q So you were trying to clarify for him what you understood the dispute was about?

A Isn't that what the dispute was about at that time?

Q I'm not challenging that.

A Okay.

Q I'm just characterizing what you were doing.

A Right, okay.

Q And then he goes on and again sort of disputes your reporting on the case in his July 20th e-mail, do you see that?

He says, "What makes you want to

Page 39

O'Gara

Q So Jalics says to you in the July 19th e-mail --

A July 19, is that the beginning?

Q It's towards the beginning, yes. It's on the bottom half of 758.

A July 19th, wait a second. Yeah. About being Hillary to their Bill Clinton?

Q Yes. To be precise, he says, "You take SCO's side like Hillary took Bill Clinton's side when he was being accused of fooling around with Monica."

Do you see that?

A Yes.

Q And then he goes on to explain why he thinks you are being taken in by SCO's story.

Do you see that?

A Yes.

Q And then you responded to him with a clarification of what you thought SCO was alleging in the dispute.

Do you see that?

A I don't think what they're alleging -- all right. I see my reply,

O'Gara

believe SCO when every time they show up to a different court or to the same court on a different day their story keeps changing? When they filed the suits in the IBM case, did you know it was primarily a contract dispute and not really about contract copyright infringement? When they filed the suit against Auto Zone, did you realize that it was really about them thinking that Auto Zone might have ported some static libraries to Linux? SCO hired some competent lawyers that they are able to convincibly argue that the moon is made of green cheese, but that doesn't mean that they have the evidence to back it up, Frank."

Do you see that?

A Uh-huh.

MR. GONZALEZ: Objection to the scope.

Q And then you forward that string to Mr. Stowell and with what I took to be kind of a humorous remark, I want war pay.

A Right.

1	Page 34		Page 36
1	O'Gara	1	O'Gara
2	any time that you took let me start over	2	190.
		3	(Whereupon, Exhibit 190 was
3	again.	4	marked for Identification.)
4	How did you view the SCO versus		
5	IBM SCO versus Novell dispute as it was	5	MR. JACOBS: 190 is an e-mail
6	brewing in the spring and summer of 2003?	6	string with the date on the top of
7	A As a good story.	7	July 20, 2004. So it's after the
8	Q Did you believe that you were	8	period you and I were talking about
9	taking a particular side in that story?	9	before. It's produced by SCO at
1	A I have no side.	10	1648756 to 759
10		11	A Yeah. So?
11	Q Did you understand that people		TI. THE T
12	thought you were taking sides during that	12	Q So this is a string of messages
13	period?	13	that you forwarded to SCO, correct?
14	A I think that my stories stand	14	A I don't, I don't know.
15	for that. I think that - I would refer	15	Q Well, do you see the e-mail at
16	you to my stories. I don't see any bias in	16	the bottom of 756 from O'Gara to Blake
17	any of my stories. It's just a completely	17	Stowell?
18	objective recitation of the facts.	18	A I see from Frank somebody or
19	Q So my question, though, is do	19	another to O'Gara.
1		20	Q And look at the bottom of the
20	you think that there were, didn't you in	1	*
21	fact and I promise you I won't ask you a	21	first page.
22	question unless I have a basis for it	22	A Then I see the bottom of the
23	didn't you, in fact, receive communications	23	first -
24	from people who thought you were taking	24	Q The string is in reverse order.
25	SCO's side in the dispute?	25	A Yeah, I see. I don't know what
	Page 35		Page 37
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2	A If I were to say that most	2	the context is.
3	people can't read, would you understand	3	MS. FOLEY: Just actually listen
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5			to the dilestion that he asked
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6	yourself at this point.	5 6	THE WITNESS: Sorry, MS, FOLEY: The question again
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	Page 38	:	Page 40
1	O'Gara	1	O'Gara
2	SCO under an e-mail "I want war pay"?	2	yes.
3	MR. GONZALEZ: Objection.	3	Q And it reads, "SCO needs AIX and
4	A I don't remember the context of	4	DYNEX because it is charging IBM with
5	the thing, but -	5	copying AIX and DYNEX line for line into
6	MS. FOLEY: Do you remember why	6	Linux. It is not charging IBM with copying
7	you forwarded it?	7	UNIX line for line into Linux. It is
8	THE WITNESS: No.	8	charging IBM with copying derivative copy
9	Q Does it strike you as peculiar	9	line for line into Linux.
10	that a journalist would forward to one of	10	Do you see that?
11	the sides in a dispute a string of e-mails	11	A Yes.
12	she got from a reader?	12	Q So you were trying to clarify
13	A I don't know what the right	13	for him what you understood the dispute was
14	answer to that question is because I don't	14	about?
15	know the context.	15	A Isn't that what the dispute was
16	Q Well, what's the context here?	16	about at that time?
17	A I'm probably just complaining	17	Q I'm not challenging that
18	about getting this kind of crap all, you	18	A Okay.
19	know, all the time.	19	Q I'm just characterizing what you
20	People who can't read and don't	20	were doing.
21	know what the heck is going on and got it	21	A Right, okay.
22	wrong to begin with just, you know, saying	22	Q And then he goes on and again
23	that, you know, you think you've got it	23	sort of disputes your reporting on the case
24	tough, Blake, you should see it from my	24	in his July 20th e-mail, do you see that?
25	side. That's no big deal.	25	He says, "What makes you want to
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	Page 39		Page 41
	Page 39	1	Page 41
1 2	O'Gara	1 2	O'Gara
2	O'Gara O So Jalics says to you in the	1 2 3	***
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2 3 4	O'Gara Q So Jalics says to you in the July 19th e-mail A July 19, is that the beginning?	2 3 4	O'Gara believe SCO when every time they show up to a different court or to the same court on a different day their story keeps changing?
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11 (Pages 38 to 41)

Contested

Maureen O'Gara

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	Page 6	2 Page 6
1	O'Gara	1 O'Gara
2	Ms. O'Gara that Sun Micro Systems had	2 marked for identification.)
3	purchased a different type of license that	3 A Why does the print keep getting
4	IBM had and that SCO had concluded that Sui	
1		.
5	Micro Systems was not in breach of that	5 MR. JACOBS: I seem to be shy a
6	license. I did not say that SCO was giving	6 copy of this one.
7	Sun Micro Systems a hall pass on IP	7 MR. GONZALEZ: Maybe I can just
8	tampering. I never stated, I never said	8 look at it and give it back to you.
9	that I had not read the other licensing	9 MR. JACOBS: Yes.
10	UNIX agreements."	10 Q So this is an e-mail to you
11	Do you see that in this	11 dated May 30, 2005, Exhibit 196, produced
12	declaration?	12 under SCO 1647696 to 697.
13	A I saw it.	13 Do you see that?
14		The first term of the first te
	Q And then in your article you	14 A I don't see a date on it.
15	went on to write, "At the time, and this	15 Q Right at the top.
16	was a week ago, he had spent more time	16 A Oh, there it is, okay.
17	talking to us than to IBM that there had	17 Q And the subject is, "I need you
18	been no contact. He figures IBM's strategy	18 to send a jab PJ's way."
19	will be to go for a dismissal on the	19 A Okay.
20	grounds that what he's charged IBM with so	20 Q Do you see that?
21	far are, is not a cause of action and are	21 A Uh-huh.
22	conclusions, not facts. He seems	22 Q Who is PJ?
23		
	relatively unperturbed at the prospect. He	23 A PJ is the purported author of
24	also gave Sun a hall pass on IP tampering	24 the Groklaw site.
25	calling it 'clean as a whistle' because it	25 Q What is the Groklaw site?
	Page 63	Page 65
1	O'Gara	1 O'Gara
2	paid all that money once upon a time for	2 A It is a website that follows the
3	UNIX. As for everybody else, well he	3 SCO case – I should say cases maybe but.
4	hadn't gotten around to reading their	4 Q Did you have a view in March of
5	agreements yet."	5 2005 about whether PJ or the Groklaw site
6	Do you see that?	6 was a reliable source of information on the
7	A Yes.	7 SCO litigation?
8		1
	Q And do you stand by your story?	
9	A I stand by my story.	9 Q What was your view?
0	Q You were accurately reporting in	10 A It was not reliable.
1	your story what Mr. Heise said to you?	11 Q And what was the basis for that?
2	A Yes.	12 A It is a propaganda site.
3	Q And to the extent that his	13 Q Propaganda in what sense?
4	declaration disclaims what you reported in	14 A It's unbalanced.
5	your story, his declaration is incorrect?	15. Q In contrast to what you believe
6	MS. FOLEY: Object to the form	16 you were doing?
7	of the question. I'm going to direct	17 A In contrast to what anybody is
8	the witness not to answer that	18 doing.
_	question.	19 Q But more particularly your
۵	question.	20 reporting?
	O Are you going to follow your	
0	Q Are you going to follow your	' ' '
0 1	counsel's instruction?	21 A I suppose you could compare it
0 1 2	counsel's instruction? A That's why she's here.	21 A I suppose you could compare it 22 to my reporting.
0 1 2 3	counsel's instruction? A That's why she's here. Q Now let's look at what we'll	21 A I suppose you could compare it 22 to my reporting. 23 Q And in comparison you felt you
9 20 21 22 3 4	counsel's instruction? A That's why she's here.	21 A I suppose you could compare it 22 to my reporting.

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