

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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MEDIA CALL AT 1:00 pm ET, Friday, September 4, 2009  
Contact Gerald Tan at 202-483-1140 x119 or [admin@epic.org](mailto:admin@epic.org) for details

EPIC Moves to Intervene in Google Books Settlement Case,  
Citing Absence of Privacy Safeguard

WASHINGTON, DC – The Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC) today filed a formal motion in federal district court in New York seeking to intervene in the Google Books settlement case.

EPIC said in court papers “The proposed settlement profoundly implicates the privacy interests of millions of Internet users.” EPIC explained that the settlement agreement lacks the privacy safeguards that typically protect reader privacy. EPIC also said that the settlement would allow Google to integrate sensitive personal information with other Google services, creating detailed profiles on Internet users.

EPIC has previously participated as a “friend of the court” in many cases concerning privacy. EPIC asked the judge in the Google Book Settlement case for permission to participate in the case to represent the privacy interests of Internet users.

“The settlement can be fixed if meaningful safeguards are established at the time the settlement is approved,” said Marc Rotenberg, EPIC Executive Director. “But those terms are currently lacking and so the settlement as it stands should be rejected.”

Mr. Rotenberg also said that a privacy policy will not solve the problem. “Privacy policies have done little to safeguard online privacy. They are written to allow companies to do what they intend to do. And without clear legal standards, Government officials will go to Google for information on user activity as they did with libraries under the Patriot Act.”

“If Google is genuinely concerned about the privacy of its users, it will support enforceable safeguards and strong technical measures to protect user data,” Mr. Rotenberg added.

EPIC will hold a press conference today at 1 pm ET to discuss the privacy issues and the need for the motion to intervene. Contact Gerald Tan at 202-483-1140 x119 or [admin@epic.org](mailto:admin@epic.org) for details

EPIC is the nation's leading privacy research and advocacy organization. EPIC was established in 1994 to focus public attention on emerging privacy and civil liberties issues. EPIC maintains two of the world's most popular sites on privacy – EPIC.ORG and PRIVACY.ORG.

The case is Authors Guild et al v Google Inc 05-08136 in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

The EPIC Motion to Intervene is available at:  
[http://epic.org/privacy/googlebooks/EPIC\\_Brief-GBS.pdf](http://epic.org/privacy/googlebooks/EPIC_Brief-GBS.pdf)

EPIC – Google Books Settlement and Privacy  
<http://epic.org/privacy/googlebooks/default.html>

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