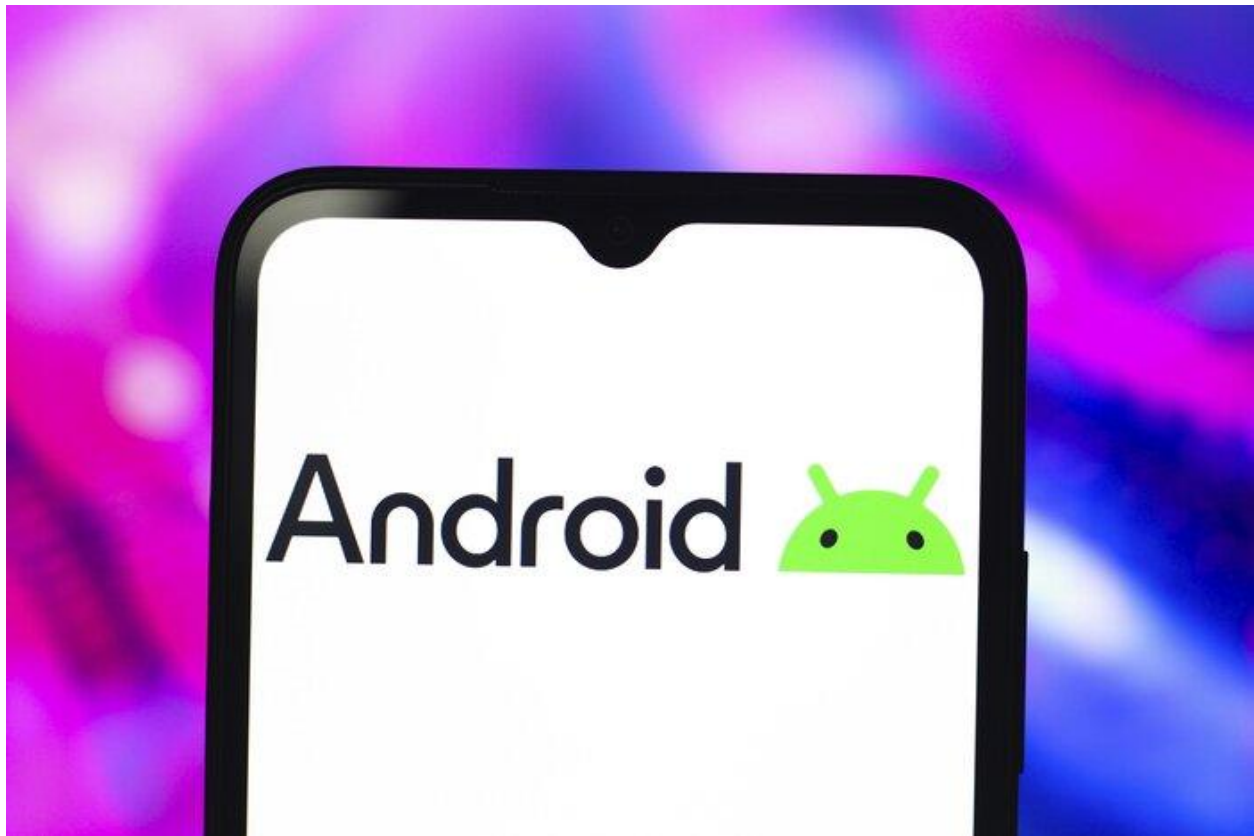


Google Hit With \$314M Verdict In Android Data Use Suit

By Hailey Konnath ·

Law360 (July 1, 2025, 11:44 PM EDT) -- A California state jury Tuesday sided with a class of millions of Android mobile device users in the Golden State accusing Google of transferring cellular data from their devices without their consent for information harvesting and surveillance purposes, awarding the users more than \$314.6 million.



A class of Android mobile device users have been awarded \$314,626,932 in damages against Google in a Santa Clara County, California, trial that kicked off July 2. (Photo by Thomas Fuller / SOPA Images/Sipa USA) (Sipa via AP Images)

After a nearly monthlong trial, the Santa Clara County Superior Court jury found that Google LLC does cause Android devices to secretly send certain information over cellular networks for Google's own purposes. Those transfers are charged against users' cellular data plans and consume their cellular data, according to plaintiffs Attila Csupo, Andrew Burke and Kerry Hecht.

They also claim in the 2019 suit that Google did this without the users' consent because Google doesn't disclose that the transfers will happen over cellular networks or that the

transfers will use cellular data from users' data plans. Csupo, Burke and Hecht are representing a class of 14 million Android users in California.

Tuesday, the jury found that the Android users own their cellular data as property, Google interfered with that property by "knowingly or intentionally taking possession of or preventing" them from having access to the data, and users did not consent to that. The jury also found that users were harmed, and Google's conduct was a substantial factor in causing that harm, according to the verdict form.

The jury awarded them \$314,626,932 in damages. Specifically, the class is defined as "all natural persons who, while residing in the state of California, have used a mobile phone running a Google-licensed version of the Android operating system with a cellular data plan from Aug. 9, 2016 to the present."

Glen Summers of Bartlit Beck LLP, one of the attorneys representing the consumers, told Law360 on Tuesday, "We are deeply gratified by the jury's verdict."

"The evidence at trial revealed that Google secretly collects a massive amount of information from Android smartphones, and needlessly consumes Android owners' cellular data without their consent to do so," Summers said. "The evidence also revealed that for many years Google has known that Android settings which purport to allow users to turn off background mobile data usage are largely illusory and do not stop the transfers."

He added that with its verdict, "the jury sends a loud message to Google that it must actually honor its commitment to respect user choice and not just pay lip service to it."

José Castañeda, a Google spokesperson, said in a statement that the company disagrees with the decision and plans to appeal.

"This ruling is a setback for users, as it misunderstands services that are critical to the security, performance and reliability of Android devices," Castañeda said.

Summers and his legal team are also representing plaintiffs in a parallel case in California federal court. That case, filed in 2020, centers on the same underlying alleged conduct but was filed on behalf of Android users nationwide. Trial is set for April 2026.

The trial in the Santa Clara County case kicked off June 2. In opening arguments, Summers told the jury that Google's Android devices, for many years, have been "secretly consuming

people's cellular data" for Google's own purposes without permission and without paying for those transmissions. He noted that the Android operating system isn't just in Google phones — it's provided to other companies like Samsung and Motorola.

And when it comes to the underlying alleged conduct, "we're not talking about apps that you would download," Summers said at the time. "We're talking about software that is built into every Android phone."

"What Google does is it has programmed the GMSCore to secretly collect all sorts of information from Android phones without the users' knowledge and then to get that information back to Google servers, it uses people's cellular data," Summers told jurors.

GMS stands for Google Mobile Services, and it's part of the Android operating system for phones, according to Summers. He added that Google could "easily set things up so that they pay for their own transmissions," and they could also just ask users for permission.

"But instead, Google has taken it upon itself to make these decisions for us all to just take people's cellular data and to charge it to their cellular data accounts," Summers said.

Meanwhile, Michael Attanasio of Cooley LLP, who represents Google, said during the company's opening statement that the plaintiffs hadn't shown that any people were actually harmed by the alleged conduct.

According to Google, the transfers keep Android devices working reliably and safely around the world. They're also "tiny — less than sending a single photo," the company argued. They don't cost users any money, and they don't interfere with individual use of cellular data plans, it said. On top of that, Android users consent to the transfers via policies, terms and settings, Google argued.

"Nothing sinister about it at all," Attanasio said at trial. "It's not a profit center for Google. It's a way of testing new apps, new software, new security features and the like."

The plaintiffs are represented by Glen Summers, Karma Giulianelli, Hamilton Hill, Lin Brenza, Benjamin Montague and Jacob Marsh of Bartlit Beck LLP, Marc Wallenstein and Chad Bell of Korein Tillery LLC, and Elizabeth Pipkin of McManis Faulkner.

Google is represented by Michael Attanasio, Whitty Somvichian and Max Bernstein of Cooley LLP.

The current case is Attila Csupo et al. v. Google LLC, case number 19CV352557, in Superior Court of the State of California, County of Santa Clara. The federal case is Joseph Taylor et al. v. Google LLC, case number 5:20-cv-07956, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

--Editing by Kristen Becker.