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US Developments: Native Advertising and Other New Rules for Disclosures in Advertising

January 2015 Amy Ralph Mudge www.AllAboutAdvertisingLaw.com

















Banner Ads

- Happy 20th Birthday banner ads!
- Born Oct. 27, 1994 -- AT&T runs first banner at on HotWired
- Estimated click-through rate in 2000 at 9%
- In 2014, Google estimates .09% click rate

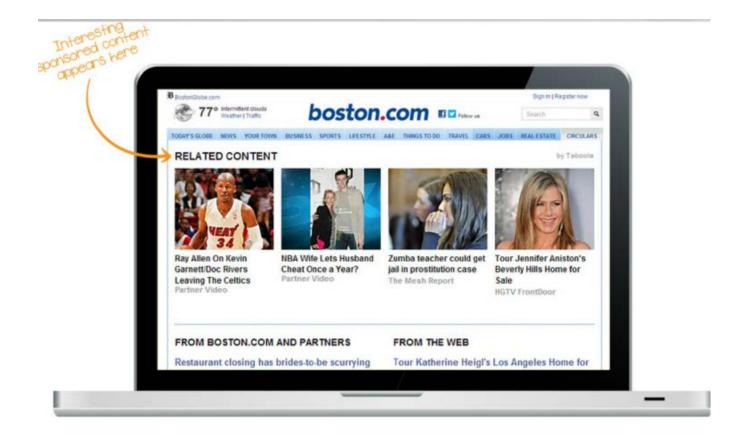


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13 Ways To Be "Tough"

England's annual Tough Guy Challenge involves an eight-mile run through fire, ice, barbed wire, and tunnels made of tires.









14 People Making The Best Of Bad Situations

When life gives you lemons, carve them in to tiny helmets for squirrels. Always remember to look on the bright side. Come on. Get happy.



PRESENTED BY

Volkswagen

FEATURED PARTNER



This Guy Saved A Freezing Baby's Life, NBD

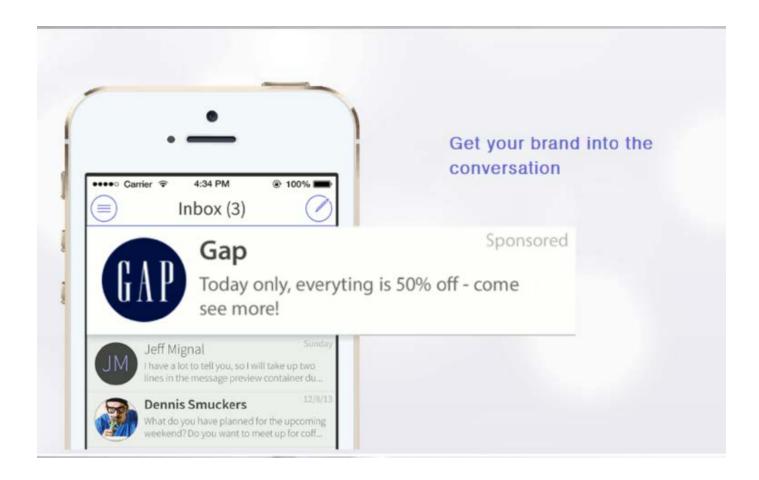
And other morning links.

Raymond Sultan (1) 15 minutes ago 🔻 respond





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Isn't This Protected Speech?





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Of cigarettes and science.

This is the way science is supposed to work.

A scientist observes a certain set of facts. To explain these facts, the scientist comes up with a theory.

The, to check the validity of the theory, the scientist performs and experiment. If the experiment yields positive results, and is duplicated by other scientists, then the theory is supported. If the experiment produces negative results, the theory is re-examines, modified, or discarded.

But, to a scientist, both positive and negative results should be important. Because both produce valuable learning.

No let's talk about cigarettes.

You probably know about research that links smoking to certain diseases. Coronary heart disease is one of them.

Much of the evidence consists of studies that show a statistical association between smoking and the disease.

But statistics themselves cannot explain why smoking and heart disease are associated. Thus, scientists have developed a theory: that heart disease is caused by smoking. Then they performed various experiments to check this theory.

We would like to tell you about one of the most important of these experiments.

A little-known study

It was called the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (MR FIT).

In the words of the Wall Street Journal, it was "one of the largest medical experiments ever attempted." Funded by the federal government, it cost \$115,000,000 and took 10 years, ending in 1982.

The subjects were over 12,000 men who were thought to have a high risk of heart disease because of three risk factors that are statistically associated with this disease; smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels.

Half of the men received no special medical intervention. The other half received medical treatment that consistently reduced all three risk factors, compared with the first group.

It was assumed that the group with lower risk factors would, over time, suffer significantly fewer deaths from heart disease that the higher risk factor group.

But that's not the way it turned out.

After 10 years, there was no statistically significant difference between the two groups in the number of heart disease deaths.

The theory persists

We at R.J. Reynolds do not claim this study proves that smoking doesn't cause heart disease. But we do wish to make a point.

Despite the results of MR FIT and other experiments like it, many scientists have not abandoned or modified their original theory, or re-examined its assumptions.

They continue to believe these factors cause heart disease. But it is important to label their belief accurately. It is an opinion. A judgment. But not scientific fact.

We believe in science. That is why we continue to provide funding for independent research into smoking and health.

But we do not believe there should be one set of scientific principles for the whole world, and a different set for experiments involving cigarettes. Science is science. Proof is proof. That is why the controversy over smoking and health remains an open one.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company

· WHILE RECOGNIST TO EMOCO CO.





Why Do We Need to Be Told It Is Advertising?





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REE At 30' Hands On With Pabble, the Infernal's Favorite Smart Watch

"[S]ponsored content can convey an explicit or implicit message about a product, the benefits of using the product, or the disadvantages of a competing product. In such circumstances consumers have a compelling interest in knowing the sponsor of the content because the content conveys a commercial message that benefits the advertiser."

Qualcomm, Inc. (Snapdragon Processors), Case Report #5683





Home » FTC Policy Statement on Deception

FTC Policy Statement on Deception

FTC POLICY STATEMENT ON DECEPTION

Appended to Cliffdale Associates, Inc., 103 F.T.C. 110, 174 (1984).

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

October 14, 1983

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter responds to the Committee's inquiry regarding the Commission's enforcement policy against deceptive acts or practices. We also hope this letter will provide guidance to the public.

Section 5 of the FTC Act declares unfair or deceptive acts or practices unlawful. Section 12 specifically prohibits false ads likely to induce the purchase of food, drugs, devices or cosmetics. Section 15 defines a false ad for purposes of Section 12 as one which is "misleading in a material respect." Numerous Commission and judicial decisions have defined and elaborated on the phrase "deceptive acts or practices" under both Sections 5 and 12. Nowhere, however, is there a single definitive statement of the Commission's view of its authority. The Commission believes that such a statement would be useful to the public, as well as the Committee in its continuing review of our jurisdiction.

We have therefore reviewed the decided cases to synthesize the most important principles of general applicability. We have attempted to provide a concrete indication of the manner in which the Commission will enforce its deception mandate. In so doing, we intend to address the concerns that have been raised about the meaning of deception, and thereby attempt to provide a greater sense of certainty as to how the concept will be applied.³

L SUMMARY

Certain elements undergird all deception cases. First, there must be a representation, omission or practice that is likely to mislead the consumer. Practices that have been found misleading or deceptive in specific cases include false oral or written representations, misleading price claims, sales of hazardous or systematically defective products or services without adequate disclosures, failure to disclose information regarding pyramid sales, use of bait and switch techniques, failure to perform promised services, and failure to meet warranty obligations.





FTC Deception Policy Statement

- Certain elements undergird all deception cases.
- First, there must be a representation, omission or practice that is likely to mislead the consumer.
- Second, we examine the practice from the perspective of a consumer acting reasonably in the circumstances.
- Third, the representation, omission, or practice must be a "material" one. The basic question is whether the act or practice is likely to affect the consumer's conduct or decision with regard to a product or service.





522

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION DECISIONS

Complaint

111 F.T.C.

IN THE MATTER OF

JS&A GROUP, INC., ET AL.

CONSENT ORDER, ETC., IN REGARD TO ALLEGED VIOLATION OF SECS. 5 AND 12 OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ACT

Docket C-3248. Complaint, Feb. 24, 1989-Decision, Feb. 24, 1989

- A. Misrepresenting, directly or indirectly, that such product has been independently investigated or evaluated.
- B. Misrepresenting, directly or indirectly, that an advertisement is an independent consumer or news program and not a paid advertisement.

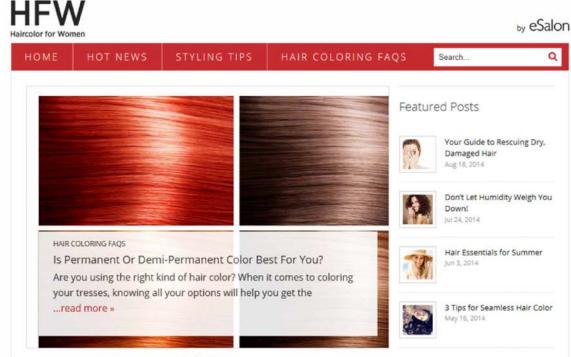


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Advertisers have an "obligation to advise consumers when there is a connection between the advertiser and content that directly or indirectly promotes the advertiser's product." "NAD recommended that the advertiser disclose that it maintains the blog clearly and conspicuously on the top of the landing page of the blog, where it will be easy to notice, read and understand."

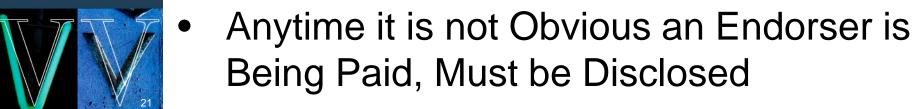
<u>eSalon (Custom Formulated Hair Color)</u> Report #5645





Testimonials & Endorsements

- Must be Truthful
- Marketers Cannot Say Through An **Endorsement What Marketer Could Not Sa** Directly
- Must Show Typical Expected Results OR Disclose What is Typical
- Burden Falls on Marketers to Make Sure Endorsement is OK







Is Some Native Advertising Just Product Placement?











UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

Mary K. Engle Associate Director for Advertising Practices

February 10, 2005

Gary Ruskin, Executive Director Commercial Alert 4110 S.E. Hawthorne Boulevard #123 Portland, OR 97214-5246

Dear Mr. Ruskin:

On September 30, 2003, Commercial Alert filed with the Federal Trade Commission a Request for Investigation of Product Placement on Television and for Guidelines to Require Adequate Disclosure of TV Product Placement. Commercial Alert asked the Commission to require advertisers to disclose product placements in a clear and conspicuous fashion and specifically to require advertisers to identify product placements when they appear on screen with the prominent superscript "ADVERTISEMENT."

Background

Product placement is a form of promotion in which advertisers insert branded products into programming in exchange for fees or other consideration. Commercial Alert raises concerns that product placements may deceive consumers by blurring the line between advertising and programming, and that the appearance of product placement is implicated in diseases such as obesity and Type 2 diabetes in children. In addition, Commercial Alert raises concerns about advertisers' use of paid celebrity spokespersons to appear on programs without disclosing the celebrities' financial ties to the company in question. Commercial Alert contends that the failure to disclose that advertisers have paid for their products' appearances in programming constitutes an unfair or deceptive practice in violation of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act.

As you know, an act or practice is deceptive under Section 5 of the FTC Act: 1) if there is



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WATER WORKS!

Quenching your thirst keeps you healthy and energized, but sometimes plain water is just so, well, plain. Here's a tasty (and nourishing) new way to be certain you're getting ample H_2O .

It gets short shrift, but staying hydrated is just as important as the rest of your health and beauty regimen. About 60 percent of your body is water, and being even mildly parched—a likely possibility, comidering that fluid loss occurs throughout the day—may lead to problems such as fatigue. Beadsohe, and weight gain such as fatigue. Beadsohe, and weight gain.

People who are active need to be extra diligent about sipping. The American College of Sports Medicine warms that failure to drink up before, during, and after prolonged exercise puts you at risk for heat shaustion. Losing just 2 percent of your bodily weight from fluid, which can even happen during the cooler months, impacts speed and endurance.

Drink more, slim down

Regularly westing your whistle may also help you reach your goal weight. Researchers from Virginia Tech found that people who downed two glasses of water 20 to 30 minutes before eating consumed 75 fewer calories during each meal and shed pounds more quickly than életers who ideh's pre-hydrate. German researchers have also shown that water slightly boosts metabolism because it requires energy to process it.

Other good reasons to hit the (water) bottle include banishing bloat, warding off constipation, beating fatigue, and clearing out toxins (including those found in alcohol).

So, are you getting enough?

It's unlikely. Although the exact amount of water you need varies from person to person (dark urine is a sign you're Ecking), the Institute of Medicine (ICM) suggests that women aim for rine cups a day (For guys, it's 15 cups because of their higher muscle mass.) But 45 percent of adults get less than four!

The IOM guidelines don't strictly refer to plain H (O; water-rich foods like soup and fruit count too, as do other be-versages. But if you rely heavily on sugary drinks, your visistline is going to pay the price; A 20-ounce 'single-serve' bostle of soda contains 240 calories (similar to a candy bar). And about 7 percent of the total calories in the typical American's diet come from soft drinks alone, according to the Center for Science in the Public Interven.

The obvious solution is to stick with water, but about 20 percent of Americans reportedly don't like the taste. If that sounds like you, check out the new SHAPE Water Boosters (5s: CVS, Rite Aid, and

sater)
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alcohol),

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de mass)
in four!
refor to
penages.

drügstore.com), Just a single squeeze (equal to a half-teespoon) adds delicious flavor but not calories—along with a concentrated punch of nutrients that offer some important borns benefits. The portable packaging and great taste are designed to meet the needs of the health-conscious woman on the go. Look for them in the following four varieties. "NAD was concerned that the 'Water Works' article was formatted and titled and appeared to be a news article yet it promoted SHAPE Water Boosters as part of the news."

"The article was preceded by the headline 'News' and included information about the importance of hydration and recommended SHAPE Water Boosters as a healthful way to stay hydrated."

American Media, Inc. (Shape Water Boosters) Case Report #5665

Beauty (Grape)

*Proprietary blend of herbs, collagen, and fruit extracts



Contains:

*Vitamin C

*Folic acid

*Agai and other superfruit extract



Contains:
•Chromium
•Raspberry ketone
•Vitamin D





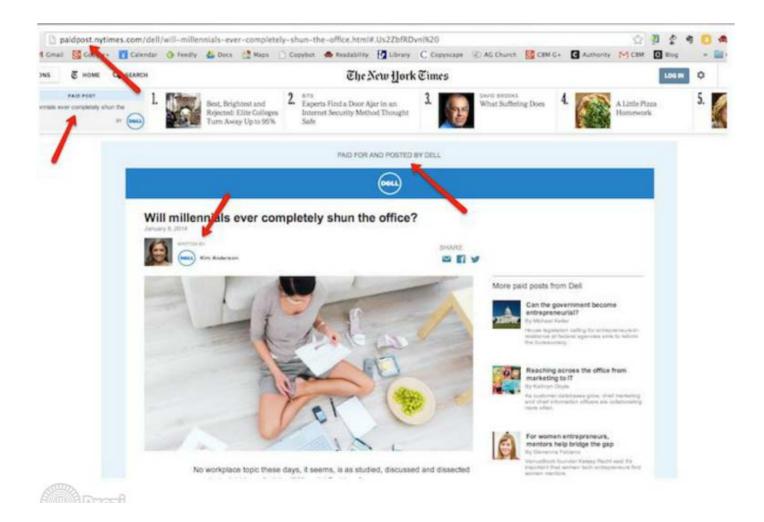


How Do We Disclose - - What Are the Right Words?





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"NAD rejected challenger's contention, however, that <u>Taboola</u> needed to use the word 'advertisement' to inform consumers that its links are sponsored."

"In the absence of consumerperception evidence demonstrating that consumers do not understand the words 'sponsored consent' or 'promoted content' to mean the the content is paid, NAD is reluctant to mandate specific words to use for disclosure."

<u>Taboola, Inc. (Online Advertising)</u> Case Report #5708





How to Disclose: Where? How?











United States of America
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

Division of Advertising Practices Bureau of Consumer Protection

> Mary K. Engle Associate Director

> > June 24, 2013

[Name and Address]

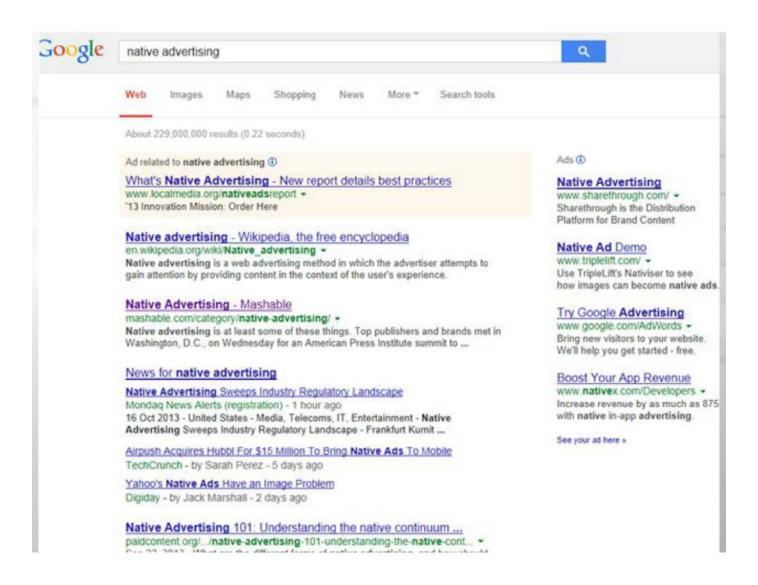
[Name]:

In 2002, the staff of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection published a letter ("2002 Search Engine Letter") advising search engines about the potential for consumers to be deceived, in violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act, unless search engines clearly and prominently distinguished advertising from natural search results. After the 2002 Search Engine Letter was issued, search engines embraced the letter's guidance and distinguished any paid search results or other advertising on their websites. Since then, however, we have observed a decline in compliance with the letter's guidance.

Although the ways in which search engines retrieve and present results, and the devices on which consumers view these results, are constantly evolving, the principles underlying the 2002 Search Engine letter remain the same: consumers ordinarily expect that natural search results are included and ranked based on relevance to a search query, not based on payment from a third party. Including or ranking a search result in whole or in part based on payment is a form of advertising. To avoid the potential for deception, consumers should be able to easily distinguish a natural search result from advertising that a search engine delivers.











Distinguishing Sponsored Search Hits from Natural Search Hits

- Disclose "Advertisement"
- Luminosity or contrasting background or borders
- Popping on different devices and different lighting conditions
- Text cue in prominent font directly above or to the left of an ad



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FTC Dot.Com Guidance

- Disclose the fact of sponsorship within the content or near to it
- Discourage scrolling
- Discourage hyperlinks for simple disclosure like sponsorship unless industry adopts a symbol that is recognized by consumers
- Disclosure must be clear and conspicuous on all devices and platforms

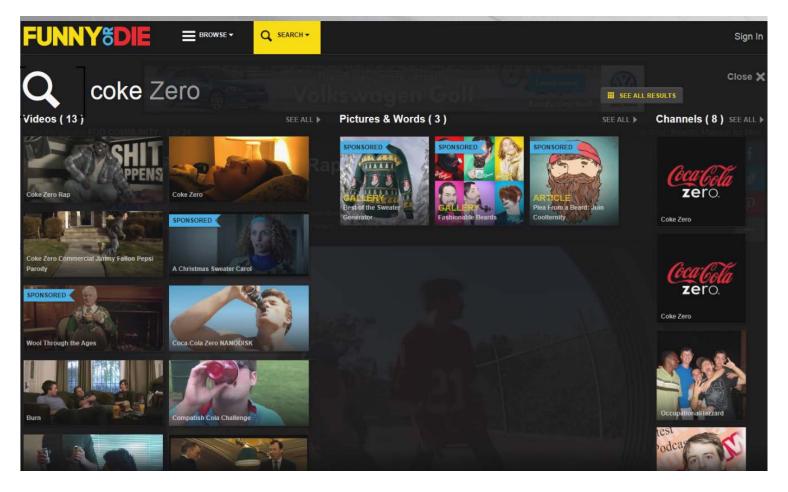








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American Society of Magazine Editors

October 22, 2013 mpa PROGRAMS & EVENTS NATIONAL MAGAZINE

ABOUT ASME

ASME NEXT

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

MAGAZINE COVER CONTEST

ASME INTERN BLOG

Follow ASME's Magazine Internship Program 2013 Summer Interns as they navigate the world of magazine interning

Sara Gentzler: A Small-Town Girl Who Can Travel the World

The Endo

Never Underestimate the Power of a Woman . . . or a Magazine &

SOCIAL MEDIA

Editorial Guidelines

ASME Guidelines for Editors and Publishers **Updated September 2013**

The ASME Guidelines for Editors and Publishers codify longstanding practices governing the relationship between editorial and advertising content. The guidelines ensure that practices commonly used by editors and publishers to prevent or resolve editorial-advertising conflicts are clearly understood and consistently applied throughout the consumer-magazine industry.

In a rapidly changing media environment, no set of rules can anticipate every issue, but these are the basic principles behind the ASME Guidelines for Editors and Publishers;

- Every reader is entitled to fair and accurate news and information
- The value of magazines to advertisers depends on reader trust
- The difference between editorial content and marketing messages must be transparent
- Editorial integrity must not be compromised by advertiser influence

ASME believes that adherence to these principles enhances the value of print and digital publications for readers and advertisers and protects the independence of magazine media.



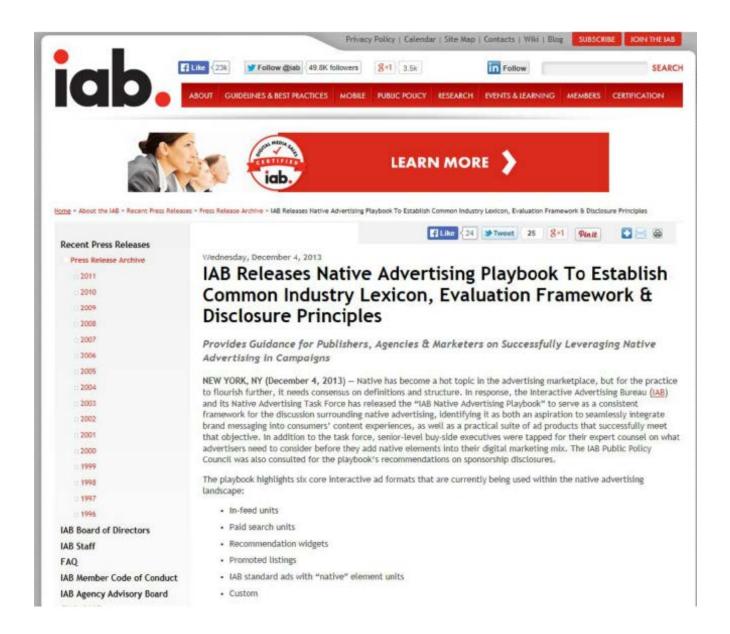


D2. Marketer-Provided Content and Native Advertising

- a. Marketer-provided content, including native advertising, should be prominently labeled as advertising, and the source of such content and the affiliation of the authors should be clearly acknowledged. The term "Sponsor Content," already in use on some websites, can be used to label native advertising.
- b. Native advertising should include a prominent statement or "What's This?" rollover at the top of the advertising unit explaining that the content has been created by a marketer and that the marketer has paid for its publication.
- c. Native advertising should not use type fonts and graphics resembling those used for editorial content and should be visually separated from editorial content.









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Sponsored Content by Taboola



MLB celebrates Jackie Robinson Day 67 years after his debut

fox sports

"Taboola has an obligation to clearly and conspicuously disclose when it is linking consumers to sponsored content"

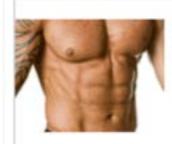
"NAD thus recommended that the advertiser modify its disclosure to increase the visibility of the 'Sponsored Content' or 'Promoted Content' disclosure in terms of font size, font color and boldness, as well as its placement on the page to make clear that the linked content is sponsored"

<u>Taboola, Inc. (Online</u> <u>Advertising)</u> Case Report #5708





Content Widgets – Same Rules for Disclosures?



#1 Rule to Build Muscle
Learn how a student gained 10
Lbs. of muscle by obeying this
one rule. Learn more



Top 3 Wrinkle Creams for 2009
Skin Secrets Revealed. Before you buy, see what's been voted the Top Wrinkle cream of the year! Learn more

Advertise on NYTimes.com

Advertisement



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Homeowners Are In For A Big Surprise...

Smart Life Weekly

"NAD cautioned that the combination of the thumbnail photograph, article title, and name of the destination site on Taboola's widget should convey a truthful and accurate message of the content to which consumers are linking. To the extent that a link does not accurately describe the content provided at the link, consumers can be misled."

<u>Taboola, Inc. (Online</u>
<u>Advertising)</u> Case Report #5708



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Federal Trade Commission



FTC Native Advertising Workshop on December 4, 2013 Will Explore the Blurring of Digital Ads With Digital Content

Interested parties can submit comments and requests to participate

The Federal Trade Commission will host a workshop on December 4, 2013 in Washington, DC to examine the practice of blending advertisements with news, entertainment, and other content in digital media, referred to as "native advertising" or "sponsored content."

Increasingly, advertisements that more closely resemble the content in which they are embedded are replacing banner advertisements – graphical images that typically are rectangular in shape – on publishers' websites and mobile applications. The workshop will bring together publishing and advertising industry representatives, consumer advocates, academics, and government regulators to explore changes in how paid messages are presented to consumers and consumers' recognition and understanding of these messages.

The workshop builds on previous Commission initiatives to help ensure that consumers can identify advertisements as advertising wherever they appear. This includes recent updates to the Search Engine Advertising quidance, the Dot Com Disclosures guidance, and the Endorsements and Testimonials Guides, as well as decades of law enforcement actions against infomercial producers and operators of fake news websites marketing products.

The FTC invites the public to submit original research, recommendations for topics of discussion, and requests to participate as panelists. The Commission also invites the submission of examples and mock-ups that can be used for illustration and discussion at the workshop. Topics the workshop may cover include:

 What is the origin and purpose of the wall between regular content and advertising, and what challenges do publishers face in maintaining that wall in digital media, including in the mobile environment?



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What Else Do You Need to Know?







2014 Top Developments

- Substantiation how will the FTC's new standards hold up in court – Basic Research, Pom Wonderful – and in the face of continued dissent from some Commissioners (Wright, Ohlhausen)
- Disclosures Has the FTC finally declared war on hard to read disclosures? Warning letters, numerous automobile dealer cases
- Redress Is it becoming "normal" How much is the FTC willing to leave companies/individuals with?





2014 Top Developments

- Chokepoint how far will the FTC go in holding third parties liable for advertiser's actions can they be liable for ordinary course activities or must they have been actively complicit in the fraud another area where the Commission is divided
- ROSCA have continuity programs become persona non grata?
- FTC and CFPB As the CFPB begins to expand its orbit of operations (e.g. recent *Sprint* case) will the cooperative attitude between the two agencies begin to fray? Will companies be the losers in any turf battle?
- Privacy as data breaches become almost routine, what will happen on the regulatory front? Will "unfairness" have new life?





2014 Top NAD Developments

- First Caselaw in Native Advertising (Shape Water, Taboola, Amex)
- Sponsored Search Results can be deceptive (Fareportal)
- Use of Online Reviews in Advertising Claims (Euro-Pro)
- Use of Seals can be deceptive (FuHu)
- Resurgence of Product Demo cases (L'Oreal, Dyson, etc.)





Amy Mudge

AMudge@Venable.com

202.344.4743

www.AllAboutAdvertisingLaw.com





