

1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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3 SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., :

4 LTD., ET AL., :

5 Petitioners : No. 15-777

6 v. :

7 APPLE, INC., :

8 Respondent. :

9 - - - - - x

10 Washington, D.C.

11 Tuesday, October 11, 2016

12

13 The above-entitled matter came on for oral
14 argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
15 at 10:05 a.m.

16 APPEARANCES:

17 KATHLEEN M. SULLIVAN, ESQ., New York, N.Y.; on behalf of
18 the Petitioners.

19 BRIAN H. FLETCHER, ESQ., Assistant to the Solicitor
20 General, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.;
21 for United States, as amicus curiae, supporting
22 neither party.

23 SETH P. WAXMAN, ESQ., Washington, D.C.; on behalf of the
24 Respondent.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(10:05 a.m.)

CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument first this morning in Case No. 15-777, Samsung Electronics v. Apple, Incorporated.

Ms. Sullivan.

ORAL ARGUMENT OF KATHLEEN M. SULLIVAN

ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS

MS. SULLIVAN: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please the Court:

A smartphone is smart because it contains hundreds of thousands of the technologies that make it work. But the Federal Circuit held that Section 289 of the Patent Act entitles the holder of a single design patent on a portion of the appearance of the phone to total profit on the entire phone.

That result makes no sense. A single design patent on the portion of the appearance of a phone should not entitle the design-patent holder to all the profit on the entire phone.

Section 289 does not require that result, and as this case comes to the Court on the briefing, Apple and the government now agree that Section 289 does not require that result. We respectfully ask that the Court hold that when a design patent claims a design

1 that is applied to a component of a phone or a component
2 of a product, or, to use the language of Section 289,
3 when a design patent is applied to an article of
4 manufacture within a multi-article product, we request
5 that you hold that Section 289 entitles the
6 patent-holder to total profit on the article of
7 manufacture to which the design patent is applied, and
8 not the profits on the total product.

9 JUSTICE KENNEDY: The problem is, is how to
10 instruct the jury on that point. Both parties, not the
11 government, both parties kind of leave it up and say,
12 oh, give it to the juror. If I were the juror, I simply
13 wouldn't know what to do under your -- under your test.

14 My preference, if -- if I were just making
15 another sensible rule, is we'd have market studies to
16 see how the -- the extent to which the design affected
17 the consumer, and then the jury would have something to
18 do that. But that's apportionment, which runs headlong
19 into the statute.

20 You can't really have apportionment, so it
21 seems to me you leave us with no -- one choice is to
22 have a de minimis exception, like the cup-holder example
23 that's in the car -- maybe the boat windshield, which is
24 a little more difficult -- and just follow the -- and
25 just follow the words of the statute. But it seems to

1 me neither side gives us an instruction to work with.

2 MS. SULLIVAN: Your Honor --

3 JUSTICE KENNEDY: One -- I mean, it's one
4 thing to leave it to the jury. It's the other thing --
5 if I were the juror, I wouldn't know what to do under
6 your brief.

7 MS. SULLIVAN: Your Honor, we do not propose
8 a test that simply leaves it to the jury without
9 guidance. The instruction we proposed and that was
10 rejected by the district court appears in the blue brief
11 at page 21, and what we would have told the jury is that
12 the article of manufacture to which a design has been
13 applied is the part or portion of the product as sold
14 that incorporates or embodies the subject matter of the
15 patent.

16 So, Justice Kennedy, our test is very
17 simple.

18 JUSTICE KENNEDY: If I'm the juror, I just
19 don't know what to do. I'd have the iPhone in the jury
20 room; I'd -- I'd look at it. I just wouldn't know.

21 MS. SULLIVAN: Your Honor, what we
22 respectfully suggest is that there are two parts to the
23 test for what constitutes an article of manufacture.
24 And to be clear, I'm now stressing our
25 article-of-manufacture argument, not the causation

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