

No. 15-\_\_\_\_\_

IN THE

**Supreme Court of the United States**

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD., SAMSUNG  
ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC., AND SAMSUNG  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMERICA, LLC,

*Petitioners,*

v.

APPLE INC.,

*Respondent.*

**On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Federal Circuit**

**PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI**

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December 14, 2015

WILSON-EPES PRINTING CO., INC. - (202) 789-0096 - WASHINGTON, D. C. 20002

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

Design patents are limited to “any new, original and ornamental design for an article of manufacture.” 35 U.S.C. 171. A design-patent holder may elect infringer’s profits as a remedy under 35 U.S.C. 289, which provides that one who “applies the patented design ... to any article of manufacture ... shall be liable to the owner to the extent of his total profit, ... but [the owner] shall not twice recover the profit made from the infringement.”

The Federal Circuit held that a district court need not exclude unprotected conceptual or functional features from a design patent’s protected ornamental scope. The court also held that a design-patent holder is entitled to an infringer’s entire profits from sales of any product found to contain a patented design, without any regard to the design’s contribution to that product’s value or sales. The combined effect of these two holdings is to reward design patents far beyond the value of any inventive contribution. The questions presented are:

1. Where a design patent includes unprotected non-ornamental features, should a district court be required to limit that patent to its protected ornamental scope?
2. Where a design patent is applied to only a component of a product, should an award of infringer’s profits be limited to those profits attributable to the component?

(i)

**RULE 29.6 STATEMENT**

Samsung Electronics America, Inc. (“SEA”) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (“SEC”), a publicly held corporation organized under the laws of the Republic of Korea. SEC is not owned by any parent corporation and no other publicly held corporation owns 10% or more of its stock. No other publicly held corporation owns 10% or more of SEA’s stock. Effective January 1, 2015, Samsung Telecommunications America, LLC (“STA”) merged with and into SEA, and therefore STA no longer exists as a separate corporate entity.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
QUESTIONS PRESENTED .....	i
RULE 29.6 STATEMENT .....	ii
INTRODUCTION .....	1
OPINIONS BELOW .....	3
JURISDICTION .....	4
CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS INVOLVED.....	4
STATEMENT OF THE CASE .....	4
A. Statutory Background.....	4
B. The Smartphone Industry.....	6
C. Apple’s Asserted Design Patents And Trade Dresses .....	10
D. The District Court Proceedings.....	14
E. The Federal Circuit Decision .....	17
REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT .....	20
I. THIS COURT SHOULD REVIEW THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT’S HOLDING THAT A DISTRICT COURT NEED NOT LIMIT A DESIGN PATENT TO ITS PRO- TECTED ORNAMENTAL SCOPE .....	21
A. The Decision Below Conflicts With Section 171 Of The Patent Act.....	21
B. The Decision Below Conflicts With This Court’s Precedents Requiring Judicial Construction Of Patent Claims.....	24

## TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

	Page
II. THIS COURT SHOULD REVIEW THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT’S HOLDING THAT DESIGN-PATENT OWNERS ARE ENTITLED TO ALL PROFITS FROM A PRODUCT THAT CONTAINS AN INFRINGING DESIGN.....	26
A. The Decision Below Conflicts With Section 289 Of The Patent Act And Prior Decisions.....	27
B. The Decision Below Conflicts With Background Principles Of Causation And Equity.....	32
III. THE DECISION BELOW PRESENTS ISSUES OF RECURRING AND NATIONWIDE IMPORTANCE .....	35
CONCLUSION .....	39
APPENDIX A – Federal Circuit Opinion (May 18, 2015).....	1a
APPENDIX B – District Court Order Regarding Design Patent Claim Construction (July 27, 2012).....	37a
APPENDIX C – District Court Order Granting In Part And Denying In Part Motion For Judgment As A Matter Of Law (January 29, 2013).....	56a
APPENDIX D – District Court Order Regarding Damages (March 1, 2013) .....	114a
APPENDIX E – Federal Circuit Order Denying Rehearing (August 13, 2015).....	154a

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