1	IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
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3	GLOBAL-TECH APPLIANCES, INC., :
4	ET AL., :
5	Petitioners : No. 10-6
6	v. :
7	SEB S.A. :
8	x
9	Washington, D.C.
L O	Wednesday, February 23, 2011
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L 2	The above-entitled matter came on for oral
L 3	argument before the Supreme Court of the United States
L 4	at 11:13 a.m.
L 5	APPEARANCES:
L6	WILLIAM DUNNEGAN, ESQ., New York, New York; on behalf of
L 7	Petitioners.
L8	R. TED CRUZ, ESQ., Houston, Texas; on behalf of
L9	Respondent.
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22	
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24	
25	

1	CONTENTS	
2	ORAL ARGUMENT OF	PAGE
3	WILLIAM DUNNEGAN, ESQ.	
4	On behalf of the Petitioners	3
5	ORAL ARGUMENT OF	
6	R. TED CRUZ, ESQ.	
7	On behalf of the Respondent	27
8	REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF	
9	WILLIAM DUNNEGAN, ESQ.	
10	On behalf of the Petitioners	53
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	(11:13 a.m.)
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: We'll hear argument
4	next this morning in Case 10-6, Global-Tech Appliances
5	v. SEB S.A.
6	Mr. Dunnegan.
7	ORAL ARGUMENT OF WILLIAM DUNNEGAN
8	ON BEHALF OF PETITIONERS
9	MR. DUNNEGAN: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
10	please the Court:
11	The standard for the state of mind element
12	for a claim for inducing patent infringement should be:
13	Did the accused inducer have a purpose to induce a third
14	party to engage in acts that the accused inducer knew
15	infringed the patent? That's what I'll call the
16	purposeful, culpable test.
17	The Federal Circuit applied a standard of
18	whether Pentalpha was deliberately indifferent to a
19	known risk that a patent may exist. The Federal
20	Circuit's deliberate indifference test was not a willful
21	blindness test. Willful blindness would have required
22	both an awareness of a high probability that a patent
23	would exist and a deliberate effort to avoid learning
24	the truth.
25	JUSTICE SCALIA: And that's okay, as far as

- 1 you're concerned? You would consider that comes within
- 2 your first test?
- 3 MR. DUNNEGAN: Your Honor, deliberate
- 4 indifference would not fall --
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: Would not, but willful
- 6 blindness would?
- 7 MR. DUNNEGAN: No, Your Honor. Willful
- 8 blindness would not fall within our purposeful, culpable
- 9 test.
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: So even willful blindness
- 11 wouldn't be enough?
- 12 MR. DUNNEGAN: Willful blindness in not a
- 13 purpose, Your Honor.
- 14 JUSTICE GINSBURG: You said that the
- 15 particular patent -- the defendant would have to know
- 16 that the device infringed the particular patent. I
- 17 think that would be a standard that would be impossible
- 18 to meet. We have to know if it was patent number,
- 19 whatever it was, '312.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Well, you wouldn't have to
- 21 know the patent number, Your Honor, but what you would
- 22 have to know is that your -- the product which you are
- 23 inducing a third party to make, use, or sell would be
- 24 within the scope of a -- of the claims of a particular
- 25 patent. If you don't know that, then you're

- 1 literally --
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you can keep yourself
- 3 ignorant of it. I mean, for example, you pointed out
- 4 that the -- that the device that was copied was
- 5 purchased in Hong Kong, so it didn't have any marking,
- 6 but the same Pentalpha could have bought the device in
- 7 Montgomery Ward, looked to see if it had a patent
- 8 marking; didn't do that.
- 9 MR. DUNNEGAN: It didn't do that, Your
- 10 Honor. What it did was better. It hired a United
- 11 States patent attorney to conduct a search to see if
- 12 there was any patent which was infringed.
- 13 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But didn't tell that
- 14 patent attorney that they had reverse-engineered a
- 15 particular product. If the attorney had been told this
- 16 device copied the SEB fryer, isn't it 99 and 44/100ths
- 17 percent sure that the attorney then would have found
- 18 this patent?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: We don't know, Your Honor.
- 20 We don't know why the patent search failed. It could
- 21 have failed for a number of reasons.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But I didn't ask you
- 23 about this patent search. I said if they had told the
- 24 patent attorney we have copied a particular fryer, it's
- 25 SEB's fryer, now find out if it infringed any patent --

- 1 do you think an attorney would not have found the SEB
- 2 patent?
- 3 MR. DUNNEGAN: It's possible that he
- 4 wouldn't have. Maybe it's more probable that he would
- 5 have. There's just no evidence on that in the record,
- 6 Your Honor.
- 7 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, why -- why wouldn't
- 8 you tell him? If you're -- if you're honestly
- 9 interested in finding out whether there is a patent that
- 10 you're infringing, why wouldn't you tell me the reason
- 11 we're concerned is that we have reverse-engineered this
- 12 from somebody else's product? Just check to see if SEB
- has a patent on any of this stuff that we've
- 14 reverse-engineered. That's what I would have done.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Your Honor, maybe that's what
- 16 you would have done. Maybe that's what I would have
- 17 done, but there's no -- but the standard of that
- 18 business -- what they had done in the past was to give
- 19 their design drawings to the patent attorney and say
- 20 objectively check these design drawings. Their practice
- 21 was not to notify the attorney.
- 22 JUSTICE SCALIA: Was their practice to
- 23 reverse-engineer from other people's products?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes --
- 25 JUSTICE SCALIA: I mean, I can understand

- 1 when you have a new product of your own; of course, you
- 2 just give it to an attorney. But when you have
- 3 reverse-engineered, not to tell them that it was
- 4 reversed-engineered seems to me really trying to keep
- 5 yourself in the dark. What you want to get from the
- 6 attorney is a piece of paper that he can show to
- 7 Montgomery Ward that, yes, this product is not -- as it
- 8 turns out, Montgomery Ward did accept it and got hit
- 9 with liability for infringing a patent. I -- I find
- 10 that really incredible that, in an honest attempt to
- 11 find whether there was any patent infringement going on,
- 12 you wouldn't even tell the patent attorney that you've
- 13 reverse-engineered somebody else's product.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Your Honor, looking back at
- 15 this in hindsight, there's -- there's no question that
- if they had to do it again, they would have taken the
- 17 additional step.
- 18 But --
- JUSTICE SCALIA: No, they wouldn't.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: No -- well, from an objective
- 21 perspective, Your Honor, if you're giving the design to
- 22 the -- to the attorney and you're saying do a complete
- 23 search, it seems to me that that's the antithesis of
- 24 being willful blind, because you're hiring a specialist
- 25 to go out and look for the answer for you. Now, the

- 1 gold standard was not met, but the gold standard would
- 2 rarely be met in any of these cases.
- JUSTICE ALITO: But your position is that
- 4 even willful blindness is not enough. You have to have
- 5 actual knowledge that -- that the item is patented,
- 6 right?
- 7 MR. DUNNEGAN: That is correct, Your Honor.
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: So if the attorney had
- 9 called up your client and said, I have an answer for
- 10 you, and the client said, well, you know what, on second
- 11 thought, I really don't want to know, because if I -- if
- 12 I have actual knowledge, that may put me in a box; so
- 13 forget about it. Then there's no liability.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Well, I would disagree in
- 15 that situation, because most probably the knowledge of
- 16 the attorney in that situation, because he has been
- 17 hired by the client, would be imputed to the client. So
- 18 I could see a different result in the hypothetical that
- 19 you posited.
- 20 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Why would we -- wouldn't
- 21 the rule that you're setting forth, willful blindness
- 22 not being a part of it, mean that nobody would ever get
- 23 a patent search, because what would be the inducement to
- 24 do that?
- 25 MR. DUNNEGAN: Well, Your Honor, right now,

- 1 under -- under the Seagate case in the Federal Circuit,
- 2 there is no inducement to go get a patent search. Under
- 3 the Seagate decision, if a party --
- 4 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: No, but you're not
- 5 presumed to copy other people's items, which is the
- 6 difference.
- 7 Is there -- let me just ask you something.
- 8 Assuming we were to find the willful blindness test to
- 9 actual knowledge, the facts of your case, the fact that
- 10 they did not give the name of the product that they
- 11 copied to their patent attorney, is that just, as a
- 12 matter of law, willful blindness?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: No, Your Honor, I don't think
- 14 that is willful blindness as a matter of law. Willful
- 15 blindness under the -- under the Santos standard has two
- 16 distinct elements. One would be that there's a high
- 17 probability that there would have been a patent on that
- 18 particular product.
- 19 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Do patents -- are
- 20 patents -- can you do a patent search on the basis of
- 21 the name of the holder?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes, you can, Your Honor.
- 23 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: And the product that
- 24 they copied, did it have the name of the holder of the
- 25 patent?

- 1 MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes, it did, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So what is the
- 3 likelihood that if they had actually given the attorney
- 4 the name of the product, that he would not have found
- 5 the patent?
- 6 MR. DUNNEGAN: We don't know for sure, but
- 7 the probability would be greater than 50 percent, Your
- 8 Honor.
- 9 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I think it would be
- 10 probably 90 percent, assuming -- because there's always
- 11 errors in searches. So --
- 12 JUSTICE KENNEDY: But didn't we take this
- 13 case to determine whether or not deliberate indifference
- 14 is the standard? I mean, willful blindness -- I don't
- 15 think an opinion for this Court has ever sustained.
- 16 Santos was a judgment -- was not a majority opinion.
- 17 That's just a subset of knowledge.
- 18 If we leave that out from it, isn't the
- 19 dichotomy that you present to us the difference between
- 20 deliberate indifference and knowledge or --
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Purpose.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: -- or purposeful, culpable
- 23 expression, the -- the Grokster standard?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes. The -- well, I think to
- 25 answer the question presented in a cert petition, you

- 1 really need to determine what the standard is. Now, I
- 2 think we can also decide that it should not be -- or we
- 3 can agree that it should not be a deliberate
- 4 indifference to a known risk that a patent exists,
- 5 because that would be met in virtually every situation
- 6 where there was not actual knowledge of a patent.
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: When I look at the language
- 8 of the statute, I see no scienter requirement
- 9 whatsoever. Whoever actively induces infringement of
- 10 the patent -- infringement is strict liability. So if
- 11 you actively induce somebody to engage in conduct
- 12 constituting infringement, you're -- you're liable as an
- 13 inducer.
- 14 MR. DUNNEGAN: Let me explain to you why
- 15 your -- why the language of the statute should not
- 16 support the interpretation which Your Honor just gave.
- 17 Let's begin with the word "induces."
- 18 "Induces" connotes some degree of intent, arguably.
- 19 Mr. Cruz agrees with that at page 20 of his brief. If
- 20 you put the word "actively" in front of the word
- 21 "induces," then you have a heightened intent standard --
- JUSTICE ALITO: You have intent, but intent
- 23 to do what?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Exactly, Your Honor. That
- 25 brings you to the word "infringement" in the statute.

- 1 Now, I think it's critical that (b) uses the word
- 2 "infringement." It does not go back to (a) and say
- 3 anyone who actively induces the making, using, selling
- 4 of a patent device is an infringer.
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: What difference does that
- 6 make? Because making, using, and selling equals
- 7 infringement.
- 8 MR. DUNNEGAN: Because those are the acts,
- 9 Your Honor. If Congress's intent had been to say we
- 10 only want to induce acts, it would seem to me the
- 11 clearest way they could say that is to say "making,
- 12 using, or selling." If they wanted to create a standard
- 13 which was inducing the actual infringement of a patent,
- 14 as opposed to the acts which constitute the
- infringement, then they use the word "infringement."
- JUSTICE ALITO: Well, I don't see that. And
- 17 not only that, I don't understand why the scienter
- 18 requirement for inducing should be higher than the
- 19 scienter requirement for a direct infringement. Isn't
- 20 the standard rule for aiding and abetting that the aider
- 21 and abetter -- if (b) is an aiding and abetting
- 22 provision, as one of the congressional reports said, the
- 23 -- the scienter for aiding and abetting is the scienter
- of the underlying offense? So if the underlying offense
- 25 is a strict liability offense, then the inducement

- 1 should be strict liability as well.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: That's not necessarily clear,
- 3 Your Honor. When you look at 18 U.S.C. section 2,
- 4 there's very little case law dealing with strict
- 5 liability offense and inducements of those. We have
- 6 been able to identify one Sixth Circuit case from 1989
- 7 which deals with the issue, and in that case, it holds
- 8 that there's actually a purpose to -- a purpose to cause
- 9 the underlying crime or violation, not necessarily
- 10 strict liability, not strict liability.
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is your --
- MR. DUNNEGAN: I --
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'm sorry.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: No, please, Your Honor.
- 15 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is your position
- 16 when you're -- when you're talking about willful
- 17 blindness or purpose, whatever, is that with respect to
- 18 a particular patent, or is it with respect to
- 19 infringement of a patent?
- I don't think it's true with deep fryers,
- 21 but in some areas, you almost always know you're going
- 22 to hit something, that given the nature of the industry,
- 23 you're going to infringe something. Is that enough?
- 24 MR. DUNNEGAN: If there is an area -- for
- 25 example, semiconductors, where some amici have stated

- 1 that there's -- there's 420,000 patents dealing with
- 2 semiconductors. And you know that, and you know that if
- 3 you do virtually anything, and especially if you copy,
- 4 you're going to hit a semiconductor patent owned by
- 5 somebody, I think that, in that rare situation,
- 6 knowledge that you're infringing someone's intellectual
- 7 property rights should probably be enough of a -- of a
- 8 directed intent. If you -- that would be the basis for
- 9 inferring a purpose.
- 10 But here, we have to --
- 11 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But that's -- I
- 12 mean, I understand you're in the deep fryer industry,
- 13 but that standard would bring the semiconductor industry
- 14 to a halt.
- 15 MR. DUNNEGAN: No. No, Your Honor. If you
- 16 copied a semiconductor and you knew that there were
- 17 420,000 patents that were unexpired out there, that
- 18 would make it -- if you didn't do your -- your
- 19 diligence, perhaps --
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I think the -- the
- 21 problem is, even if you do do your diligence, given the
- 22 way patents are these days, if there are 420,000, you're
- 23 never going to know with any degree of comfort that
- 24 you're not going to infringe something.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: That is very, very true, Your

- 1 Honor. And even in the -- in the deep-fryer industry,
- 2 it is going to be different, because there's very few --
- 3 I mean, compared to semiconductors --
- 4 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, we're not going to
- 5 adopt a special rule for the deep-fryer industry.
- 6 (Laughter.)
- 7 MR. DUNNEGAN: Agreed.
- JUSTICE SCALIA: Especially --
- 9 MR. DUNNEGAN: Completely agreed.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But we might decide
- 11 that it's more important to consider what's going to
- 12 happen to the semiconductor industry in articulating our
- 13 standard than what's going to happen to the deep-fryer
- 14 industry.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: That's exactly correct, Your
- 16 Honor.
- 17 (Laughter.)
- 18 MR. DUNNEGAN: That's exactly correct. And
- 19 on balance -- I think there's one point that I should
- 20 make sooner rather than later, and it's is the standard
- 21 that I'm -- the standard that we are proposing is not
- 22 unique to us. It's the -- it's the standard that
- 23 Grokster developed. And with respect to willful
- 24 blindness, we believe that the standard -- the balance
- 25 was already struck, and it was struck in favor of

- 1 eliminating a willful blindness standard.
- 2 I'd like to --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Dunnegan, suppose I
- 4 disagree with you on that, and suppose I think that
- 5 actual knowledge of a patent or willful blindness as to
- 6 whether a patent exists is the right standard. Could a
- 7 reasonable jury have found that in this case?
- 8 MR. DUNNEGAN: We don't think that a
- 9 reasonable jury could have found willful blindness
- 10 because, first of all, there wasn't a high probability
- 11 that a patent would be found. Second, we do not think
- 12 that there was active --
- 13 JUSTICE KAGAN: A reasonable jury couldn't
- 14 have looked at the facts that Justice Ginsburg
- 15 suggested -- you know, you do not tell the lawyer that
- 16 you, in fact, have copied the product and say that's --
- 17 a reasonable jury -- that's willful blindness.
- 18 MR. DUNNEGAN: I don't think so, Your Honor,
- 19 because what we have done in that situation was, first,
- 20 we have done more than the law required. We went out to
- 21 get a patent. We gave the lawyer our actual patent
- 22 drawings and tell him to do his work.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: But if you really wanted
- 24 to know, wouldn't you have gone into Montgomery Ward and
- 25 bought one of the fryers and turned it around to see if

- 1 it had a patent number on it?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Your Honor, we have so many
- 3 products that you couldn't practically expect the
- 4 company to do that, I don't think.
- 5 JUSTICE SCALIA: Listen, the -- the reason
- 6 you got the opinion from the lawyer was -- was not to
- 7 make sure that there were no patents. It was to show
- 8 that opinion to Montgomery Ward.
- 9 MR. DUNNEGAN: But your -- your --
- 10 JUSTICE SCALIA: As a practical matter, you
- 11 needed an opinion from a lawyer, because otherwise,
- 12 Montgomery Ward was not going to sell this stuff.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Your Honor, I take issue with
- 14 you for the following reason: I don't think there was
- 15 any intention on the part of our client to -- to
- 16 infringe a patent at all, because if it knew about the
- 17 patent, it could have designed around it if it knew what
- 18 it was doing. There's no benefit to our client of
- 19 getting Montgomery Ward or Sunbeam or Fingerhut in
- 20 trouble for patenting infringement. We really want to
- 21 know what patents are out there.
- 22 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But isn't -- isn't it
- 23 true that Sunbeam was the party that asked for the
- 24 patent search?
- 25 MR. DUNNEGAN: I don't believe that's in the

- 1 record, Your Honor. I believe the record shows that
- 2 Sunbeam was given a copy of the patent search, but
- 3 Mr. Sham testified -- and I believe this is about at
- 4 page 50 of the joint appendix -- that the purpose of the
- 5 search was to find out whether or not there was an
- 6 infringement of any patent through this deep fryer.
- 7 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And there's nothing in
- 8 the record that says who -- who asked Pentalpha --
- 9 MR. DUNNEGAN: Not that I'm aware of, Your
- 10 Honor.
- 11 JUSTICE GINSBURG: -- to get -- to get a
- 12 letter?
- 13 JUSTICE ALITO: If this is not willful
- 14 blindness, I don't know what willful blindness is. Now,
- 15 maybe you can explain what more would have been required
- 16 to permit a reasonable jury to find willful blindness.
- 17 MR. DUNNEGAN: Okay. I think you'd need two
- 18 things, Your Honor. The first that you would need is
- 19 evidence that they were going to bump into a patent if
- 20 they -- if they proceeded. Is there the high
- 21 probability of finding a patent?
- Now, if you -- if you just consciously avoid
- 23 knowledge in the absence of a high probability, that's
- 24 not willful blindness. That's not even culpable.
- JUSTICE ALITO: But your client -- I don't

- 1 know whether you're using your time most effectively by
- 2 arguing this point, but your client thought that making
- 3 a deep fryer that wouldn't burn people's hands if they
- 4 touched it would be profitable, because there wasn't a
- 5 lot of competition in that market. This was a useful
- 6 product and apparently one that was different from other
- 7 deep fryers. Isn't that in itself -- doesn't that in
- 8 itself suggest, gee, there might be a patent on -- on
- 9 this?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: No, I -- well, is there --
- JUSTICE ALITO: One company is making this
- 12 and it seems to be better than what the other companies
- 13 are making; maybe it might be patented.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Your Honor, the record is
- 15 that there were six or so deep fryers which were the
- 16 cool-touch deep fryers which they -- which they used as
- 17 references. SEB was not the only cool-touch deep fryer
- 18 that was available.
- Now, to turn back to the issue of whether or
- 20 not Grokster actually found that willful --
- 21 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Before -- before you pass
- that question, then why as in '607 did they pick the SEB
- 23 fryer to reverse-engineer?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: They reverse -- they looked
- 25 at all of them, Your Honor. They reverse-engineered all

- 1 of them. If you look at --
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And then they copied the
- 3 design of the SEB.
- 4 MR. DUNNEGAN: Actually, Your Honor, they
- 5 improved it. There's functional features that went
- 6 beyond and were better than what were in the SEB
- 7 product. For example, they used better metal to make
- 8 the cast iron pan. They put the --
- 9 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But there was a finding
- 10 that it was an infringement, that the Pentalpha fryer
- 11 infringed the SEB.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: The jury did find that, Your
- 13 Honor.
- 14 JUSTICE KAGAN: Mr. Dunnegan, could I take
- 15 you to the standard? Because in Aro II we said that the
- 16 appropriate standard in subsection (c) was actual
- 17 knowledge. Why shouldn't we just say it's the same?
- 18 Whether it is (b) or (c), these are just two means of --
- 19 of doing a contributory infringement, and the
- 20 knowledge/willful blindness standard, once we've said it
- 21 applies to (c), it applies to (b) as well?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: The reason that you shouldn't
- 23 take the standard from (c) is because (c) deals with
- 24 nonstaples and (b) deals with staples. Someone can be
- 25 liable under (b) if they -- if they sell a staple

- 1 article of commerce, when they can't be libel under (c),
- 2 even if they meet -- even if they meet the higher --
- 3 even they meet the state of mind element under (c),
- 4 which is knowing the patent and knowing that the
- 5 combination would be an infringement. Therefore, to
- 6 make sure that (b) does not swallow (c), it's very
- 7 important that (b) have a higher state of mind.
- 8 JUSTICE KAGAN: No, (b) and (c) have
- 9 different standards as to -- not the knowledge of the
- 10 patent but -- but what the person is -- the acts that
- 11 constitute infringement. But that's a different thing
- 12 from whether they should have different standards as to
- 13 the knowledge of the patent.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Well, when you say there's
- 15 different standards, the sale of an -- of a staple
- 16 article under (b) in itself with a proper state of mind
- 17 can be an inducement. The sale of a nonstaple article
- 18 with certain additional conditions can be a violation of
- 19 (c). The action element for (b) and (c) is -- is
- 20 essentially the same for the sale of components, and it
- 21 wouldn't make any sense to raise it for (b) because all
- 22 you would be doing in that situation is -- is
- 23 encompassing sellers that were helping their customers
- 24 do business more effectively, and you wouldn't be
- 25 getting any more bad guys.

- 1 The purpose of (b) is let's get the morally
- 2 culpable actors. Now --
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: I had thought that you
- 4 wanted us to take the knowing standard in (c) and apply
- 5 it to (b).
- 6 MR. DUNNEGAN: No, Your Honor, I --
- 7 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Correct me if I'm wrong.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: No, more than that.
- 9 MR. DUNNEGAN: I would think you have to go
- 10 with the Grokster standard, Your Honor. And the reason
- 11 for that is, one, in Grokster you found what the state
- 12 of mind standard was for inducing infringement under
- 13 (b), and you moved that into the copyright law. Then,
- 14 under the --
- JUSTICE KAGAN: But, Mr. Dunnegan, in
- 16 Grokster, there was no question as to whether they knew
- 17 that the -- that the things were copyrighted.
- 18 MR. DUNNEGAN: That was conceded in that
- 19 case, Your Honor. Yes.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: So why is Grokster relevant
- 21 here? They conceded the very thing that we're arguing
- 22 over.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Well, it's -- it's
- 24 relevant because it deals with the standard what is --
- 25 what is the state of mind element for inducing copyright

- 1 infringement.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: And you say it's
- 3 purposeful, culpable.
- 4 MR. DUNNEGAN: Purposeful, culpable conduct
- 5 -- yes.
- 6 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: And why is that --
- 7 how is that different from knowing? I -- I -- my
- 8 impression was the same as Justice Kennedy's. I thought
- 9 you wanted the knowing standard.
- 10 MR. DUNNEGAN: Knowing, well -- the way I
- 11 understand knowing, Your Honor, is that in Sony, for
- 12 example, there was no liability even though Sony knew
- 13 that some people were going to use the VCR to infringe
- 14 copyrighted works. That was collateral damage even
- 15 though they knew it; it wasn't the basis for liability.
- In Grokster, the basis for liability was
- 17 even though the defendant knew that there were going to
- 18 be some infringements, it couldn't be liable for
- 19 contributory copyright infringement, the equivalent of
- 20 271(c), because there was substantial noninfringing uses
- 21 for the Grokster software. Grokster was -- was allowed
- 22 to be found liable because the defendants had a -- a
- 23 culpable objective -- they had a culpable purpose, or at
- least a jury could so find, that they wanted to
- 25 encourage infringements.

- 1 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I'm -- I'm a little
- 2 confused. If you knew that there was a patent under
- 3 (b), and you still gave the fryer -- patented the fryer
- 4 that you know it is a patented fryer to Montgomery Ward
- 5 or Sunbeam to sell, you're not liable under (b), because
- 6 why? What act of yours was not purposeful?
- 7 MR. DUNNEGAN: Your Honor, I believe the
- 8 first sentence of your question was if you knew that
- 9 there was a patent. Is that a hypothetical?
- 10 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Yes.
- 11 MR. DUNNEGAN: Okay. If we knew that there
- 12 was a patent and we knew the claims of the patent and we
- 13 read them and we --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, we'll go as to --
- 15 let's -- let's just stop there. Justice Kennedy and I
- 16 believe the Chief have asked you, isn't your entire
- 17 argument that we should move the knowing knowledge of
- 18 (c) into (b)? And you said no.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: No.
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Explain to me --
- 21 MR. DUNNEGAN: Because it should be -- it
- 22 should be higher. It should be the Grokster standard of
- 23 purposeful, culpable conduct. And -- me the reason for
- 24 that --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Well, then explain to

- 1 me --2 MR. DUNNEGAN: Okay. 3 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- what's not purposeful 4 or knowing -- what's not purposeful, culpable conduct, if you know there's a patent or -- you can decide 5 whether knowledge includes willful blindness or not, but 6 7 it's not my issue. If you know there's a patent and you 8 give the product to someone else to sell, how can you not be culpable for it? 9 10 MR. DUNNEGAN: Because, Your Honor, if --11 you could or you could not be, depending on what your 12 purpose is with respect to infringement. If you had a legal opinion which told you that the sale of that 13 14 product would not infringe the patent, then you wouldn't 15 have a purposeful --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: So you're introducing a mistake of law defense to knowledge. You're saying, I
- 18 really didn't know that it was unlawful. I knew that
- 19 there was a patent, but I really thought that it wasn't
- 20 a legal patent, so I was going to violate what I know
- 21 wasn't legal. Is that what you're saying?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Well, not exactly, Your
- 23 Honor, because if you're reaching the conclusion that
- 24 the product is not within the scope of the claims of the
- 25 patent, I don't think that's law. That's fact. The

- 1 reason it's not law is that -- it couldn't be repealed.
- 2 It's -- you can't pass a law abrogating a patent.
- 3 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, you're
- 4 talking --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Why do you get off the
- 6 hook for making a mistake of law?
- 7 MR. DUNNEGAN: A mistake of law -- generally
- 8 you don't get off the hook. What we have here is a
- 9 mistake of fact concerning the scope of the claim of the
- 10 patent. Now, granted, under --
- 11 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: You would never have any
- 12 patents enforced under your theory.
- 13 MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes, we would, Your Honor.
- 14 Let's take the situation that there was a prior
- 15 adjudication that the direct infringer was directly
- 16 infringing. Let's take the situation where there's
- 17 going to be advertising which references the patents, as
- 18 there was in Grokster and says go infringe it. Let's
- 19 take the situation where there's internal documents at
- 20 the company suggesting that there is a purpose to
- 21 infringe, as there was in Grokster.
- 22 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: But if you're -- I'm
- 23 sorry. I do not want to interfere with your time.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: No, Your Honor. Please.
- 25 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I'll wait.

1	MR. DUNNEGAN: If the Court has no further
2	questions, I would like to reserve my time.
3	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
4	Mr. Cruz.
5	ORAL ARGUMENT OF R. TED CRUZ
6	ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT
7	MR. CRUZ: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
8	please the Court:
9	Whatever test that this Court adopts for
10	inducing infringement, the central objective of that
11	test will be to separate culpable bad actors from
12	innocent corporate behavior actors. And by any measure,
13	Pentalpha in this case was a culpable bad actor. In
14	fact, we've got really extraordinary testimony in this
15	case
16	JUSTICE KAGAN: So would you have any
17	objection to an actual knowledge willful blindness
18	standard? Would that be all right with you?
19	MR. CRUZ: I think that is one of multiple
20	standards this Court could adopt if this Court were to
21	adopt actual knowledge. I do not think actual knowledge
22	is in the statute, but if this Court were to adopt
23	actual knowledge and conclude also that willful
24	blindness is a long-recognized means of demonstrating
25	actual knowledge, that would support the judgment.

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: I take it that we would do
2	that on the basis of Aro II? We would just say that's
3	the standard for (c) and that should be the statement
4	for (b)?
5	MR. CRUZ: Respectfully, Justice Kagan, I
6	don't think that would be an interpretation that is
7	faithful to the text of 271. There is an enormous
8	difference between 271(c) and 271(b). 271(c) includes
9	the word knowing. 271(b) does not include the word
10	knowing and your question assumes essentially
11	JUSTICE KAGAN: Well, 271(c) includes the
12	word knowing, you have to know that an item has no
13	noninfringing uses. That is a different kind of
14	knowledge than the knowledge that we are talking about
15	here.
16	MR. CRUZ: Respectfully, in Aro II what the
17	Court did and it was, as you know, a splintered majority
18	in Aro II where the dissenters flipped back and forth,
19	but with the particular paragraph that addressed the
20	holding on what had to be demonstrated, the Court
21	concluded that that word knowing effectively modified
22	both the knowledge that the nonstaple article had no
23	noninfringing use and, and that it would cause the
24	infringement. That is how the Court read knowing, as

modifying everything that follows it in 271(c).

25

1	JUSTICE KAGAN: And because of the
2	infringement, but not necessarily that there was a
3	patent, not necessarily the legal effect as opposed to
4	the act.
5	MR. CRUZ: Well, that is necessarily part of
6	what the Court held in 271(c). And I would agree, this
7	would be a very, very different case if 271(b) had the
8	word knowing. I mean Aro in many ways was a much easier
9	case, but the question is do you have to demonstrate
10	that something is knowing and the statute says it must
11	be knowing, then that is
12	JUSTICE BREYER: How do you say, I am not
13	certain that willful blindness would support the
14	conclusion below. The standard, the district court or
15	the trial court said really, negligence, as I read it.
16	The circuit said deliberate disregard of a known risk.
17	Well, how much of a risk? I mean, the business world
18	there is always a risk and we are talking about a
19	complicated world, probably quite a lot of risk. And so
20	I think that standard would create a great deal of
21	uncertainty. Willful blindness has a tradition. So are
22	you okay with willful blindness and we say we are afraid
23	they did not do it, i.e., we are afraid, we do not know
24	what they really meant here and so send it back and do
25	it again. I am sure you wouldn't be overjoyed. But do

- 1 you think that would be a reasonable result?
- 2 MR. CRUZ: I think if the conclusion were to
- 3 send it back and do it again, I don't think that would
- 4 be a reasonable result.
- 5 JUSTICE BREYER: What are you supposed to
- 6 say known risk, sure he says he looked at five. And he
- 7 says anybody can figure this thing out, all you do is
- 8 put the little gizmos between the two sides, you know,
- 9 and you have an inside and outside and you just suspend
- 10 the inside with little bars of some kind. I do not know
- 11 what, chewing gum or something, and he says anybody
- 12 could figure that out, it couldn't possibly be bad. And
- 13 so that is their view, but how much of a risk, they will
- 14 say little risk, big risk. So you see why I think we
- 15 should send it back. Now you tell me why that is not --
- MR. CRUZ: That is what they argued to the
- 17 jury and that's --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I am not saying they are
- 19 right in that, I bet they would lose. But my problem is
- 20 do I accept the words deliberate disregard of the known
- 21 risk or do I say the more traditional accompaniment to
- 22 knowledge is willful blindness, which for all its
- 23 obscurity, at least has a history.
- MR. CRUZ: The jury heard those arguments,
- 25 the jury rejected those arguments. The argument that

- 1 was presented to the jury, although the precise words
- 2 willful blindness weren't used, the argument that was
- 3 presented to the jury was willful blindness argument.
- 4 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: How was the jury
- 5 instructed?
- 6 MR. CRUZ: What the jury was instructed was
- 7 several things and the jury instructions are at RA 26
- 8 and 27. The jury instruction that was used, by the way,
- 9 was the model jury instruction that has been used since
- 10 1998, has been unchanged and has included largely this
- 11 language since 1998 over and over again. That is the
- 12 jury instruction we are dealing with.
- 13 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I am still waiting
- 14 to hear what it was?
- MR. CRUZ: It is a complicated instruction,
- 16 so part of what --
- 17 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, I thought
- 18 there was some question about that it was so low that it
- in effect amounted to a negligence standard.
- 20 MR. CRUZ: That is part of the argument
- 21 Pentalpha presents. I don't believe that is accurate.
- 22 Number one, the jury was instructed that plaintiff had
- 23 to prove by preponderance of the evidence that defendant
- 24 actively and knowingly aided and abetting the direct
- 25 infringement. That is part of the instruction. That

- 1 they actively and knowingly.
- 2 JUSTICE GINSBURG: Where are you reading
- 3 from, Mr. Cruz?
- 4 MR. CRUZ: RA 26 and 27. It is the end of
- 5 the red brief.
- 6 JUSTICE BREYER: I don't think that is the
- 7 part they are complaining about.
- 8 JUSTICE KENNEDY: It is in the red brief,
- 9 the Respondent's brief, page 26, toward the bottom it
- 10 says if you find, I have a problem that I do not know
- 11 that they preserved this objection, but let's talk about
- 12 what the standard ought to be. At the bottom it says,
- 13 if you find that the someone has directly infringed a
- 14 patent and that the defendants knew or should have known
- 15 that its actions would induce direct infringement. So
- 16 this means to me that in order to be liable for an
- 17 inducement you can be liable if you knew or should have
- 18 known. Now, if we can just discuss this for a moment.
- 19 It seems to me that this is the important point in the
- 20 case because if you say should have known, then you have
- 21 a standard that is less than intentional for inducers.
- 22 And that means that every supplier, every business
- 23 person that takes a product from a manufacturer has the
- 24 duty to inquire and to find out if there is a patent.
- 25 And it is a standard that is less than intentional and

- 1 that is a very substantial change or a very substantial
- 2 burden to impose on those who are selling and
- 3 distributing products.
- 4 MR. CRUZ: Justice Kennedy, I don't believe
- 5 that is correct. Number one, we are certainly not
- 6 advocating a general burden on all producers to do a
- 7 patent search. That is not remotely the position we are
- 8 presenting.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, if you say should
- 10 have known, that is the necessary consequence of the
- 11 holding.
- MR. CRUZ: What I would suggest the import
- of that language is, is to allow constructive knowledge.
- 14 Is to allow essentially willful blindness, which was the
- 15 entire way it was argued to the jury.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: Well, as you say, willful
- 17 blindness was never used really until this Court and
- 18 this Court has never in a full opinion for the Court
- 19 adopted it even in the criminal context. So can we talk
- 20 about knowing as opposed to should have known.
- 21 MR. CRUZ: The argument that was presented
- 22 to the jury, in closing what trial counsel said and this
- 23 is the trial transcript, page 929 through 31, which is
- 24 not in one of the appendixes in front of you. I
- 25 apologize for that. But what the transcript says is

- 1 that Mr. Sham, the CEO, never told his patent lawyer,
- 2 look, what we are doing is copying this SEB product.
- 3 What he did, I suggest to you, is he set Mr. Levy up to
- 4 fail. He set him up to fail by not telling him he had
- 5 copied the product. That was the theory that was argued
- 6 as to why they should have known, because this was in
- 7 effect a sham, that not telling the lawyer about the
- 8 product, it wasn't an accident.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: But you're presenting to
- 10 us the proposition, I take it, correct me if I am wrong,
- 11 that we should write an opinion that is saying that know
- 12 or should have known is the standard for an inducer.
- 13 And I question whether that is a wise interpretation and
- 14 a necessary interpretation of (b), especially as we are
- informed through (c) as to what (b) might mean.
- MR. CRUZ: Justice Kennedy, we are not
- 17 proposing that, and I would say two things. Number one,
- 18 there is an entire instruction on inducement and there
- 19 is also the language I read before that is part of the
- 20 jury charge on inducement. And I don't think the jury
- 21 can be presumed to have only listened to one snippet of
- 22 the instruction without the entire instruction.
- JUSTICE KENNEDY: If we are arguing about
- 24 whether or not you can protect your judgement based upon
- 25 all that's in the record, I think you may have a strong

- 1 point. But I am interested in what the standard ought
- 2 to be. I'd like you to know what a properly instructed
- 3 jury should be told with reference to knowledge or
- 4 something less than knowledge.
- 5 MR. CRUZ: I would suggest with respect to
- 6 the language knew or should have known, that if there is
- 7 not an actual knowledge requirement, which in my
- 8 judgment is nowhere in the statute, then you have to
- 9 have something like should have known because I do not
- 10 know what you alternative instruct. If it is not actual
- 11 knowledge then there is a situation where someone is
- 12 allowed to have constructive knowledge.
- 13 JUSTICE KENNEDY: So you're saying that (b)
- should have a lesser standard of culpability than (c)?
- MR. CRUZ: Absolutely. I don't think the
- 16 statute makes any sense unless (b) is understood to have
- 17 a lesser standard. Otherwise, the inclusion of the word
- 18 "knowing" is given no effect.
- 19 JUSTICE BREYER: The difference, they say,
- 20 between (b) and (c) is that (c) applies to a person who
- 21 makes some really special thing that looks like a
- 22 Japanese kabuki theater costume, and it's actually made
- 23 out of metal and it's really -- has a very bizarre
- 24 thing, and it is only used -- good use is to do this
- 25 infringing thing.

- But (b) could apply to somebody who makes
- 2 plastic shields. (B) can apply that -- (b) could apply
- 3 to anybody who makes anything; is that right?
- 4 MR. CRUZ: Justice Breyer, under that
- 5 argument, the statute would be interpreted identically
- 6 if the word "knowing" were added to (b). And given that
- 7 they added it to (c) and not to (b) --
- 8 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, the argument is that
- 9 the words "actively induced" are meant to be something
- 10 greater than knowing, not something less than knowing.
- 11 Because otherwise, you're going to hold Aluminum Company
- 12 of America, if that still exists, liable when it makes
- 13 these aluminum sheets, because somebody uses an aluminum
- 14 sheet apparently, et cetera. You see the problem.
- 15 It is quite different when you make this
- 16 weird kabuki-looking thing that only has one use,
- 17 and they -- and that's why it should be -- it should be
- 18 harder to hold that person to contributory infringement,
- 19 not easier.
- Now, that's their argument. What do you
- 21 say.
- MR. CRUZ: Justice Breyer, that -- that may
- 23 be a reasonable policy argument. However, that is also
- 24 a reasonable policy argument for modifying A, because
- 25 right now, the aluminum company is liable under strict

- 1 liability for direct infringement today.
- JUSTICE BREYER: I'd like to get, really, an
- 3 answer from you on Justice Kennedy's question, because
- 4 at the moment I am not worried about your case. You, of
- 5 course, are. I understand that.
- 6 But the -- I am worried about Alcoa or the
- 7 little backyard maker of clay pots, or -- I mean,
- 8 millions and millions of people make things that are
- 9 used in millions and millions of ways. And I am worried
- 10 about what kind of burden we are supposed to impose on
- 11 them.
- I see three candidates. One is, you're
- 13 liable if you should have known. Two is, you're liable
- if you consciously disregarded a -- a risk, a known
- 15 risk; that is sort of like a -- you know, the Model
- 16 Penal Code, sort of. And third is willful blindness.
- 17 Is there a fourth? And if there is not,
- 18 what do you choose among those three? No, not what you
- 19 choose. What should we choose?
- MR. CRUZ: We have suggested three possible
- 21 standards to be the rule in this case. The first, the
- 22 Court could choose to adopt the standard that was
- 23 adopted in Grokster, and we have argued at considerable
- 24 length that under the standard this Court adopted in
- 25 Grokster, the plaintiffs -- the defendants, rather,

- 1 would be liable and it would uphold the judgment below.
- 2 That is the broadest standard the Court could adopt.
- 3 A more narrow standard the Court could adopt
- 4 is that at a minimum, willful blindness of the patented
- 5 issue suffices to allow inducement liability. That is a
- 6 more narrow standard. It would cover a much narrower
- 7 universe of conduct. It would exclude much of the
- 8 conduct both Justice Breyer and Justice Kennedy are
- 9 suggesting. That is the second way this judgment could
- 10 be affirmed and a more narrow rule.
- 11 The most narrow rule we have suggested this
- 12 Court could adopt is in the limited circumstances when a
- defendant deliberately copies another commercial
- 14 product, at a minimum, that defendant has an obligation
- 15 to ascertain if that specific product has protected U.S.
- 16 intellectual property, that it is a very minor
- 17 obligation that is triggered only when you take a
- 18 commercial product on the marketplace, reverse-engineer
- 19 it, and copy it, because it is a situation that is
- 20 highly likely to be indicative of bad conduct, to be
- 21 risking a very substantial infringement of someone
- 22 else's IP, and in terms of a low-cost avoider, one of
- 23 the things at footnote 20 of our brief --
- 24 JUSTICE SCALIA: Wait. Before you go --
- 25 before you go further, what if you do that, okay? And

- 1 you get an opinion from a lawyer, as they did here,
- 2 saying you're not violating any copyright or any -- any
- 3 patent?
- 4 MR. CRUZ: If they had said three words
- 5 differently, this would be a very, very different case.
- 6 If they had simply, in talking to their lawyer, said:
- 7 We copied SEB.
- 8 JUSTICE SCALIA: Okay. You have to tell the
- 9 searcher that you copied.
- MR. CRUZ: Yes.
- 11 JUSTICE SCALIA: That is part of your test,
- 12 right?
- 13 MR. CRUZ: If you specifically copy a
- 14 product, you have to look to see if that particular
- 15 product is protected by IP.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: So is that -- is that
- 17 another standard? Maybe that is an example of what it
- 18 is to be willfully blind. If, in fact, you go out and
- 19 you copy something, it could well be patented, and you
- 20 do not tell your lawyer, go look up this one, that is
- 21 willfully blind.
- MR. CRUZ: Well, and -- and that --
- JUSTICE BREYER: That is why you say they
- 24 are the same. I don't want to put words in your mouth.
- MR. CRUZ: Well, the Court could certainly

- 1 craft the rule at least narrowly tailored to the facts
- 2 here, which is copying. And look, copying is not a
- 3 unique problem. It is a serious problem
- 4 internationally, with U.S. intellectual property being
- 5 stolen, copied, and marketed. And if Pentalpha were to
- 6 prevail, if this Court were to conclude unless you had
- 7 actual knowledge, you know to a hundred percent
- 8 certainty, this violates patent '312, you're immune from
- 9 liability, that decision of this Court would serve as a
- 10 roadmap.
- 11 JUSTICE KENNEDY: You're not immune from
- 12 liability for direct infringement. You're immune from
- 13 liability, under the hypothetical, for actively
- 14 inducing. And that is where there is a very substantial
- 15 policy difference.
- MS. BLATT: But, Justice Kennedy, the reason
- 17 in this case why we brought a cause of action for both
- 18 direct infringement and active inducing is because the
- 19 argument of Pentalpha was their conduct was all
- 20 overseas, and so they weren't covered by 271(a). The
- 21 entire reason for the inducing strategy is they may well
- 22 prevail in another case on saying, we stole your
- 23 property overseas so you can't get us for direct
- 24 infringement. And in that instance, inducing is the
- 25 only way to get the actual mastermind. I mean, that was

- one of the phrases Giles Rich used in defense of 271.
- 2 JUSTICE KENNEDY: So are you saying that the
- 3 standard of knowledge would be the same for direct
- 4 infringement as for active inducement?
- 5 MR. CRUZ: I think there is a reasonable
- 6 statutory argument to be made that it is the same,
- 7 namely, that it is strict liability. We are not
- 8 pressing that as the only way to prevail, but I think
- 9 there is certainly a reasonable statutory argument.
- 10 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: I am a little
- 11 confused about the relationship between knowledge and
- 12 the Grokster standard. You think knowledge is a more
- 13 favorable standard for Petitioner than Grokster. You're
- 14 willing to accept Grokster, but not willing to accept
- 15 actual knowledge.
- MR. CRUZ: I do, and I will tell you why.
- 17 Because --
- 18 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Well, before you
- 19 tell me why, do you understand -- it's unfair to ask
- 20 you, I guess, but I understood Petitioner to take the
- 21 opposite position: That Grokster was a more favorable
- 22 standard for him than actual knowledge.
- 23 MR. CRUZ: I agree with you that is what
- 24 Petitioner said here. My understanding of Petitioner's
- 25 position was the same as yours, Mr. Chief Justice and

- 1 Justice Kennedy, that they are effectively requiring
- 2 actual knowledge, that that's what their urging is.
- JUSTICE KAGAN: Why aren't you both wrong,
- 4 that Grokster didn't deal with the question that we are
- 5 dealing with, which was knowledge of a patent or
- 6 knowledge of a copyright, that Grokster dealt with
- 7 whether there was specific intent or whether there
- 8 needed to be specific intent to encourage infringing
- 9 acts. That is what Grokster was about, an entirely
- 10 separate question.
- 11 MR. CRUZ: Let me answer both your question,
- 12 Justice Kagan, and the Chief Justice's question
- 13 together.
- 14 Grokster used language about purposeful
- 15 culpable conduct, but it went further. It specified how
- 16 you ascertain whether that standard is met, and it said
- 17 as shown by other affirmative acts to encourage
- 18 inducement. Now, in Grokster, part of the argument
- 19 Grokster made was, we do not know what copyrights are
- 20 going to be violated. We do not know what is going to
- 21 be -- they made the same argument Pentalpha is making:
- 22 We have no idea of any specific copyright that will ever
- 23 be infringed. They argued, we do not have actual
- 24 knowledge of the specific copyrights. And this Court
- 25 said: That doesn't matter.

- 1 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, one of the -- one of
- 2 the briefs -- one of the amicus briefs in this case
- 3 points out that that argument is a lot less plausible in
- 4 copyright than it is in -- in patents. It is very easy
- 5 to find out whether you're infringing a copyright. It
- 6 is very difficult to find out whether you're infringing
- 7 a patent, especially in the modern age of warehouse
- 8 patents. I am not sure that we -- that we want to use
- 9 the same test for copyrights that we use for -- for
- 10 patents.
- 11 MR. CRUZ: That policy differential -- there
- 12 may well be differences between patent law and copyright
- 13 law that are implicated in other cases. Here, what
- 14 occurred is an entire commercial product was copied. It
- is much more akin to copyright infringement, where the
- 16 entire product was copied and they just changed the
- 17 cosmetic features.
- 18 JUSTICE SCALIA: Well, that's fine. I am
- 19 just -- I am just expressing reservations about your
- 20 suggestion that we simply take Grokster wholesale and
- 21 apply it to this situation.
- MR. CRUZ: Let me be -- let me be clear,
- 23 Justice Scalia. I am not advocating this Court do so.
- 24 What I am saying is if this Court were to apply the
- 25 Grokster test, we believe we prevail under it, and in

- 1 fact any comparison of Grokster to Pentalpha, Pentalpha
- 2 is clearly the more culpable actor. In Grokster, the
- 3 individuals violating the copyrights were the ones who
- 4 made the choice to directly and deliberately violate the
- 5 copyrights and Grokster simply provided the tool to do
- 6 so. Here the only bad actor was Pentalpha. Sunbeam,
- 7 Montgomery Ward, they had no idea of the infringement.
- 8 Pentalpha was the mastermind behind the entire patent
- 9 violation, and in fact because of its actions procuring
- 10 a right to use opinion, by keeping the relevant
- 11 information from its patent lawyer, it lured, it induced
- 12 Sunbeam and Montgomery Ward and Fingerhut into
- 13 committing the bad act.
- 14 JUSTICE KENNEDY: Would you say, even though
- 15 you -- I think you disagree with this in this case,
- 16 would you say that there is a reasonable argument in our
- 17 precedent for saying that the standard of knowledge
- 18 under (b) should be greater than reckless disregard?
- 19 MR. CRUZ: I do not believe there is in the
- 20 precedent. For one thing, reckless disregard is the
- 21 standard now. Willfulness and recklessness are the
- 22 standard right now for enhanced damages and attorney's
- 23 fees; and if it were the case that every violation of
- 24 271(b) required willfulness or recklessness, it would
- 25 also mean that every violation would qualify for

- 1 enhanced damages or attorney's fees. I don't think
- 2 that's consistent with the statutory standard. That's
- 3 not the language Congress adopted.
- 4 JUSTICE KENNEDY: All right. Would you say
- 5 that there is substantial authority for the proposition
- 6 that it should -- the state of mind should be greater
- 7 than "should have known"?
- 8 MR. CRUZ: You know, I do not believe there
- 9 is. Particularly how "should have known" was used in
- 10 this case, A, the jury was -- the way the jury was
- 11 instructed, I would suggest it was effectively a
- 12 constructive knowledge instruction.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: They're dealing --
- MR. CRUZ: If you look at --
- 15 JUSTICE GINSBURG: They're dealing with a
- 16 Federal Circuit decision, they're reviewing that
- 17 decision, the Federal Circuit had a formula. It said
- 18 standard is deliberate disregard of a known risk. One
- 19 thing you must surely do is to say whether that standard
- 20 is right or wrong.
- 21 So the Federal Circuit, whatever the jury
- 22 found, Federal Circuit said the law is that you are
- 23 liable under 271(b) if you are deliberately -- if you
- 24 deliberately disregard a known risk. Is that standard
- 25 the right one?

- 1 MR. CRUZ: I agree the Federal Circuit had
- 2 that language. I would not suggest that standard was
- 3 the wrong standard, but what I would say, what the
- 4 Federal Circuit in fact did is it applied willful
- 5 blindness. If you look at the cases it cited, if you
- 6 look at how it in fact interpreted it, although it used
- 7 the deliberate indifference language, which I will
- 8 concede was somewhat confusing in its reasoning. If you
- 9 look at it, it framed it as whether Pentalpha had
- 10 constructive knowledge of the patent, and it then cited
- 11 willful blindness cases from other circuits that focused
- 12 it on actively disregarding a known risk and deliberate
- 13 avoidance and consciously avoided knowledge. All of
- 14 that is willful blindness knowledge.
- 15 JUSTICE ALITO: Mr. Cruz, while we are
- 16 certainly interested in what the standard should be.
- 17 But in terms of the deposition of this case, maybe you
- 18 could help me with this. The -- the instruction to
- 19 which there was an objection on, 124A to -- well,
- 20 wherever it is in the joint appendix -- was the newer
- 21 should have known, right?
- MR. CRUZ: Correct.
- JUSTICE ALITO: And the objection that I see
- 24 was that the words "or should have known that their
- 25 actions" -- this is 135A of the joint appendix -- should

- 1 have been stricken. So am I right that the only issue
- 2 that was preserved is the question whether actual
- 3 knowledge was required? Because that was the only --
- 4 that was what -- that was the error, the alleged error
- 5 that was identified by Mr. Dunnegan.
- 6 MR. CRUZ: I agree with that entirely.
- 7 JUSTICE ALITO: So if he is wrong on that,
- 8 then the judgment should be affirmed.
- 9 MR. CRUZ: I agree with that entirely, and
- 10 indeed we have suggested the central issue, the question
- 11 before this Court is, is there a requirement of actual
- 12 knowledge of the specific patent? And in my judgment
- there is no reasonable argument from the statutory
- language that in order to be liable under 271(b) you
- 15 must specifically know to 100 percent certainty this is
- 16 violating patent number 312. That is the issue they
- 17 objected. That is the issue that has been brought
- 18 before this Court. Is --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- do so, because we
- 20 still have to define knowledge. If we accept that
- 21 actual knowledge can have a different definition, just
- 22 not the should have known definition --
- MR. CRUZ: Well --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Do we have to define
- 25 what knowledge -- what kind of knowledge we are talking

- 1 about?
- 2 MR. CRUZ: If it is a case that you must
- 3 specifically know the specific patent, it will ensure
- 4 that unscrupulous --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I agree. We can say
- 6 that. But how does it help --
- 7 MR. CRUZ: Well --
- JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: -- the development of
- 9 law for us to simply say you -- it is not so much
- 10 knowledge that you have to know the specific patent by
- 11 number.
- 12 MR. CRUZ: I am going to suggest it is a
- 13 binary choice. It is either actual specific knowledge
- of the patent, or it is some form of "should have known"
- 15 that allows constructive knowledge.
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: That is where I am. At the
- 17 moment, the should have known or willful blindness, the
- 18 disregard -- the problem, and it seems like a real
- 19 problem, is know what, exactly? Well, know there is a
- 20 risk. Well, at that point half the country in the
- 21 business world is very upset because there is always a
- 22 risk.
- MR. CRUZ: But, Justice Breyer --
- JUSTICE BREYER: And the other problem is if
- 25 you -- as you move away from that and say, no, no, I

- 1 mean a real risk -- I mean a huge risk -- I mean a risk
- 2 that in fact, you almost knew that this was it -- now I
- 3 can do it with my tone of voice, but I need the words to
- 4 put in there that are going to calm people's fears that
- 5 they are not suddenly going to be held liable because
- 6 there is some fairly small risk of this. So what words
- 7 would I use?
- 8 MR. CRUZ: In this case, you had unusual --
- 9 JUSTICE BREYER: I know this case; I am not
- 10 worried about. I am worried about what I said.
- MR. CRUZ: Well, let me suggest what words
- 12 you could use to resolve this case. Because --
- JUSTICE BREYER: I do not want to just
- 14 resolve the case.
- 15 (Laughter.)
- 16 JUSTICE BREYER: The reason we took the case
- 17 is because there seemed a bunch of standards floating
- 18 around. Now I know our interests differ in this matter,
- 19 but I would appreciate any help you can give me about
- 20 what I am thinking now is words that will quantify the
- 21 risk that you had to have known about, a risk; so that
- 22 it doesn't look like some small thing that is always
- 23 there that looks like some giant thing that is pretty
- 24 close to actually --
- MR. CRUZ: The language that -- that was

- 1 used in Santos was that willful blindness is that when a
- 2 party aware of a high probability of a fact deliberately
- 3 avoids learning the truth.
- 4 JUSTICE BREYER: Well, I've heard about
- 5 that.
- 6 MR. CRUZ: That language would encompass
- 7 this case --
- JUSTICE BREYER: Yes, it would.
- 9 MR. CRUZ: And it would not bring in
- 10 innocent actors.
- JUSTICE BREYER: -- my problem, is a high
- 12 probability that. You have to be -- you have to
- 13 consciously, that is the model penal code, that is the
- 14 -- you know, torts -- you have to consciously disregard
- 15 a high probability that this item was patented and also
- 16 meet the other requirements that are part of active
- inducement. That is what your thought is?
- 18 MR. CRUZ: I think that would be an
- 19 acceptable test this Court could --
- 20 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: A high probability
- 21 of what? A high probability that you will infringe
- 22 this -- a patent or any patent?
- 23 MR. CRUZ: A -- with respect to what was
- 24 happening here, when you copy a commercial product,
- 25 there is a high probability that product is protected by

- 1 a patent, and when you engage in what the district court
- 2 characterized --
- 3 JUSTICE SCALIA: He is not interested in
- 4 what happened here. I mean, we are still talking about
- 5 a general test.
- 6 MR. CRUZ: I -- what I would suggest and
- 7 that is one of the reasons we proffered the narrow test
- 8 that is keyed on copying, because copying of completed
- 9 commercial products is the most egregious. If the Court
- 10 is concerned about unintended consequences, that narrow
- 11 rule is the most narrow rule. Let -- if I could briefly
- 12 suggest --
- 13 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: Forget the narrow rule.
- 14 What do you think the rule should be to articulate what
- 15 Justice Breyer would like?
- MR. CRUZ: With respect, my client doesn't
- 17 care --
- 18 (Laughter.)
- MR. CRUZ: -- as long as the result is at
- 20 the end, the opinion is affirmed.
- 21 JUSTICE BREYER: I know your client doesn't
- 22 care. But still we have to write this. So what about
- 23 the answer?
- To follow it up a little bit, it is
- 25 knowledge -- you're familiar with these areas, so you're

- 1 helpful, and -- and it is a knowledge or a known -- or
- 2 consciously disregarding a known risk where the risk
- 3 consists of a high probability that that item that you
- 4 are inducing to be produced will infringe a patent.
- 5 MR. CRUZ: I agree that would suffice.
- 6 With respect to why this Court should not
- 7 remand, if I may very briefly make three points. Number
- 8 one, this case has been going on for 12 years. To
- 9 remand for a new trial would drag it on to more endless
- 10 litigation for no purpose. The district court observed
- 11 below this case was not a close case. It took the jury
- 12 109 minutes to resolve against Pentalpha on every single
- 13 ground that was presented to it.
- 14 Number two, the jury charge that was sent to
- 15 the jury was more than sufficient under any of these
- 16 standards. But number three, the alternative argument
- 17 we made, there was a finding of direct infringement.
- 18 That finding of direct infringement is also supported by
- 19 the damage award and that is an alternative ground to
- 20 remand it. Now, in the reply brief Pentalpha says,
- 21 focuses on the same differential that the Federal
- 22 Circuit did between the language of the jury charge and
- 23 the language of the verdict form, but the only evidence
- 24 the jury had of the number of units sold by anybody was
- 25 the stipulation. In their reply brief they say, well,

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- 2 lawyer argument. The only evidence, which everyone
- 3 agreed, was the stipulation and if that is true that
- 4 supports the damage award.
- 5 CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Cruz.
- 6 Mr. Dunnegan, you have four minutes
- 7 remaining.
- 8 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF WILLIAM DUNNEGAN
- 9 ON BEHALF OF PETITIONERS
- 10 MR. DUNNEGAN: Five points in rebuttal, I
- 11 believe, Your Honor. The first is what should the
- 12 standard be with respect to willful blindness. And I do
- 13 want to call the court's attention to one sentence in
- 14 Grokster appearing at page 941 of the opinion. And it
- 15 provides, this is worth reading, I believe. If
- 16 liability for inducing infringement is ultimately found,
- 17 it will not be on the basis of presuming or imputing
- 18 liability, excuse me, fault, but from inferring a
- 19 patently illegal objective from statements and actions
- 20 showing what that objective was.
- Now, in the context of an amicus brief from
- 22 the solicitor general in that case suggesting a willful
- 23 blindness standard, it seems to me that that language is
- 24 a rejection of imputing a willful blindness standard.
- JUSTICE ALITO: So you want actual knowledge

- 1 of the patent? That is your test?
- 2 MR. DUNNEGAN: The test that we are looking
- 3 for is the Grokster test. Is there purposeful, culpable
- 4 conduct.
- 5 JUSTICE ALITO: Do you want actual knowledge
- 6 of the patent?
- 7 MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes, Your Honor.
- 8 JUSTICE ALITO: And that is the issue you
- 9 preserved with your objection?
- 10 MR. DUNNEGAN: Not precisely. We preserved
- 11 other issues beyond that. We preserved both the jury
- 12 charge by objecting at 135A of the joint appendix and we
- objected to the judgment as a matter of law motion by
- 14 making it and saying specifically there is no evidence
- 15 here that there was actual knowledge of the patent
- 16 before April 9th of 1998. Now --
- 17 JUSTICE GINSBURG: And after that date you
- 18 admit you -- because you continued to sell the product
- 19 to the retailers?
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes, Your Honor.
- JUSTICE GINSBURG: So after Sunbeam sued,
- then you are actively inducing infringement?
- 23 MR. DUNNEGAN: No, Your Honor. At that
- 24 point we have actual knowledge of the patent and the
- 25 analysis has to go to what was our purpose. For the

- 1 bulk of that period of time, we had a legal opinion from
- 2 a very competent New York City lawyer stating that we
- 3 did not infringe. And the jury, I guess the second
- 4 point I was trying to make is the jury never evaluated
- 5 any standard higher than new or --
- 6 JUSTICE GINSBURG: I thought that opinion
- 7 was after the first finding of infringement, that you
- 8 redesigned the product and that, the evidence you got
- 9 dealt with the redesigned products.
- 10 MR. DUNNEGAN: I believe your timing is
- 11 correct, Your Honor. The --
- 12 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But after just
- originally, Sunbeam is suing for infringement. Sunbeam
- 14 notifies Pentalpha. At that point, Pentalpha is
- 15 continuing to make sales. Is it infringing? Is it
- 16 actively inducing infringement.
- 17 MR. DUNNEGAN: That is a question of fact,
- 18 Your Honor. The jury resolved it against us, but the
- 19 point I was trying to make is that for some period of
- 20 time after that we had a legal opinion saying we did not
- 21 infringe and we believe that legal opinion from the New
- 22 York City attorney would prevent or should prevent, as a
- 23 matter of fact, a finding of purposeful, culpable
- 24 conduct. Now, the second standard I wanted to address
- 25 was --

- 2 purposeful, culpable conduct when you did not, when you
- 3 had the original design and that was, and you were sued
- 4 for actively inducing infringement of that design, by
- 5 that design.
- 6 MR. DUNNEGAN: No, Your Honor. We would
- 7 never concede that we were purposefully --
- 8 JUSTICE GINSBURG: But you think a jury
- 9 could have found that from the facts?
- 10 MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes. We are not seeking
- 11 judgment as a matter of law for any claims that arose
- 12 after April of 1998 when we had actual knowledge of the
- 13 patent, only before we had actual knowledge of the
- 14 patent are we seeking judgement as a matter of law.
- 15 Now, going to the issue of whether willful blindness
- 16 could be found by the failure of someone to tell the
- 17 patent attorney that there was a copying --
- 18 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: I am sorry. Why are you
- 19 doing that? I thought that you came in arguing that you
- 20 have to have actual knowledge of the patent.
- 21 MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes, Your Honor.
- 22 JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR: By number, and that was
- 23 the conversation we had earlier, and that the patent
- 24 covered the scope of your invention.
- MR. DUNNEGAN: Yes, Your Honor. That's our

1	primary argument, but if the court were to adopt willful
2	blindness as being enough, then I would question whether
3	or not simply not telling the patent attorney what
4	references were used or even which ones were copied
5	would be enough. Because in that situation, the company
6	has taken an effort to find out what the truth is and it
7	simply failed to meet the gold standard in meeting that
8	obligation.
9	CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Thank you, counsel.
LO	The case is submitted.
L1	(Whereupon, at 12:14 p.m., the case in the
L2	above-entitled matter was submitted.)
L3	
L 4	
L5	
L 6	
L 7	
L8	
L9	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

A	27:17,21,21,23	AL 1:4	apply 22:4 36:1,2	attention 53:13
abetter 12:21	27:25 35:7,10	Alcoa 37:6	36:2 43:21,24	attorney 5:11,14
abetting 12:20	40:7,25 41:15	ALITO 8:3,8	appreciate 49:19	5:15,17,24 6:1
12:21,23 31:24	41:22 42:2,23	11:7,22 12:5,16	appropriate	6:19,21 7:2,6
able 13:6	47:2,11,21	18:13,25 19:11	20:16	7:12,22 8:8,16
above-entitled	48:13 53:25	46:15,23 47:7	April 54:16 56:12	9:11 10:3 55:22
1:12 57:12	54:5,15,24	53:25 54:5,8	area 13:24	56:17 57:3
abrogating 26:2	56:12,13,20	alleged 47:4	areas 13:21	attorney's 44:22
absence 18:23	added36:6,7	allow 33:13,14	51:25	45:1
Absolutely 35:15	additional 7:17	38:5	arguably 11:18	authority 45:5
accept 7:8 30:20	21:18	allowed23:21	argued 30:16	available 19:18
41:14,14 47:20	address 55:24	35:12	33:15 34:5	avoid 3:23 18:22
acceptable 50:19	addressed 28:19	allows 48:15	37:23 42:23	avoidance 46:13
accident 34:8	adjudication	alternative 35:10	arguing 19:2	avoided 46:13
accompaniment	26:15	52:16,19	22:21 34:23	avoider 38:22
30:21	admit 54:18	aluminum 36:11	56:19	avoids 50:3
accurate 31:21	admitted 56:1	36:13,13,25	argument 1:13	award 52:19 53:4
accused 3:13,14	adopt 15:5 27:20	America 36:12	2:2,5,8 3:3,7	aware 18:9 50:2
act 24:6 29:4	27:21,22 37:22	amici 13:25	24:17 27:5	awareness 3:22
44:13	38:2,3,12 57:1	amicus 43:2	30:25 31:2,3,20	a.m 1:14 3:2
action 21:19	adopted 33:19	53:21	33:21 36:5,8,20	
40:17	37:23,24 45:3	amounted31:19	36:23,24 40:19	B
actions 32:15	adopts 27:9	analysis 54:25	41:6,9 42:18,21	b 12:1,21 20:18
44:9 46:25	advertising	answer7:25 8:9	43:3.44:16	20:21,24,25
53:19	26:17	10:25 37:3	47:13 52:16	21:6,7,8,16,19
active 16:12	advocating 33:6	42:11 51:23	53:2,8 57:1	21:21 22:1,5,13
40:18 41:4	43:23	antithesis 7:23	arguments 30:24	24:3,5,18 28:4
50:16	affirmative	anybody 30:7,11	30:25	34:14,15 35:13
actively 11:9,11	42:17	36:3 52:24	Aro 20:15 28:2	35:16,20 36:1,2
11:20 12:3	affirmed 38:10	apologize 33:25	28:16,18 29:8	36:2,6,7 44:18
31:24 32:1 36:9	47:8 51:20	apparently 19:6	arose 56:11	back 7:14 12:2
40:13 46:12	afraid 29:22,23	36:14	article 21:1,16	19:19 28:18
54:22 55:16	age 43:7	APPEARANC	21:17 28:22	29:24 30:3,15
56:4	agree 11:3 29:6	1:15	articulate 51:14	backyard 37:7
actor 27:13 44:2	41:23 46:1 47:6	appearing 53:14	articulating	bad 21:25 27:11
44:6	47:9 48:5 52:5	appendix 18:4	15:12	27:13 30:12
actors 22:2 27:11	agreed 15:7,9	46:20,25 54:12	ascertain 38:15	38:20 44:6,13
27:12 50:10	53:3	appendixes	42:16	balance 15:19,24
acts 3:14 12:8,10	agrees 11:19	33:24	asked 17:23 18:8	bars 30:10
12:14 21:10	aided 31:24	Appliances 1:3	24:16	based 34:24
42:9,17	aider 12:20	3:4	assumes 28:10	basis 9:20 14:8
actual 8:5,12 9:9	aiding 12:20,21	applied 3:17 46:4	assuming 9:8	23:15,16 28:2
11:6 12:13 16:5	12:23	applies 20:21,21	10:10	53:17
16:21 20:16	akin 43:15	35:20	attempt 7:10	behalf 1:16,18
				2:4,7,10 3:8
		I	I	l

27 4 72 0				
27:6 53:9	37:2 38:8 39:16	39:5 40:17,22	37:19,22	competition 19:5
behavior 27:12	39:23 48:16,23	43:2 44:15,23	circuit 3:17 9:1	complaining 32:7
believe 15:24	48:24 49:9,13	45:10 46:17	13:6 29:16	complete 7:22
17:25 18:1,3	49:16 50:4,8,11	48:2 49:8,9,12	45:16,17,21,22	completed 51:8
24:7,16 31:21	51:15,21	49:14,16 50:7	46:1,4 52:22	Completely 15:9
33:4 43:25	brief 11:19 32:5	52:8,11,11	circuits 46:11	complicated
44:19 45:8	32:8,9 38:23	53:22 57:10,11	Circuit's 3:20	29:19 31:15
53:11,15 55:10	52:20,25 53:21	cases 8:2 43:13	circumstances	components
55:21	briefly 51:11	46:5,11	38:12	21:20
benefit 17:18	52:7	cast 20:8	cited 46:5,10	concede 46:8
bet 30:19	briefs 43:2,2	cause 13:8 28:23	City 55:2,22	56:7
better 5:10 19:12	bring 14:13 50:9	40:17	claim 3:12 26:9	conceded 22:18
20:6,7	brings 11:25	central 27:10	claims 4:24	22:21
beyond 20:6	broadest 38:2	47:10	24:12 25:24	concerned 4:1
54:11	brought 40:17	CEO 34:1	56:11	6:11 51:10
big 30:14	47:17	cert 10:25	clay 37:7	concerning 26:9
binary 48:13	bulk 55:1	certain 21:18	clear 13:2 43:22	conclude 27:23
bit 51:24	bump 18:19	29:13	clearest 12:11	40:6
bizarre 35:23	bunch 49:17	certainly 33:5	clearly 44:2	concluded 28:21
BLATT 40:16	burden 33:2,6	39:25 41:9	client 8:9,10,17	conclusion 25:23
blind 7:24 39:18	37:10	46:16	8:17 17:15,18	29:14 30:2
39:21	burn 19:3	certainty 40:8	18:25 19:2	conditions 21:18
blindness 3:21	business 6:18	47:15	51:16,21	conduct 5:11
3:21 4:6,8,10	21:24 29:17	cetera 36:14	close 49:24	11:11 23:4
4:12 8:4,21 9:8	32:22 48:21	change 33:1	52:11	24:23 25:4 38:7
9:12,14,15		changed 43:16	closing 33:22	38:8,20 40:19
10:14 13:17	C	characterized	code 37:16 50:13	42:15 54:4
15:24 16:1,5,9	c 2:1 3:1 20:16	51:2	collateral 23:14	55:24 56:2
16:17 18:14,14	20:18,21,23,23	charge 34:20	combination 21:5	confused 24:2
18:16,24 20:20	21:1,3,6,8,19	52:14,22 54:12	comes 4:1	41:11
25:6 27:17,24	21:19 22:4	check 6:12,20	comfort 14:23	confusing 46:8
29:13,21,22	24:18 28:3	chewing 30:11	commerce 21:1	Congress 45:3
30:22 31:2,3	34:15 35:14,20	Chief 3:3,9 13:11	commercial	congressional
33:14,17 37:16	35:20 36:7	13:13,15 14:11	38:13,18 43:14	12:22
38:4 46:5,11,14	call 3:15 53:13	14:20 15:10	50:24 51:9	Congress's 12:9
48:17 50:1	called 8:9	23:6 24:16 26:3	committing	connotes 11:18
53:12,23,24	calm 49:4	26:22,25 27:3,7	44:13	consciously
56:15 57:2	Canada 53:1	31:4,13,17	companies 19:12	18:22 37:14
bottom 32:9,12	candidates 37:12	41:10,18,25	company 17:4	46:13 50:13,14
bought 5:6 16:25	care 51:17,22	42:12 50:20	19:11 26:20	52:2
box 8:12	case 3:4 9:1,9	53:5 57:9	36:11,25 57:5	consequence
Breyer 29:12	10:13 13:4,6,7	choice 44:4	compared 15:3	33:10
30:5,18 32:6	16:7 22:19	48:13	comparison 44:1	consequences
35:19 36:4,8,22	27:13,15 29:7,9	choose 37:18,19	comparison 44.1	51:10
33.17 30.7,0,22	32:20 37:4,21	CHOOSE 37.10,17	competent 33.2	31.10

	 I			
consider4:1	42:24 43:9 44:3	39:4,10,13,22	15:5,13	10:19 12:5 28:8
15:11	44:5	39:25 41:5,16	defendant 4:15	35:19 40:15
considerable	corporate 27:12	41:23 42:11	23:17 31:23	differences
37:23	correct 8:7 15:15	43:11,22 44:19	38:13,14	43:12
consistent 45:2	15:18 22:7 33:5	45:8,14 46:1,15	defendants	different 8:18
consists 52:3	34:10 46:22	46:22 47:6,9,23	23:22 32:14	15:2 19:6 21:9
constitute 12:14	55:11	48:2,7,12,23	37:25	21:11,12,15
21:11	cosmetic 43:17	49:8,11,25 50:6	defense 25:17	23:7 28:13 29:7
constituting	costume 35:22	50:9,18,23 51:6	41:1	36:15 39:5
11:12	counsel 27:3	51:16,19 52:5	define 47:20,24	47:21
constructive	33:22 57:9	53:5	definition 47:21	differential
33:13 35:12	country 48:20	culpability 35:14	47:22	43:11 52:21
45:12 46:10	course 7:1 37:5	culpable 3:16 4:8	degree 11:18	differently 39:5
48:15	court 1:1,13 3:10	10:22 18:24	14:23	difficult 43:6
context 33:19	10:15 27:1,8,9	22:2 23:3,4,23	deliberate 3:20	diligence 14:19
53:21	27:20,20,22	23:23 24:23	3:23 4:3 10:13	14:21
continued 54:18	28:17,20,24	25:4,9 27:11,13	10:20 11:3	direct 12:19
continuing 55:15	29:6,14,15	42:15 44:2 54:3	29:16 30:20	26:15 31:24
contributory	33:17,18,18	55:23 56:2	45:18 46:7,12	32:15 37:1
20:19 23:19	37:22,24 38:2,3	customers 21:23	deliberately 3:18	40:12,18,23
36:18	38:12 39:25		38:13 44:4	41:3 52:17,18
conversation	40:6,9 42:24	D	45:23,24 50:2	directed 14:8
56:23	43:23,24 47:11	D 3:1	demonstrate	directly 26:15
cool-touch 19:16	47:18 50:19	damage 23:14	29:9	32:13 44:4
19:17	51:1,9 52:6,10	52:19 53:4	demonstrated	disagree 8:14
copied 5:4,16,24	57:1	damages 44:22	28:20	16:4 44:15
9:11,24 14:16	court's 53:13	45:1	demonstrating	discuss 32:18
16:16 20:2 34:5	cover 38:6	dark 7:5	27:24	disregard 29:16
39:7,9 40:5	covered 40:20	date 54:17	depending 25:11	30:20 44:18,20
43:14,16 57:4	56:24	days 14:22	deposition 46:17	45:18,24 48:18
copies 38:13	craft 40:1	deal 29:20 42:4	design 6:19,20	50:14
copy 9:5 14:3	create 12:12	dealing 13:4 14:1	7:21 20:3 56:3	disregarded
18:2 38:19	29:20	31:12 42:5	56:4,5	37:14
39:13,19 50:24	crime 13:9	45:13,15	designed 17:17	disregarding
copying 34:2	criminal 33:19	deals 13:7 20:23	determine 10:13	46:12 52:2
40:2,2 51:8,8	critical 12:1	20:24 22:24	11:1	dissenters 28:18
56:17	Cruz 1:18 2:6	dealt 42:6 55:9	developed 15:23	distinct 9:16
copyright 22:13	11:19 27:4,5,7	decide 11:2	development	distributing 33:3
22:25 23:19	27:19 28:5,16	15:10 25:5	48:8	district 29:14
39:2 42:6,22	29:5 30:2,16,24	decision 9:3 40:9	device 4:16 5:4,6	51:1 52:10
43:4,5,12,15	31:6,15,20 32:3	45:16,17	5:16 12:4	documents 26:19
copyrighted	32:4 33:4,12,21	deep 13:20 14:12	dichotomy 10:19	doing 17:18
22:17 23:14	34:16 35:5,15	18:6 19:3,7,15	differ49:18	20:19 21:22
copyrights 42:19	36:4,22 37:20	19:16,17	difference 9:6	34:2 56:19
		deep-fryer 15:1		
	<u> </u>	l	I	I

drag 52:9	21:3,19 22:25	13:25 20:7	fees 44:23 45:1	16:25 19:7,15
drawings 6:19,20	elements 9:16	23:12 39:17	figure 30:7,12	19:16
16:22	eliminating 16:1	exclude 38:7	find 5:25 7:9,11	full 33:18
Dunnegan 1:16	else's 6:12 7:13	excuse 53:18	9:8 18:5,16	functional 20:5
2:3,9 3:6,7,9	38:22	exist 3:19,23	20:12 23:24	further 27:1
4:3,7,12,20 5:9	encompass 50:6	exists 11:4 16:6	32:10,13,24	38:25 42:15
5:19 6:3,15,24	encompassing	36:12	43:5,6 57:6	
7:14,20 8:7,14	21:23	expect 17:3	finding 6:9 18:21	G
8:25 9:13,22	encourage 23:25	explain 11:14	20:9 52:17,18	G 3:1
10:1,6,21,24	42:8,17	18:15 24:20,25	55:7,23	gee 19:8
11:14,24 12:8	endless 52:9	expressing 43:19	fine 43:18	general 33:6
13:2,12,14,24	enforced 26:12	expression 10:23	Fingerhut 17:19	51:5 53:22
14:15,25 15:7,9	engage 3:14	extraordinary	44:12	generally 26:7
15:15,18 16:3,8	11:11 51:1	27:14	first 4:2 16:10,19	getting 17:19
16:18 17:2,9,13	enhanced 44:22		18:18 24:8	21:25
17:25 18:9,17	45:1	F	37:21 53:11	giant 49:23
19:10,14,24	enormous 28:7	fact 9:9 16:16	55:7	Giles 41:1
20:4,12,14,22	ensure 48:3	25:25 26:9	five 30:6 53:10	Ginsburg 4:14
21:14 22:6,9,15	entire 24:16	27:14 39:18	flipped 28:18	5:2,13,22 16:14
22:18,23 23:4	33:15 34:18,22	44:1,9 46:4,6	floating 49:17	16:23 17:22
23:10 24:7,11	40:21 43:14,16	49:2 50:2 55:17	focused 46:11	18:7,11 19:21
24:19,21 25:2	44:8	55:23	focuses 52:21	20:2,9 32:2
25:10,22 26:7	entirely 42:9	facts 9:9 16:14	follow 51:24	45:13,15 54:17
26:13,24 27:1	47:6,9	40:1 56:9	following 17:14	54:21 55:6,12
47:5 53:6,8,10	equals 12:6	fail 34:4,4	follows 28:25	56:1,8
54:2,7,10,20	equivalent 23:19	failed 5:20,21	footnote 38:23	give 6:18 7:2
54:23 55:10,17	error 47:4,4	57:7	forget 8:13 51:13	9:10 25:8 49:19
56:6,10,21,25	errors 10:11	failure 56:16	form 48:14 52:23	given 10:3 13:22
duty 32:24	especially 14:3	fairly 49:6	formula 45:17	14:21 18:2
D.C 1:9	15:8 34:14 43:7	faithful 28:7	forth 8:21 28:18	35:18 36:6
	ESQ 1:16,18 2:3	fall 4:4,8	found 5:17 6:1	giving 7:21
E	2:6,9	familiar 51:25	10:4 16:7,9,11	gizmos 30:8
E 2:1 3:1,1	essentially 21:20	far 3:25	19:20 22:11	Global-Tech 1:3
earlier 56:23	28:10 33:14	fault 53:18	23:22 45:22	3:4
easier 29:8 36:19	et 1:4 36:14	favor 15:25	53:16 56:9,16	go 7:25 9:2 12:2
easy 43:4	evaluated 55:4	favorable 41:13	four 53:6	22:9 24:14
effect 29:3 31:19	evidence 6:5	41:21	fourth 37:17	26:18 38:24,25
34:7 35:18	18:19 31:23	fears 49:4	framed 46:9	39:18,20 54:25
effectively 19:1	52:23 53:2	features 20:5	front 11:20 33:24	going 7:11 13:21
21:24 28:21	54:14 55:8	43:17	fryer 5:16,24,25	13:23 14:4,23
42:1 45:11	exactly 11:24	February 1:10	14:12 18:6 19:3	14:24 15:2,4,11
effort 3:23 57:6	15:15,18 25:22	Federal 3:17,19	19:17,23 20:10	15:13 17:12
egregious 51:9	48:19	9:1 45:16,17,21	24:3,3,4	18:19 23:13,17
either 48:13	example 5:3	45:22 46:1,4	fryers 13:20	25:20 26:17
element 3:11		52:21		36:11 42:20,20
	1	1	1	ı

		 I		
48:12 49:4,5	50:21,25 52:3	identified 47:5	inducer3:13,14	52:17,18 53:16
52:8 56:15	higher 12:18	identify 13:6	11:13 34:12	54:22 55:7,13
gold 8:1,1 57:7	21:2,7 24:22	ignorant 5:3	inducers 32:21	55:16 56:4
good 35:24	55:5	II 20:15 28:2,16	induces 11:9,17	infringements
granted 26:10	highly 38:20	28:18	11:18,21 12:3	23:18,25
great 29:20	hindsight 7:15	illegal 53:19	inducing 3:12	infringer 12:4
greater 10:7	hired 5:10 8:17	immune 40:8,11	4:23 12:13,18	26:15
36:10 44:18	hiring 7:24	40:12	22:12,25 27:10	infringing 6:10
45:6	history 30:23	implicated 43:13	40:14,18,21,24	7:9 14:6 26:16
Grokster 10:23	hit 7:8 13:22 14:4	import 33:12	52:4 53:16	35:25 42:8 43:5
15:23 19:20	hold 36:11,18	important 15:11	54:22 55:16	43:6 55:15
22:10,11,16,20	holder9:21,24	21:7 32:19	56:4	innocent 27:12
23:16,21,21	holding 28:20	impose 33:2	industry 13:22	50:10
24:22 26:18,21	33:11	37:10	14:12,13 15:1,5	inquire 32:24
37:23,25 41:12	holds 13:7	impossible 4:17	15:12,14	inside 30:9,10
41:13,14,21	honest 7:10	impression 23:8	inferring 14:9	instance 40:24
42:4,6,9,14,18	honestly 6:8	improved 20:5	53:18	instruct 35:10
42:19 43:20,25	Hong 5:5	imputed 8:17	information	instructed 31:5,6
44:1,2,5 53:14	Honor 4:3,7,13	imputing 53:17	44:11	31:22 35:2
54:3	4:21 5:10,19	53:24	informed 34:15	45:11
ground 52:13,19	6:6,15 7:14,21	include 28:9	infringe 13:23	instruction 31:8
guess 41:20 55:3	8:7,25 9:13,22	included 31:10	14:24 17:16	31:9,12,15,25
gum 30:11	10:1,8 11:16,24	includes 25:6	23:13 25:14	34:18,22,22
guys 21:25	12:9 13:3,14	28:8,11	26:18,21 50:21	45:12 46:18
H	14:15 15:1,16	inclusion 35:17	52:4 55:3,21	instructions 31:7
half 48:20	16:18 17:2,13	incredible 7:10	infringed3:15	intellectual 14:6
halt 14:14	18:1,10,18	indicative 38:20	4:16 5:12,25	38:16 40:4
hands 19:3	19:14,25 20:4	indifference 3:20	20:11 32:13	intent 11:18,21
happen 15:12,13	20:13 22:6,10	4:4 10:13,20	42:23	11:22,22 12:9
	22:19 23:11	11:4 46:7	infringement	14:8 42:7,8
happened 51:4 happening 50:24	24:7 25:10,23	indifferent 3:18	3:12 7:11 11:9	intention 17:15
harder 36:18	26:13,24 53:11	individuals 44:3	11:10,12,25	intentional 32:21
hear 3:3 31:14	54:7,20,23	induce 3:13	12:2,7,13,15	32:25
heard 30:24 50:4	55:11,18 56:6	11:11 12:10	12:15,19 13:19	interested 6:9
heightened	56:21,25	32:15	17:20 18:6	35:1 46:16 51:3
11:21	hook 26:6,8	induced 36:9	20:10,19 21:5	interests 49:18
held 29:6 49:5	Houston 1:18	44:11	21:11 22:12	interfere 26:23
help 46:18 48:6	huge 49:1	inducement 8:23	23:1,19 25:12	internal 26:19
49:19	hundred 40:7	9:2 12:25 21:17	27:10 28:24	internationally
helpful 52:1	hypothetical	32:17 34:18,20 38:5 41:4 42:18	29:2 31:25	40:4
helping 21:23	8:18 24:9 40:13		32:15 36:18	interpretation
high 3:22 9:16	I	50:17	37:1 38:21	11:16 28:6
16:10 18:20,23	idea 42:22 44:7	inducements	40:12,18,24 41:4 43:15 44:7	34:13,14
50:2,11,15,20	identically 36:5	13:5	41:4 43:13 44:7	interpreted 36:5
30.2,11,13,20	activiting 50.5			

46:6	14:11,20 15:4,8	22:15,20 27:16	28:21,24 29:8	34:19 35:6
introducing	15:10 16:3,13	28:1,5,11 29:1	29:10,11 33:20	42:14 45:3 46:2
25:16	16:14,23 17:5	42:3,12	35:18 36:6,10	46:7 47:14
invention 56:24	17:10,22 18:7	keep 5:2 7:4	36:10	49:25 50:6
IP 38:22 39:15	18:11,13,25	keeping 44:10	knowingly 31:24	52:22,23 53:23
iron 20:8	19:11,21 20:2,9	Kennedy 10:12	32:1	largely 31:10
issue 13:7 17:13	20:14 21:8 22:3	10:22 22:3,7	knowledge 8:5	Laughter 15:6
19:19 25:7 38:5	22:7,8,15,20	23:2 24:15 32:8	8:12,15 9:9	15:17 49:15
47:1,10,16,17	23:2,6,8 24:1	33:4,9,16 34:9	10:17,20 11:6	51:18
54:8 56:15	24:10,14,15,20	34:16,23 35:13	14:6 16:5 18:23	law 9:12,14 13:4
issues 54:11	24:25 25:3,16	38:8 40:11,16	20:17 21:9,13	16:20 22:13
item 8:5 28:12	26:3,5,11,22	41:2 42:1 44:14	24:17 25:6,17	25:17,25 26:1,2
50:15 52:3	26:25 27:3,7,16	45:4	27:17,21,21,23	26:6,7 43:12,13
items 9:5	28:1,5,11 29:1	Kennedy's 23:8	27:25 28:14,14	45:22 48:9
i.e 29:23	29:12 30:5,18	37:3	28:22 30:22	54:13 56:11,14
	31:4,13,17 32:2	keyed 51:8	33:13 35:3,4,7	lawyer 16:15,21
<u>J</u>	32:6,8 33:4,9	kind 28:13 30:10	35:11,12 40:7	17:6,11 34:1,7
Japanese 35:22	33:16 34:9,16	37:10 47:25	41:3,11,12,15	39:1,6,20 44:11
joint 18:4 46:20	34:23 35:13,19	knew 3:14 14:16	41:22 42:2,5,6	53:2 55:2
46:25 54:12	36:4,8,22 37:2	17:16,17 22:16	42:24 44:17	learning 3:23
judgement 34:24	37:3 38:8,8,24	23:12,15,17	45:12 46:10,13	50:3
56:14	39:8,11,16,23	24:2,8,11,12	46:14 47:3,12	leave 10:18
judgment 10:16	40:11,16 41:2	25:18 32:14,17	47:20,21,25,25	legal 25:13,20,21
27:25 35:8 38:1	41:10,18,25	35:6 49:2	48:10,13,15	29:3 55:1,20,21
38:9 47:8,12	42:1,3,12 43:1	know4:15,18,21	51:25 52:1	length 37:24
54:13 56:11	43:18,23 44:14	4:22,25 5:19,20	53:25 54:5,15	lesser 35:14,17
jury 16:7,9,13,17	45:4,13,15	8:10,11 10:6	54:24 56:12,13	letter 18:12
18:16 20:12	46:15,23 47:7	13:21 14:2,2,23	56:20	let's 11:17 22:1
23:24 30:17,24	47:19,24 48:5,8	16:15,24 17:21	knowledge/will	24:15,15 26:14
30:25 31:1,3,4	48:16,23,24	18:14 19:1 24:4	20:20	26:16,18 32:11
31:6,7,8,9,12	49:9,13,16 50:4	25:5,7,18,20	known 3:19 11:4	Levy 34:3
31:22 33:15,22	50:8,11,20 51:3	28:12,17 29:23	29:16 30:6,20	liability 7:9 8:13
34:20,20 35:3	51:13,15,21	30:8,10 32:10	32:14,18,20	11:10 12:25
45:10,10,21	53:5,25 54:5,8	34:11 35:2,10	33:10,20 34:6	13:1,5,10,10
52:11,14,15,22	54:17,21 55:6	37:15 40:7	34:12 35:6,9	23:12,15,16
52:24 54:11	55:12 56:1,8,18	42:19,20 45:8	37:13,14 45:7,9	37:1 38:5 40:9
55:3,4,18 56:8	56:22 57:9	47:15 48:3,10	45:18,24 46:12	40:12,13 41:7
Justice 3:3,9,25	Justice's 42:12	48:19,19 49:9	46:21,24 47:22	53:16,18
4:5,10,14 5:2 5:13 22 6:7 22	K	49:18 50:14	48:14,17 49:21	liable 11:12
5:13,22 6:7,22 6:25 7:19 8:3,8	kabuki 35:22	51:21	52:1,2	20:25 23:18,22
8:20 9:4,19,23	kabuki-looking	knowing 21:4,4	Kong 5:5	24:5 32:16,17
10:2,9,12,22	36:16	22:4 23:7,9,10		36:12,25 37:13
11:7,22 12:5,16	Kagan 16:3,13	23:11 24:17	language 11:7,15	37:13 38:1
13:11,13,15	20:14 21:8	25:4 28:9,10,12	31:11 33:13	45:23 47:14
13.11,13,13	40.14 41.0		31.11 33.13	

		1		
49:5	marking 5:5,8	Montgomery 5:7	notify 6:21	47:14
libel 21:1	mastermind	7:7,8 16:24	number4:18,21	original 56:3
likelihood 10:3	40:25 44:8	17:8,12,19 24:4	5:21 17:1 31:22	originally 55:13
limited 38:12	matter 1:12 9:12	44:7,12	33:5 34:17	ought 32:12 35:1
Listen 17:5	9:14 17:10	morally 22:1	47:16 48:11	outside 30:9
listened 34:21	42:25 49:18	morning 3:4	52:7,14,16,24	overjoyed 29:25
literally 5:1	54:13 55:23	motion 54:13	56:22	overseas 40:20
litigation 52:10	56:11,14 57:12	mouth 39:24		40:23
little 13:4 24:1	mean 5:3 6:25	move 24:17	0	owned 14:4
30:8,10,14 37:7	8:22 10:14	48:25	O 2:1 3:1	P
41:10 51:24	14:12 15:3 29:8	moved 22:13	objected 47:17	-
long 51:19	29:17 34:15	multiple 27:19	54:13	P 3:1
long-recognized	37:7 40:25		objecting 54:12	page 2:2 11:19
27:24	44:25 49:1,1,1	N	objection 27:17	18:4 32:9 33:23
look 7:25 11:7	51:4	N 2:1,1 3:1	32:11 46:19,23	53:14
13:3 20:1 34:2	means 20:18	name 9:10,21,24	54:9	pan 20:8
39:14,20 40:2	27:24 32:16,22	10:4	objective 7:20	paper 7:6
45:14 46:5,6,9	meant 29:24 36:9	narrow38:3,6,10	23:23 27:10	paragraph 28:19
49:22	measure 27:12	38:11 51:7,10	53:19,20	part 8:22 17:15
looked 5:7 16:14	meet 4:18 21:2,2	51:11,13	objectively 6:20	29:5 31:16,20
19:24 30:6	21:3 50:16 57:7	narrower 38:6	obligation 38:14	31:25 32:7
looking 7:14 54:2	meeting 57:7	narrowly 40:1	38:17 57:8	34:19 39:11
looks 35:21	met 8:1,2 11:5	nature 13:22	obscurity 30:23	42:18 50:16
49:23	42:16	necessarily 13:2	observed 52:10	particular 4:15
lose 30:19	metal 20:7 35:23	13:9 29:2,3,5	occurred43:14	4:16,24 5:15,24
lot 19:5 29:19	millions 37:8,8,9	necessary 33:10	offense 12:24,24	9:18 13:18
43:3	37:9	34:14	12:25 13:5	28:19 39:14
low31:18	mind 3:11 21:3,7	need 11:1 18:17	okay 3:25 18:17	Particularly 45:9
low-cost 38:22	21:16 22:12,25	18:18 49:3	24:11 25:2	party 3:14 4:23
lured 44:11	45:6	needed 17:11	29:22 38:25	9:3 17:23 50:2
	minimum 38:4,14	42:8	39:8	pass 19:21 26:2
M	minor 38:16	negligence 29:15	once 20:20	patent 3:12,15
majority 10:16	minutes 52:12	31:19	ones 44:3 57:4	3:19,22 4:15,16
28:17	53:6	never 14:23	opinion 10:15,16	4:18,21,25 5:7
maker 37:7	mistake 25:17	26:11 33:17,18	17:6,8,11 25:13	5:11,12,14,18
making 12:3,6	26:6,7,9	34:1 55:4 56:7	33:18 34:11	5:20,23,24,25
12:11 19:2,11	model 31:9 37:15	new 1:16,16 7:1	39:1 44:10	6:2,9,13,19 7:9
19:13 26:6	50:13	52:9 55:2,5,21	51:20 53:14	7:11,12 8:23
42:21 54:14	modern 43:7	newer46:20	55:1,6,20,21	9:2,11,17,20
manufacturer	modified 28:21	noninfringing	opposed 12:14	9:25 10:5 11:4
32:23	modifying 28:25	23:20 28:13,23	29:3 33:20	11:6,10 12:4,13
market 19:5	36:24	nonstaple 21:17	opposite 41:21	13:18,19 14:4
marketed 40:5	moment 32:18	28:22	oral 1:12 2:2,5	16:5,6,11,21
marketplace	37:4 48:17	nonstaples 20:24	3:7 27:5	16:21 17:1,16
38:18		notifies 55:14	order 32:16	17:17,24 18:2,6
	I	l	l	l

	1	1	1	1
18:19,21 19:8	person 21:10	precise 31:1	10:4 16:16 19:6	p.m 57:11
21:4,10,13 24:2	32:23 35:20	precisely 54:10	20:7 25:8,14,24	
24:9,12,12 25:5	36:18	preponderance	32:23 34:2,5,8	Q
25:7,14,19,20	perspective 7:21	31:23	38:14,15,18	qualify 44:25
25:25 26:2,10	petition 10:25	present 10:19	39:14,15 43:14	quantify 49:20
29:3 32:14,24	Petitioner 41:13	presented 10:25	43:16 50:24,25	question 7:15
33:7 34:1 39:3	41:20,24	31:1,3 33:21	54:18 55:8	10:25 19:22
40:8 42:5 43:7	Petitioners 1:5	52:13	products 6:23	22:16 24:8
43:12 44:8,11	1:17 2:4,10 3:8	presenting 33:8	17:3 33:3 51:9	28:10 29:9
46:10 47:12,16	53:9	34:9	55:9	31:18 34:13
48:3,10,14	Petitioner's	presents 31:21	proffered 51:7	37:3 42:4,10,11
50:22,22 51:1	41:24	preserved 32:11	profitable 19:4	42:12 47:2,10
52:4 54:1,6,15	phrases 41:1	47:2 54:9,10,11	proper21:16	55:17 57:2
54:24 56:13,14	pick 19:22	pressing 41:8	properly 35:2	questions 27:2
56:17,20,23	piece 7:6	presumed 9:5	property 14:7	quite 29:19 36:15
57:3	plaintiff 31:22	34:21	38:16 40:4,23	
patented 8:5	plaintiffs 37:25	presuming 53:17	proposing 15:21	R
19:13 24:3,4	plantins 37.23 plastic 36:2	presuming 33.17	34:17	R 1:18 2:6 3:1
38:4 39:19	plausible 43:3	pretty 49.23 prevail 40:6,22		27:5
50:15	please 3:10	41:8 43:25	proposition 34:10 45:5	RA 31:7 32:4
	13:14 26:24			raise 21:21
patenting 17:20		prevent 55:22,22	protect 34:24	rare 14:5
patently 53:19	27:8	primary 57:1	protected 38:15	rarely 8:2
patents 9:19,20	point 15:19 19:2	prior 26:14	39:15 50:25	reaching 25:23
14:1,17,22 17:7	32:19 35:1	probability 3:22	prove 31:23	read 24:13 28:24
17:21 26:12,17	48:20 54:24	9:17 10:7 16:10	provided 44:5	29:15 34:19
43:4,8,10	55:4,14,19	18:21,23 50:2	provides 53:15	reading 32:2
penal 37:16	pointed 5:3	50:12,15,20,21	provision 12:22	53:15
50:13	points 43:3 52:7	50:25 52:3	purchased 5:5	real 48:18 49:1
Pentalpha 3:18	53:10	probable 6:4	purpose 3:13	really 7:4,10
5:6 18:8 20:10	policy 36:23,24	probably 8:15	4:13 10:21 13:8	8:11 11:1 16:23
27:13 31:21	40:15 43:11	10:10 14:7	13:8,17 14:9	17:20 25:18,19
40:5,19 42:21	posited 8:19	29:19	18:4 22:1 23:23	27:14 29:15,24
44:1,1,6,8 46:9	position 8:3	problem 14:21	25:12 26:20	33:17 35:21,23
52:12,20 55:14	13:15 33:7	30:19 32:10	52:10 54:25	37:2
55:14	41:21,25	36:14 40:3,3	purposeful 3:16	reason 6:10 17:5
people 23:13	possible 6:3	48:18,19,24	4:8 10:22 23:3	17:14 20:22
37:8	37:20	50:11	23:4 24:6,23	22:10 24:23
people's 6:23 9:5	possibly 30:12	proceeded 18:20	25:3,4,15 42:14	
19:3 49:4	pots 37:7	procuring 44:9	54:3 55:23 56:2	26:1 40:16,21
percent 5:17	practical 17:10	produced 52:4	purposefully	49:16
10:7,10 40:7	practically 17:3	producers 33:6	56:7	reasonable 16:7
47:15	practice 6:20,22	product 4:22	put 8:12 11:20	16:9,13,17
period 55:1,19	precedent 44:17	5:15 6:12 7:1,7	20:8 30:8 39:24	18:16 30:1,4
permit 18:16	44:20	7:13 9:10,18,23	49:4	36:23,24 41:5,9
				44:16 47:13
	l	I	I	l

	50.10	DODEDEC 2.2	10.44	1. 7.47.7
reasoning 46:8	52:12	ROBERTS 3:3	searches 10:11	show7:6 17:7
reasons 5:21	resolved 55:18	13:11,13,15	SEB 1:7 3:5 5:16	showing 53:20
51:7	respect 13:17,18	14:11,20 15:10	6:1,12 19:17,22	shown 42:17
rebuttal 2:8 53:8	15:23 25:12	23:6 26:3,22,25	20:3,6,11 34:2	shows 18:1
53:10	35:5 50:23	27:3 31:4,13,17	39:7	sides 30:8
reckless 44:18	51:16 52:6	41:10,18 50:20	SEB's 5:25	simply 39:6
44:20	53:12	53:5 57:9	second 8:10	43:20 44:5 48:9
recklessness	Respectfully	rule 8:21 12:20	16:11 38:9 55:3	57:3,7
44:21,24	28:5,16	15:5 37:21	55:24	single 52:12
record 6:5 18:1,1	Respondent 1:19	38:10,11 40:1	section 13:3	situation 8:15,16
18:8 19:14	2:7 27:6	51:11,11,13,14	see 5:7,11 6:12	11:5 14:5 16:19
34:25	Respondent's		8:18 11:8 12:16	21:22 26:14,16
red 32:5,8	32:9	S	16:25 30:14	26:19 35:11
redesigned 55:8	result 8:18 30:1	S 2:1 3:1	36:14 37:12	38:19 43:21
55:9	30:4 51:19	sale 21:15,17,20	39:14 46:23	57:5
reference 35:3	retailers 54:19	25:13	seeking 56:10,14	six 19:15
references 19:17	reverse 19:24	sales 55:15	sell 4:23 17:12	Sixth 13:6
26:17 57:4	reversed-engi	Santos 9:15	20:25 24:5 25:8	small 49:6,22
rejected 30:25	7:4	10:16 50:1	54:18	snippet 34:21
rejection 53:24	reverse-engin	saying 7:22	sellers 21:23	software 23:21
relationship	6:23 19:23	25:17,21 30:18	selling 12:3,6,12	sold 52:24 53:1
41:11	38:18	34:11 35:13	33:2	solicitor 53:22
relevant 22:20	reverse-engin	39:2 40:22 41:2	semiconductor	somebody 6:12
22:24 44:10	5:14 6:11,14	43:24 44:17	14:4;13,16	7:13 11:11 14:5
remaining 53:7	7:3,13 19:25	54:14 55:20	15:12	36:1,13
remand 52:7,9	reviewing 45:16	says 18:8 26:18	semiconductors	someone's 14:6
52:20	Rich 41:1	29:10 30:6,7,11	13:25 14:2 15:3	somewhat 46:8
remotely 33:7	right 8:6,25 16:6	32:10,12 33:25	send 29:24 30:3	Sony 23:11,12
repealed 26:1	27:18 30:19	52:20	30:15	sooner 15:20
reply 52:20,25	36:3,25 39:12	Scalia 3:25 4:5	sense 21:21	sorry 13:13
reports 12:22	44:10,22 45:4	4:10 6:7,22,25	35:16	26:23 56:18
required 3:21	45:20,25 46:21	7:19 15:4,8	sent 52:14	sort 37:15,16
16:20 18:15	47:1	17:5,10 22:8	sentence 24:8	SOTOMAYOR
44:24 47:3	rights 14:7	38:24 39:8,11	53:13	8:20 9:4,19,23
requirement	risk 3:19 11:4	43:1,18,23 51:3	separate 27:11	10:2,9 24:1,10
11:8 12:18,19	29:16,17,18,19	scienter 11:8	42:10	24:14,20,25
35:7 47:11	30:6,13,14,14	12:17,19,23,23	serious 40:3	25:3,16 26:5,11
requirements	30:21 37:14,15	scope 4:24 25:24	serve 40:9	47:19,24 48:5,8
50:16	45:18,24 46:12	26:9 56:24	set 34:3,4	51:13 56:18,22
requiring 42:1	48:20,22 49:1,1	Seagate 9:1,3	set 34.3,4 setting 8:21	special 15:5
reservations	49:1,6,21,21	search 5:11,20	sham 18:3 34:1,7	35:21
43:19	52:2,2	5:23 7:23 8:23	sheet 36:14	specialist 7:24
reserve 27:2	1	9:2,20 17:24	sheets 36:13	specific 38:15
	risking 38:21	18:2,5 33:7		_
resolve 49:12,14	roadmap 40:10	searcher 39:9	shields 36:2	42:7,8,22,24
		searcher 37.7		

	1	<u> </u>		1
47:12 48:3,10	States 1:1,13	suggesting 26:20	7:3,12 16:15,22	thinking 49:20
48:13	5:11	38:9 53:22	30:15 39:8,20	third 3:13 4:23
specifically	stating 55:2	suggestion 43:20	41:16,19 56:16	37:16
39:13 47:15	statute 11:8,15	suing 55:13	telling 34:4,7	thought 8:11
48:3 54:14	11:25 27:22	Sunbeam 17:19	57:3	19:2 22:3 23:8
specified 42:15	29:10 35:8,16	17:23 18:2 24:5	terms 38:22	25:19 31:17
splintered 28:17	36:5	44:6,12 54:21	46:17	50:17 55:6
standard 3:11,17	statutory 41:6,9	55:13,13	test 3:16,20,21	56:19
4:17 6:17 8:1,1	45:2 47:13	supplier 32:22	4:2,9 9:8 27:9	three 37:12,18
9:15 10:14,23	step 7:17	support 11:16	27:11 39:11	37:20 39:4 52:7
11:1,21 12:12	stipulation 52:25	27:25 29:13	43:9,25 50:19	52:16
12:20 14:13	53:3	supported 52:18	51:5,7 54:1,2,3	time 19:1 26:23
15:13,20,21,22	stole 40:22	supports 53:4	testified 18:3	27:2 55:1,20
15:24 16:1,6	stolen 40:5	suppose 16:3,4	testimony 27:14	timing 55:10
20:15,16,20,23	stop 24:15	supposed 30:5	Texas 1:18	today 37:1
22:4,10,12,24	strategy 40:21	37:10	text 28:7	told 5:15,23
23:9 24:22	stricken47:1	Supreme 1:1,13	Thank 27:3 53:5	25:13 34:1 35:3
27:18 28:3	strict 11:10	sure 5:17 10:6	57:9	tone 49:3
29:14,20 31:19	12:25 13:1,4,10	17:7 21:6 29:25	theater 35:22	tool 44:5
32:12,21,25	13:10 36:25	30:6 43:8	theory 26:12	torts 50:14
34:12 35:1,14	41:7	surely 45:19	34:5	touched 19:4
35:17 37:22,24	strong 34:25	suspend 30:9	thing 21:11 22:21	tradition 29:21
38:2,3,6 39:17	struck 15:25,25	sustained 10:15	30:7 35:21,24	traditional 30:21
41:3,12,13,22	stuff 6:13 17:12	swallow21:6	35:25 36:16	transcript 33:23
42:16 44:17,21	submitted 57:10	S.A 1:7 3:5	44:20 45:19	33:25
44:22 45:2,18	57:12	T	49:22,23	trial 29:15 33:22
45:19,24 46:2,3	subsection 20:16	T2:1,1	things 18:18	33:23 52:9
46:16 53:12,23	subset 10:17	tailored 40:1	22:17 31:7	triggered 38:17
53:24 55:5,24	substantial 23:20	take 10:12 17:13	34:17 37:8	trouble 17:20
57:7 standards 21:9	33:1,1 38:21 40:14 45:5	20:14,23 22:4	38:23 think 4:17 6:1	true 13:20 14:25 17:23 53:3
21:12,15 27:20	suddenly 49:5	26:14,16,19	9:13 10:9,15,24	truth 3:24 50:3
37:21 49:17	suddenly 49.3 sued 54:21 56:3	28:1 34:10	11:2 12:1 13:20	57:6
52:16	suffice 52:5	38:17 41:20	14:5,20 15:19	trying 7:4 55:4
staple 20:25	suffices 38:5	43:20	16:4,8,11,18	55:19
21:15	sufficient 52:15	taken 7:16 57:6	17:4,14 18:17	turn 19:19
staples 20:24	suggest 19:8	takes 32:23	22:9 25:25	turned 16:25
state 3:11 21:3,7	33:12 34:3 35:5	talk 32:11 33:19	27:19,21 28:6	turns 7:8
21:16 22:11,25	45:11 46:2	talking 13:16	29:20 30:1,2,3	two 9:15 18:17
45:6	48:12 49:11	26:4 28:14	30:14 32:6	20:18 30:8
stated 13:25	51:6,12	29:18 39:6	34:20,25 35:15	34:17 37:13
statement 28:3	suggested 16:15	47:25 51:4	41:5,8,12 44:15	52:14
statements	37:20 38:11	TED 1:18 2:6	45:1 50:18	
53:19	47:10	27:5	51:14 56:8	U
		tell 5:13 6:8,10		ultimately 53:16

		 I	 I	 I
uncertainty	view30:13	40:20	49:10,10	29:7 44:24
29:21	violate 25:20	we'll 3:3 24:14	worth 53:15	45:23 47:14
unchanged 31:10	44:4	we're 6:11 15:4	wouldn't 4:11,20	271(c) 23:20 28:8
underlying 12:24	violated 42:20	22:21	6:4,7,10 7:12	28:8,11,25 29:6
12:24 13:9	violates 40:8	we've 6:13 20:20	7:19 8:20 16:24	
understand 6:25	violating 39:2	27:14	19:3 21:21,24	3
12:17 14:12	44:3 47:16	whatsoever 11:9	25:14 29:25	3 2:4
23:11 37:5	violation 13:9	wholesale 43:20	write 34:11 51:22	31 33:23
41:19	21:18 44:9,23	willful 3:20,21	wrong 22:7 34:10	312 4:19 40:8
understanding	44:25	4:5,7,10,12	42:3 45:20 46:3	47:16
41:24	virtually 11:5	7:24 8:4,21 9:8	47:7	4
understood	14:3	9:12,14,14		
35:16 41:20	voice 49:3	10:14 13:16	X	420,000 14:1,17
unexpired 14:17		15:23 16:1,5,9	x 1:2,8	14:22
unfair 41:19	W	16:17 18:13,14	Y	44/100ths 5:16
unintended	wait 26:25 38:24	18:16,24 19:20	-	5
51:10	waiting 31:13	25:6 27:17,23	years 52:8	50 10:7 18:4
unique 15:22	want 7:5 8:11	29:13,21,22	York 1:16,16	53 2:10
40:3	12:10 17:20	30:22 31:2,3	55:2,22	33 2.10
United 1:1,13	26:23 39:24	33:14,16 37:16	1	6
5:10	43:8 49:13	38:4 46:4,11,14	10-6 1:5 3:4	607 19:22
units 52:24	53:13,25 54:5	48:17 50:1	10-0 1.5 5.4 100 47:15	
universe 38:7	wanted 12:12	53:12,22,24	100 47.13 109 52:12	9
unlawful 25:18	16:23 22:4 23:9	56:15 57:1	11:13 1:14 3:2	9th 54:16
unscrupulous	23:24 55:24	willfully 39:18,21	12 52:8	90 10:10
48:4	Ward 5:7 7:7,8	willfulness 44:21	12 32.8 12:14 57:11	929 33:23
unusual 49:8	16:24 17:8,12	44:24	12.14 37.11 124A 46:19	941 53:14
uphold 38:1	17:19 24:4 44:7	WILLIAM 1:16	135A 46:25	99 5:16
upset 48:21	44:12	2:3,9 3:7 53:8	54:12	
urging 42:2	warehouse 43:7	willing 41:14,14	18 13:3	
use 4:23 12:15	Washington 1:9	wise 34:13	1989 13:6	
23:13 28:23	wasn't 16:10	word 11:17,20,20	1989 13.0 1998 31:10,11	
35:24 36:16	19:4 23:15	11:25 12:1,15	54:16 56:12	
43:8,9 44:10	25:19,21 34:8	28:9,9,12,21	J 1 .10 JU.12	
49:7,12	way 12:11 14:22	29:8 35:17 36:6	2	
useful 19:5	23:10 31:8	words 30:20 31:1	2 13:3	
uses 12:1 23:20	33:15 38:9	36:9 39:4,24	20 11:19 38:23	
28:13 36:13	40:25 41:8	46:24 49:3,6,11	2011 1:10	
U.S 38:15 40:4	45:10	49:20	23 1:10	
U.S.C 13:3	ways 29:8 37:9	work 16:22	26 31:7 32:4,9	
	Wednesday 1:10	works 23:14	27 2:7 31:8 32:4	
V	weird 36:16	world 29:17,19	271 28:7 41:1	
v 1:6 3:5	went 16:20 20:5	48:21	271(a) 40:20	
VCR 23:13	42:15	worried 37:4,6,9	271(b) 28:8,9	
verdict 52:23	weren't 31:2			
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>