

Apple Slapped With \$145m Fine Over WiLan Infringement
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A US District Court of California jury has ordered tech giant Apple to pay communications company WiLan \$145m in damages.

Issuing verdict at the start of August, the jury found that versions of Apple's iPhone, such as iPhone 6 and 7, infringed two of the Ottawa-based company's patents relating to broadband wireless communications.

Specifically, the patents covered a 'Method and apparatus for bandwidth request/grant protocols in a wireless communication system' and an 'Adaptive call admission control for use in a wireless communication system'.

"The jury worked very hard to understand the complex technology involved in the case, and they weighed the evidence very carefully," said Mike McKool, of McKool Smith and lead trial counsel for WiLAN. "Our client is pleased with the verdict," he added.

Passing the two-page verdict form, the jury answered "yes" to Apple infringing all five claims and that it had "proven by a preponderance of the evidence" that the Cupertino-headquartered business violated the asserted patents.

They awarded the plaintiff a lump sum of \$145.1m but did not calculate any royalty payments.

The plaintiff sued Apple in 2014, asserting that it "wilfully infringed" its claims by making, using, selling, offering for sale, and importing into the US voice-over-LTE (VoLTE) iPhones.

"WiLAN will demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that Apple induces its customers to directly infringe the asserted claims of WiLAN's patents. WiLAN will also show that Apple knew of Wi-LAN's patents and acted with specific intent to induce infringement," the complaint stated.

Following the decision, Presiding Judge Dana M Sabraw has directed both parties to mediation prior to submitting post-trial motions.