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Smartphone Patent Battles Escalate as Apple Sues Samsung

By Ashby Jones



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Apple alleges Samsung's Galaxy line, including the tablet shown above, violated its patents and trademarks.

Wizbang gadgets like the iPad bring joy, discovery, convenience, as well as a hit to the pocketbook.

They also bring lawsuits. Lots and lots of lawsuits.

The latest to hit the tablet/smartphone makers: a suit by Apple against Samsung, claiming Samsung's Galaxy cellphones and tablet "slavishly" copied Apple's iPhone and iPad. Click [here](#) for the WSJ story; [here](#) for the post from All Things Digital; [here](#) for the Wired writeup.

Apple's lawsuit, filed Friday in federal court in Northern California, alleges that Samsung copied the look, product design, packaging and user interface of its products, violating its patents and trademarks.

"Rather than innovate and develop its own technology and a unique Samsung style for its smart phone products and computer tablets, Samsung chose to copy Apple's technology, user interface and innovative style in these infringing products," Apple said in its 38-page suit. (The complaint is not available.)

A Samsung spokesman said the company will "actively" respond to the lawsuit. "Samsung's development of core technologies and strengthening our intellectual property portfolio are keys to our continued success," the spokesman said.

The lawsuit is the latest legal swipe in the competitive smartphone and tablet markets, showing

how high the stakes have become.

Apple is also embroiled in legal battles with companies such as HTC, Motorola, Amazon.com, Nokia and Eastman Kodak over products such as smartphones and software, some of whom it has sued and some of whom it has been sued by.

Apple is also in a legal dispute with Microsoft Corp., which is challenging Apple's trademark for the term "app store."

"It's another arrow in their [Apple's] quiver to slow down their closest competitor," said Edward Snyder, an analyst for Charter Equity Research in San Francisco, referring to the suit against Samsung. Snyder said he expected the two companies to eventually settle.

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