

Apple, Samsung fail to settle patent case

NEW YORK, USA: Apple and its South Korean rival Samsung will return to court next month after failing to agree on a settlement to end a legal battle over patents in the United States.



The patent war between Apple and Samsung continues despite efforts to resolve it through mediation. Image: Cooldesign [Free Digital Photos](#)

The two firms had been pushed into talks by a court order that saw Apple's chief executive Tim Cook and his Samsung mobile communications counterpart JK Shin attend a full-day negotiation session in early February, along with their advisers and legal teams.

A statement filed in the US District Court in San Jose, California, said that despite several follow-ups, the mediator's settlement proposal to the parties was unsuccessful.

"Parties remain willing to work through the mediator jointly selected by the parties," the statement said.

Apple said it had contacted the mediator by telephone more than six times after the negotiations, while Samsung communicated with the mediator via conference calls and other means more than four times.

This is not the first time for Apple and Samsung to seek a settlement out of court. But a court-imposed mediation session, originally imposed in May 2012, failed to produce results.

The companies have been locked in a prolonged patent war in more than 10 countries, with each accusing the other of patent infringement.

In November, a US federal jury ordered Samsung to pay US\$290m in damages to Apple in a partial retrial of the blockbuster patent case. The US ruling came on top of an original US\$640m award that went to Apple, giving the company combined damages of US\$930m.

Apple's victory in the US court has had little impact on new products, as Samsung has succeeded in distancing itself from Apple with new items such as its flagship Galaxy 4 smartphones.

Apple has accused its South Korean rival of widespread and willful copying of its designs and technology for smartphones and tablets and has asked the court to bar US sales of Samsung smartphones and tablet computers.

Samsung claimed Apple had used some of its technology without permission.

Source: AFP via I-net Bridge

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