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23 Cascades Computer Innovation LLC

E-filing

24 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

25 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

26 CASCADES COMPUTER INNOVATION )  
27 LLC, )

Plaintiff, )

v. )

28 RPX CORPORATION, HTC )  
29 CORPORATION, LG ELECTRONICS, INC., )  
30 MOTOROLA MOBILITY HOLDINGS, )  
31 INC., SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO. )  
32 LTD., DELL INC., )

Defendants. )

Case No. **CV 12 1143**

**COMPLAINT AND DEMAND  
FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Plaintiff Cascades Computer Innovation LLC (“Cascades”) complains of defendants  
2 RPX Corporation, HTC Corporation, LG Electronics, Inc., Motorola Mobility Holdings, Inc.,  
3 Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. And Dell Inc. (collectively, “defendants”), as follows:

4 **THE PARTIES**

5 1. Cascades is an Illinois limited liability company having its principal place of  
6 business at 500 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 250, Northbrook, Illinois 60062. It has the exclusive  
7 right to license and enforce a portfolio of 38 patents owned by Elbrus International Limited and  
8 Elbrus Svarog L.P. (collectively, “Elbrus”).

9 2. RPX Corporation is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at  
10 One Market Plaza, Steuart Tower, Suite 700, San Francisco, California 94105. Backed by the  
11 hugely successful venture capital firm Kleiner, Perkins (early investors in Amazon, Google,  
12 Genentech, AOL), RPX is a patent aggregator that acquires patents for its members (now in  
13 excess of 110), each of whom is granted a license in exchange for a payment ranging from  
14 \$60,000 to \$6,000,000. To date, RPX has accumulated more than 1,600 patents in various fields,  
15 not counting the 29,000 patents for which it recently acquired exclusive licensing rights.

16 3. HTC Corporation (“HTC”) is a foreign corporation with corporate headquarters at  
17 23 Xinghua Road, Taoyuan 330, Taiwan. HTC does substantial business in this judicial district  
18 including the marketing, sale, offering for sale, and importation of cellular telephone devices  
19 which are accused of patent infringement in this case.

20 4. LG Electronics, Inc. (“LG”) is a foreign corporation having a place of business at  
21 LG Twin Towers 20, Yeouido dong, Yeongdeungpo-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea 150-721 with  
22 its United States headquarters at 10101 Old Grove Road, San Diego CA 92131. LG does  
23 substantial business in this judicial district including the marketing, sale, offering for sale, and  
24 importation of cellular telephone devices.

1           5.       Motorola Mobility Holdings, Inc. ("Motorola") is a Delaware corporation  
2 headquartered at 600 N. U.S. Highway 45, Libertyville, Illinois 60048. Motorola does  
3 substantial business in this judicial district including the marketing, sale, offering for sale, and  
4 importation of cellular telephone devices.

5           6.       Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. ("Samsung") is a foreign corporation with  
6 corporate headquarters at 250, 2-ga, Taepyung-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul 100-742, Republic of Korea.  
7 Samsung does substantial business in this judicial district including the marketing, sale, offering  
8 for sale, and importation of cellular telephone devices and tablet computers.

9           7.       Dell Inc. ("Dell") is a Delaware corporation with an office located at 1 Dell Way,  
10 Round Rock, Texas. Dell does substantial business in this judicial district including the  
11 marketing, sale, offering for sale, and importation of cellular telephone devices.

12          8.       HTC, LG, Motorola, Samsung and Dell manufacture and sell wireless portable  
13 communication devices including cellular telephones and computer tablets that employ the  
14 Android operating system. Each is a member of RPX, as is Google, the owner of the Android  
15 operating system.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16  
17          9.       This Complaint states claims for violation of the federal antitrust laws and for  
18 violation of the Cartwright Act and California unfair competition law. This Court has subject  
19 matter jurisdiction over the federal antitrust claims under 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 26 and 28 U.S.C.  
20 § 1331. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Cascades' California state law claims  
21 under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 because those claims are so related to the federal claims that they form  
22 part of the same case or controversy.

23          10.      At all times relevant to this claim defendants have engaged in and affected  
24 interstate commerce and foreign import commerce and have affected United States export

1 commerce all within the meaning of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 1, 2 and 6(a)).

2 11. The violations of law described in this Complaint have been and are being carried  
3 out in the United States and in this judicial district. Venue in this judicial district is proper under  
4 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 and 22 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and (d).

### 5 **Cascades and Elbrus**

6 12. After 40 years with the Russian government's Institute of Precision Mechanics  
7 and Computer Technology (where he led the development of the Elbrus supercomputers  
8 underpinning the Russian space mission control center), the lead inventor of the Cascades/Elbrus  
9 patents, Boris Babaian, turned his focus to private industry. As chairman and chief technologist  
10 of Elbrus International, he (and the same team that developed three generations of  
11 supercomputers) developed pioneering software technology like that covered, for example, by  
12 United States Patent No. 7,065,750, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Preserving Precise  
13 Exceptions in Binary Translated Code," issued June 20, 2006 (the "'750 patent"). Mr. Babaian is  
14 an Intel Fellow and the chairman and chief technologist of Elbrus International and oversees a  
15 design team that traces its roots to the days of Sputnik, the Soviet space satellite often cited as  
16 the catalyst for the scientific research that led to many Western technological innovations, such  
17 as the Internet. As noted above, Cascades acquired the exclusive right to license and enforce  
18 more than 35 Elbrus patents, including the '750 patent: 5,418,975, 5,781,924, 5,794,029,  
19 5,889,985, 5,923,871, 5,958,048, 5,983,336, 6,243,822, 6,265,896, 6,301,706, 6,313,691,  
20 6,320,446, 6,323,688, 6,351,155, 6,363,405, 6,366,130, 6,373,149, 6,412,105, 6,424,181,  
21 6,516,462, 6,516,463, 6,526,573, 6,549,903, 6,560,775, 6,564,372, 6,567,831, 6,584,611,  
22 6,594,824, 6,668,316, 6,718,541, 6,732,220, 6,751,645, 6,820,255, 6,954,927, 7,003,650,  
23 7,065,750, 7,069,412, 7,143,401. Elbrus granted a license to Intel under its patents for a  
24 substantial lump-sum payment. Various of these patents are infringed by the manufacturing

1 defendants and all are subject to the group boycott and concerted refusal to deal complained of  
2 herein.

### 3 **The Cascades Patents And Google's Android Operating Systems**

4 13. Google's Android operating system has become the dominant mobile operating  
5 system in the world, achieving a 40% market share. The manufacturing defendants dominate the  
6 Android market in the United States as device suppliers that use the Android operating systems  
7 (HTC (41%), Motorola (35%), Samsung (17%) and LG (4%)). Dell has a market share below  
8 4% but, together with the other manufacturing defendants, sells more than 90% of all cellular  
9 phones sold in the United States that use the Android operating systems. More than 300,000  
10 applications are available for use on Android devices. An operating system of some kind is  
11 installed on more than 130 million devices and more than 10 billion applications are downloaded  
12 on those devices each year. Only devices that meet Google's compatibility requirements can  
13 install such applications on Android-based phones and tablets. The technology of the '750  
14 patent, and others in the Cascades portfolio, facilitates the installation and use of such  
15 applications on Android devices (such as smart phones), through dependency trees, which  
16 permits the optimization of the bytes code used in an application, thus, increasing the speed and  
17 value of the application. The '750 patent covers such optimization techniques.

18 14. Defendant Motorola owns more than 17,000 patents in the area of mobile phone  
19 technology, making it one of the dominant patent holders in the mobile telephone market.  
20 Google has agreed to acquire Motorola for \$12.5 billion to gain control of its patent portfolio.  
21 Together with the other defendants, Motorola (and Google) and RPX own or control many of the  
22 patents of significance for mobile phone technology. The number of U.S. patents owned or now  
23 controlled by each defendant is approximately: Google/Motorola, 22,046; Samsung, 47,348;  
24 LG, 16,823, HTC, 222; Dell, 2,461; and RPX, 1,600. Recently, RPX became an agent for

1 licensing Alcatel-Lucent's portfolio of 29,000 issued United States patents, allowing it to  
2 effectively control the licensing of those patents as well. Together the defendants own or control  
3 nearly 120,000 U.S. patents. Cascades owns or controls less than 100.

#### 4 **The Anti-Troll/Anti-NPE Conspiracy**

5 15. The term "patent troll" was created in 2002 by Peter Detkin, then head of  
6 litigation for Intel Corporation. "Trolling for Dollars," The Recorder, Sandburg, B. (July 30,  
7 2001) (Exhibit A). Intel had been sued for patent infringement and, later, for defamation for  
8 calling its opponent in the then-pending litigation "a patent extortionist." According to Detkin, a  
9 patent troll is "somebody who tries to make a lot of money off a patent that they are not  
10 practicing and have no intention of practicing and in most cases never practiced." Detkin is a  
11 co-founder of Intellectual Ventures, one of the biggest patent aggregators and (thus, by his own  
12 definition) patent trolls in now existence. Intellectual Ventures accumulated more than 30,000  
13 patents on the pledge that it was only acquiring patents for defensive purposes. That pledge was  
14 quickly broken in a string of high-profile patent infringement cases Intellectual Ventures brought  
15 in Delaware.

16 16. The troll label has been extended to non-manufacturing entities (called "NPEs")  
17 who are companies like Cascades that do not manufacture or sell products covered by patents  
18 they own or control. Of course, each of the defendants also owns or controls numerous patents  
19 that cover products they neither manufacture nor sell.

20 17. RPX is a spin-off of Intellectual Ventures and was originally backed by three  
21 venture capital firms, including Kleiner Perkins. RPX's stated goal is to protect its members  
22 from patent infringement claims from NPEs. In most cases, like in this case, an inventor turns to  
23 an NPE for financial or strategic assistance in asserting his or her patent rights, since inventors  
24 oftentimes lack the financial wherewithal or experience to do so themselves. Thus, if an inventor

1 like Mr. Babaian cannot afford the extraordinary expense of patent enforcement (commonly, \$3  
2 million to \$8 million per litigation through trial) or is not knowledgeable about how patent  
3 licensing and enforcement works in this country, he or she must turn to a company like Cascades  
4 to provide financial and other support to license the patents. As in this case, the companies that  
5 infringe an inventor's patents are frequently large multinational companies with vast resources to  
6 devote to the defense of any patent claims, regardless of merit. Cascades and other NPE  
7 companies try to level the playing field on which the large corporations and the individual  
8 inventor or small patent holder play, by providing financial and other assistance to make it a  
9 more equal contest.

10 18. Law firms like Winston & Strawn that represent two of the defendants (Motorola  
11 and Dell) and others, like Sony-Ericsson who infringe the Cascades patents, have openly  
12 encouraged their clients and potential clients not to negotiate settlements, accept licenses or settle  
13 independently with NPEs, regardless of the merits ([http://wfllegalpulse.com/2010/09/22/web-](http://wfllegalpulse.com/2010/09/22/web-seminar-makes-case-for-patent-troll-lawsuit-targets-to-fight-back)  
14 [seminar-makes-case-for-patent-troll-lawsuit-targets-to-fight-back](http://wfllegalpulse.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/troll-presentation-5.pdf); [http://wfllegalpulse.files.](http://wfllegalpulse.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/troll-presentation-5.pdf)  
15 [wordpress.com/2010/09/troll-presentation-5.pdf](http://wfllegalpulse.files.wordpress.com/2010/09/troll-presentation-5.pdf)).

#### 16 **The RPX Business Model**

17 19. RPX has more than 110 members, including each of the named manufacturing  
18 defendants and other infringers of the '750 patent and various other Cascades patents, including  
19 ASUSTEK Computer, Inc., Hynix Semiconductor, Inc., Philips Koninklijke Electronics, N.V.,  
20 Sharp Electronics Corp., Sony-Ericsson and Pantech Wireless, Inc., each of which have also  
21 been sued for infringement of a Cascades patent. In 2010, RPX contacted Cascades about the  
22 possibility of acquiring license rights in the Elbrus portfolio and made a substantial offer on  
23 behalf of its members.

24 20. RPX frequently acts as the agent or intermediary of its members for purposes of

1 acquiring patents and negotiating licensing and purchase terms on behalf of its members  
2 collectively. Funding is provided by members and each can renew its membership periodically  
3 by paying additional monies to RPX. Although the contracts RPX has with its members  
4 purportedly give members the ability to deal independently in their own self-interest, the whole  
5 purpose of RPX and the reason for joining RPX is to form an industry group that can force  
6 individual inventors, patent owners and NPEs to deal collectively with RPX as an agent for its  
7 members acting in concert with each other, rather than having each member deal separately and  
8 independently with the patent holder. RPX selects its members based upon the frequency that  
9 they have been sued for patent infringement by NPEs. Currently, RPX has targeted for  
10 membership 275 companies that have been sued at least twice by an NPE.

11 21. On its website, RPX boasts about its ability to force lower prices through  
12 coercive, collective action on behalf of its members against NPEs:

13 But even after an NPE has acquired an asset, RPX can help. NPEs acquire  
14 patents and in the process, take on the significant cost and risk of litigating against  
15 a large number of companies. RPX is often able to achieve “wholesale” pricing  
16 terms, where we can acquire rights for our members at significantly reduced cost  
17 relative to what the NPE might charge an individual company on its own. RPX  
18 believes we have saved our members tens of millions of dollars through these  
19 wholesale-priced transactions.

17 Our approach enables our client network to manage patent litigation risks and  
18 costs through collective defensive patent initiatives, superior patent intelligence,  
19 and special advisory services.

19 <http://www.rpxcorp.com/index.cfm?pageid=43>.

20 22. RPX also gathers intelligence and data on patent acquisition opportunities, patent  
21 litigation and licensing activities and trends, all for the purpose of forcing lower royalty  
22 payments for licensing by combining the efforts of its members at the expense of their  
23 independent interests.

24 23. RPX has been accused of using coercive tactics with potential members to force



1 them to join RPX. A potential RPX member, Kaspersky Labs, claimed that RPX engaged in  
2 extortion and fraudulent practices by threatening that, if Kaspersky Labs did not join RPX, it  
3 could face lawsuits on patents RPX might acquire or that patents RPX already owned could be  
4 released to RPX members Kaspersky Labs had sued for infringement for possible retaliatory use  
5 against Kaspersky Labs ([http://gametimeip.com/2011/05/31/patent-aggregator-rpx-accused-of-](http://gametimeip.com/2011/05/31/patent-aggregator-rpx-accused-of-extortion-racketeering-wire-fraud)  
6 [extortion-racketeering-wire-fraud](http://gametimeip.com/2011/05/31/patent-aggregator-rpx-accused-of-extortion-racketeering-wire-fraud)).

7 24. RPX announced that its intention was to develop a new solution for dealing with  
8 NPEs:

9 that will increase the value we provide for our current and prospective clients.  
10 For example, we intend to facilitate joint defense agreements and cross-licensing  
11 arrangements among our clients. A joint defense agreement is an agreement  
12 among multiple defendants in a lawsuit to appoint one legal counsel or group of  
13 legal counsel to represent multiple defendants. A cross-licensing arrangement is  
14 an agreement among two or more parties to license some or all of their patent  
15 portfolios to each other. As part of our potential joint defense solution, we are  
16 developing a plan to establish a risk retention group to help our clients cover costs  
17 incurred in defending patent infringement claims.

18 RPX Corporation, S.E.C. Registration Statement (Form S-1), at 16 (Jan. 21, 2011), *available at*  
19 <http://www.secinfo.com/d14D5a.qbPx.htm>.

20 25. By facilitating and funding joint defense arrangements, RPX enables its members  
21 to effectively act in concert in dealing with NPEs seeking to license their patents and eliminates  
22 the ability of its individual members to act independently.

23 26. RPX has recently offered NPE patent insurance to companies that may be sued  
24 for patent infringement by an NPE. This insurance, like the joint defense efforts, encourages  
25 group, not individual, efforts at negotiating or accepting patent licenses.

### 26 **The RPX-Led Concerted Refusal to Deal**

27 27. Initially, RPX negotiated with Cascades to acquire license rights under all of the  
28 Cascades patents for its 100-plus members (including each of the other defendants). The

1 manufacturing defendants were required to contribute to the settlement, which would have  
2 resulted in a high seven-figure payment to Cascades for a fully paid-up license. RPX's initial  
3 offer to license demonstrates its recognition of the validity and value of the Cascades patents.

4 28. RPX terminated negotiations with Cascades and withdraw its offer because one or  
5 more of its members allegedly would not fund the license deal. This demonstrated that all  
6 members either had to agree to a license or none would agree. On information and belief, after  
7 negotiations with Cascades ended, RPX and the other defendants conspired and agreed that none  
8 of them would separately negotiate with Cascades for a license and that all would act together to  
9 oppose Cascades' efforts to license and enforce the '750 and other Cascades patents, including  
10 through the mechanism of a joint defense arrangement among several of the defendants. On  
11 information and belief, the individual manufacturing defendants all agreed among themselves  
12 and with RPX not to negotiate independently with Cascades and to present a unified, concerted  
13 effort to oppose licensing and enforcement of the Cascades patents, with the objective of causing  
14 Cascades to abandon its efforts, accept a below-market-value offer by RPX or go out of business  
15 by virtue of the expense of litigation.

16 29. RPX members sign an agreement with RPX that effectively limits their freedom  
17 to negotiate licenses independently. RPX represents that, by negotiating licenses through it,  
18 royalty amounts can be reduced. By penalizing those who do not renew and continue their  
19 membership in RPX, members are effectively encouraged not to deal independently with patent  
20 owners like Cascades. RPX boasts that "more NPE activity spurs companies to join our  
21 network" -- the network being the 110 RPX members that, together with RPX, combine and  
22 conspire to accept, reject or negotiate licenses with NPEs.

23 30. As evidence of the conspiracy, the manufacturing defendants (HTC, LG,  
24 Motorola, Samsung and Dell) have clearly acted against their individual economic interests. In

1 January 2012, Cascades offered each of LG, Motorola, Samsung and HTC an identical license  
2 proposal that would have required a lump-sum royalty payment of \$5 million for a fully paid-up  
3 license under all the Cascades patents with the right to recover up to all of the payment based on  
4 25% of the licensing revenues that Cascades received from any other infringer. Thus, for  
5 example, if any individual defendant had accepted the offer and paid its \$5 million and Cascades  
6 subsequently received an additional \$15 million of licensing revenues from other sources, the  
7 defendant would recoup \$3.75 million (25% of \$15 million), so its net cost would be \$1.25  
8 million. If Cascades subsequently received \$20 million or more, then the defendant would  
9 recoup all its costs. No manufacturing defendant even responded to the offer, clearly showing  
10 that the combination, agreement and conspiracy between them caused each individual defendant  
11 to act contrary to its own private economic interests.

12 31. Defendants have contracted, combined and conspired to restrain trade by jointly  
13 refusing to negotiate or accept licenses under the Cascades patents. Defendants' goal is to force  
14 either a drastically reduced royalty for rights under the Cascades patents or no royalty payment at  
15 all.

16 32. Google, who is also a member of RPX, benefits from the group boycott as well  
17 because it lessens the royalty burden on its Android operating system. Google, like RPX,  
18 encourages others not to accept licenses under patents owned by NPEs.

19  
20 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
21 **VIOLATION OF THE FEDERAL ANTITRUST LAWS**  
22 **AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS**

23 33. This claim is brought under Sections 4 and 16 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. §§  
24 15 and 26): (a) to recover damages sustained by Cascades as a result of its being injured in its  
25 business and property by reason of defendants' violations of the antitrust laws, particularly

1 Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 1 and 2), (b) to obtain injunctive relief  
2 against threatened loss or damage as a result of such violations, and (c) to recover the expense of  
3 bringing and maintaining this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees.

4 34. Cascades has the exclusive right to license and enforce the '750 patent, as well as  
5 more than 30 other patents owned by Elbrus. Though the '750 patent is used as an example,  
6 efforts to license the entire portfolio of Cascades/Elbrus patents is impacted by the combination  
7 and conspiracy among the defendants and other RPX members.

8 35. The '750 patent relates to software embedded in mobile phones and tablet  
9 computers that permits optimization of applications when Android operating systems are used.  
10 Cascades has actively sought to license the '750 patent, together with its other patents, so that the  
11 patented technology could be legally shared with the entire mobile phone and tablet industry that  
12 uses Android operating systems and related, relevant submarkets. There is a separate submarket  
13 for licenses under the '750 patent, the other Cascades/Elbrus patents and the patented technology  
14 itself within the meaning of the antitrust laws. The geographic scope of this market or submarket  
15 is nationwide.

16 36. As part of its business, Cascades has offered to license its '750 patent (and its  
17 other patents) under nearly identical terms to those entities (like HTC, LG, Motorola, Samsung  
18 and Dell) that sell devices that use Android operating systems and want to lawfully practice the  
19 inventions of the Cascades' patents. Cascades has continuously sought to grant licenses to users  
20 of its patented technology. Many separate companies have been repeatedly contacted over the  
21 last year alone, including the defendants and other manufacturers (such as ASUS, Pantech  
22 Wireless, Philips Electronics and Sharp Electronics). Dell and Pantech each made token offers  
23 of less than \$100,000 for a fully paid-up license under all the Cascades patents, offers which  
24 Cascades believes were spurious and made in bad faith. Other than these token offers, no

1 manufacturing entity has engaged in independent, good-faith discussions or negotiations with  
2 Cascades or even acknowledged letters offering licenses, thus, acting contrary to their own  
3 private interests and, ultimately, the public good. As noted above, Motorola, LG, Samsung and  
4 HTC, who dominate the Android market, refused to even discuss a license, despite being offered  
5 terms that could effectively result in a zero royalty. Motorola and others chose to negotiate only  
6 through RPX.

7 37. Currently, each of the manufacturing defendants, and numerous others in the  
8 industry, have openly and notoriously infringed the '750 patent (and other Cascades patents)  
9 and/or contributed to or induced the infringement of others of the '750 patent. But, with the  
10 exception of RPX (which effectively sought to negotiate a bulk license at a single price for all of  
11 its hundreds of members, including the manufacturing defendants, and then withdrew its offer  
12 when its members agreed to boycott Cascades), everyone has refused to engage in any serious  
13 license negotiations of any kind or even, in some cases, to acknowledge Cascades' efforts to  
14 license.

15 38. Hence, despite its efforts to license the '750 patent (and other patents), Cascades  
16 has been unsuccessful with the named manufacturing defendants who control more than 95% of  
17 the Android market in the United States. These defendants have market power in the Android  
18 market. Prospective licensees have made no independent contact with Cascades because of  
19 concerted efforts on the part of defendants (as counseled by RPX and by the Winston & Strawn  
20 firm) and others like them in the relevant industry to refuse licenses under the Cascades patents.  
21 This behavior has continued despite defendant RPX's purported one-time interest in purchasing  
22 license rights for its members under the Cascades patents and granting licenses to its members.  
23 This uniformity of action (indeed, of inaction) strongly demonstrates a group effort to refuse to  
24 license, thereby forcing license prices below a competitive level at monopsony prices. Such

1 actions are buyer or licensee boycotts and illegal *per se*.

## 2 **Combination And Conspiracy In Restraint Of Trade**

3 39. Under the auspices of agreements with RPX, joint defense agreements, NPE  
4 insurance, common counsel, meetings, phone calls, emails and discussions with RPX and  
5 otherwise, defendants have met, conferred, conspired, combined and agreed among themselves  
6 and, on information and belief, with other potential licensees of the Cascades patents, that they  
7 would not accept licenses from Cascades under terms and conditions offered by Cascades (even  
8 with the potential of no royalty) but, instead, have decided they would infringe without the  
9 payment of any royalties and, thus, would collectively continue to jointly refuse to license the  
10 Cascades patents. This has become clear from the uniformity of action by defendants, even  
11 against their own economic interests.

12 40. As one example, many of the manufacturing defendants have used common  
13 counsel, the law firm of Winston & Strawn, to not only coordinate efforts in the defense of  
14 pending lawsuits for patent infringement, but also to create uniform action in refusing to consider  
15 or accept (or, for that matter, even discuss) a license under the Cascades patented technology.  
16 The common representation has been solicited and then used to be certain that the defendants do  
17 not operate independently in evaluating the terms and conditions of a license under the Cascades  
18 patents. Winston publishes a website in which its partners have urged companies not to  
19 negotiate licenses with NPEs.

20 41. Based on the uniformity of action, the '750 patent has been discussed by  
21 defendants, and agreements and understandings have been made to attack the '750 patent rather  
22 than to accept a license under it. RPX, which itself accumulates patents, was involved in the  
23 combination and conspiracy and knows that the manufacturing defendants have combined to  
24 refuse any reasonable license offer. Like Winston, RPX encourages individual entities not to

1 independently accept licenses from NPEs.

2           42.     RPX has suggested that companies join its organization to gain leverage in  
3 obtaining licenses from patent owners like Cascades at lower prices. It has also threatened those  
4 who do not join its pool with the risk that RPX might sell some of its patents to direct  
5 competitors for enforcement.

6           43.     In furtherance of the conspiracy and combination, defendants have now jointly  
7 engaged in a common defense against the '750 patent and the other Cascades patents. In that  
8 way, they effectively have agreed to limit their individual freedom of action in dealing with  
9 Cascades, even against their private economic interests; they have shared information through  
10 RPX and others (including the Winston & Strawn law firm) concerning their purported separate  
11 and independent negotiations with Cascades; they have agreed to cooperate and to share  
12 expenses for and to assist each other in attacking the Cascades patents; they have, through RPX,  
13 also attempted to persuade other potential licensees not to discuss or accept a license from  
14 Cascades under any terms or conditions; and, they have agreed not to negotiate with or accept  
15 licenses from Cascades without consulting and agreeing with other members of the conspiracy  
16 concerning the acceptability of the terms offered by Cascades, all for the purpose of assuring  
17 uniformity of action in accepting or rejecting Cascades' efforts to grant licenses under its patents  
18 and, thus, controlling the royalty rate and terms under which the patents are licensed. On  
19 information and belief, others in the industry are also involved with the named defendants and  
20 have discussed and agreed upon joint courses of action in dealing with the Cascades patents.

21           44.     Based on their uniformity of action, defendants have not negotiated separately and  
22 independently with Cascades but have, in fact, been sharing information via RPX, Winston &  
23 Strawn and otherwise concerning their boycott of any license negotiations and have been acting  
24 jointly and in combination. The various meetings, discussions and communications between

1 defendants and others have taken place for the express purpose and with the effect of creating a  
2 uniform, agreed upon course of action among them in refusing to accept a license under the  
3 Cascades patents except upon terms which defendants could jointly dictate. Defendants have not  
4 acted independently, but instead have conspired and agreed to restrict their independent action in  
5 negotiating a license with Cascades.

6 45. As a consequence of the above-referenced combination and joint action,  
7 defendants, in combination with others, have prevented Cascades from licensing its patents  
8 separately and independently to each of the members of the relevant industry, and have jointly  
9 dictated the terms and conditions of any license that would be acceptable.

#### 10 **Effects Of The Conspiracy And Combination**

11 46. Defendants HTC, LG, Motorola, Samsung and Dell sell more than 95% of all  
12 mobile phones and tablets that use the Android operating systems in the United States and are an  
13 important part of the Android market and related, relevant sub-markets (including products that  
14 require a license from Cascades under its patented technology). The manufacturing defendants  
15 constitute nearly the total demand for the licensing of Cascades' patented technology and  
16 collectively enjoy substantial market power in that market and, together with others in the  
17 industry, have exercised their power to control the acceptance and terms and conditions of  
18 licenses from Cascades. This power is augmented by the willingness and agreement of the  
19 manufacturing defendants to infringe Cascades' patents until such time as Cascades capitulates  
20 by either going out of business, declining to enforce the patents or offering defendants patent  
21 license terms below fair market value.

22 47. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid conspiracy, Cascades has been  
23 unable to independently negotiate a single license with any of the defendants, or others in the  
24 industry, on terms and conditions that would have been established by the forces of supply and



1 demand in an unrestrained market; Cascades has been unable to consummate a license with any  
2 defendant; it has been prevented from obtaining royalties and other compensation it would  
3 otherwise have received for licenses under the Cascades patents; and, it has been forced to incur  
4 the expense of enforcing the Cascades patents against defendants and others. That not a single  
5 major supplier of mobile phones using the Android operating systems would even discuss or  
6 consider a license or even acknowledge Cascades' letters or efforts to grant licenses shows the  
7 uniformity of the boycott. The common defense agreements (whether reduced to writing or not)  
8 share a common purpose: do not settle with Cascades; do not discuss the possibility of a license;  
9 do not negotiate independently; act consistently with each other. Further, by agreeing to  
10 negotiate only through RPX, the manufacturing defendants have effectively sought a license at a  
11 much lower price than if they acted independently. Indeed, although some defendants acting  
12 through RPX initially supported the idea of accepting a license, that support eroded and the  
13 defendants then joined forces and effectively agreed not to accept a license at any price.

14 48. The conspiracy complained of by Cascades has unreasonably restrained  
15 competition in the market or submarket for the licensing by Cascades of its patented technology  
16 in violation of the rule of reason and Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

17 49. The conduct complained of by Cascades also constitutes a *per se* illegal  
18 combination or conspiracy by defendants to fix the prices, terms and conditions of licenses under  
19 Cascades' patented technology and thereby violates Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

20 50. The conduct complained of by Cascades also constitutes a horizontal boycott and  
21 concerted refusal to deal by defendants which violates both the *per se* rule and the rule of reason  
22 and accordingly violates Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

23 51. The aforesaid violations are continuing, and unless enjoined by this Court, will  
24 continue to cause irreparable harm to Cascades for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

## Injury To Competition

1  
2 52. The acts of defendants complained of herein have injured competition in at least  
3 the following ways. Defendants' combination and concerted activities have the purpose and  
4 effect of artificially and unlawfully diminishing the value of products and services in the relevant  
5 market, i.e., licenses. Such artificial devaluation has the purpose and effect of reducing  
6 plaintiff's and any NPE's incentives to innovate or support innovation, and restricting plaintiff's  
7 activities in pursuit of its business purpose of developing or supporting the development of  
8 technology for new and useful products that would compete in the marketplace with the existing  
9 products of the manufacturing defendants. Thus, output of new technologies is restricted, and  
10 prices of existing technologies are inflated. Further, by acting together to boycott Cascades (and  
11 most other NPEs), defendants as a group, and RPX and its members, have created a buyer cartel,  
12 the object of which is to force the price for a license below a competitive level, indeed, to  
13 monopsony prices or, in this case, no price at all.

14 53. Defendants' conduct also has the purpose and effect of driving plaintiff Cascades  
15 out of business. By refusing a license at any price and further concentrating market power  
16 (through the accumulation of patents), RPX and the other defendants have effectively raised  
17 prices and reduced output in products covered under the relevant patents.

18 54. Defendants' conduct also has the purpose and effect of raising barriers to entry in  
19 the market for licenses. With buyers setting interdependent, collusive and artificially diminished  
20 prices, chances of any NPE entering the marketplace are reduced. Defendants know this and are  
21 implementing a plan to eliminate all NPEs (at least those that seek to license their patent rights),  
22 effectively eliminating a major source of innovation and new invention.

## Injury To Cascades

23  
24 55. As a direct result of the aforesaid combination and conspiracy among defendants,

1 and the actions taken pursuant thereto, Cascades has been injured in its business and property as  
2 follows:

3 a. Cascades has been unable to effect any license agreements with  
4 defendants or anyone else under reasonable terms and conditions which it otherwise  
5 would have been able to accomplish, and has lost substantial royalty income as a result;

6 b. Cascades has been precluded from business growth which it would  
7 otherwise have achieved;

8 c. Cascades has been required to incur extraordinary legal expenses to  
9 enforce its patents against the manufacturing defendants and others; and,

10 d. Cascades has otherwise been injured in its business and property.

11 WHEREFORE, Cascades prays for relief as set forth below.

12 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
13 **MONOPSONIZATION, CONSPIRACY TO MONOPSONIZE**  
14 **AND ATTEMPT TO MONOPSONIZE**  
15 **AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS**

16 56. Cascades realleges and reincorporates paragraphs 1 through 55 above as though  
17 specifically set forth herein.

18 57. Defendants have combined and conspired for the specifically anticompetitive  
19 purpose and with the effect of eliminating competition between themselves in the purchase of  
20 licenses from Cascades under its patented technology and also for the specifically  
21 anticompetitive purpose and with the effect of obtaining and maintaining the power to control the  
22 royalty rate (i.e., prices) and terms and conditions under which such patented technology would  
23 be licensed. Defendants have accordingly conspired to monopsonize (i.e., accumulate market  
24 power over the buyer's side of the market sufficient to confer effective control of that market) the  
25 relevant market and submarkets alleged herein in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act.

1           58. Defendants' unlawful conduct alleged herein has been undertaken for the  
2 specifically anticompetitive purpose of obtaining or maintaining monopsony power over terms  
3 and conditions upon which Cascades can license its patented technology to buyers thereof.  
4 Unless restrained by this Court, there is a dangerous likelihood that defendants will succeed in  
5 the illegal scheme and obtain monopsony power within the relevant market or submarkets  
6 alleged herein in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act.

7           59. Through conspiratorial and anticompetitive conduct which is not the result of  
8 good business skill or acumen, defendants have obtained and maintained monopsony power  
9 which allows them to control the terms and conditions upon which the prospective licensees of  
10 Cascades' patented technology will agree to license such technology, all to the exclusion of  
11 competition for licenses under Cascades' patented technology and so as to monopsonize the  
12 relevant market and submarkets alleged herein in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act.

13           WHEREFORE, Cascades prays for relief as set forth below.

14   **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
15   **VIOLATION OF THE CARTWRIGHT ACT**  
  **(CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 16700, *et. seq.*)**  
16   **AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS**

17           60. Cascades realleges and reincorporates paragraphs 1 through 59 above as though  
18 specifically set forth herein.

19           61. Defendants formed and operate a trust and have combined their resources as set  
20 forth above. The purpose and effect of the trust is to restrain trade and competition. The anti-  
21 competitive effect of this restraint outweighs any beneficial effect on competition.

22           62. Defendants' illegal conduct described herein constitutes an unlawful trust that  
23 restrains trade, commerce, and competition in violation of California Business and Professions  
24 Code § 16700.



1 A. A finding that the conspiracy, combination, understanding and agreement by and  
2 among the defendants, and others, and the other actions alleged above are in violation of  
3 Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Act;

4 B. A judgment in Cascades' favor and against defendants, jointly and severally, in an  
5 amount according to proof, which the evidence will show Cascades has sustained as a result of  
6 its being injured in its business and property as a result of defendants' violations of the antitrust  
7 laws and of Cascades' statutory rights, all as provided for under Section 4 of the Clayton Act (15  
8 U.S.C. § 15);

9 C. An injunction against each of the unlawful practices alleged, including under the  
10 California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.;

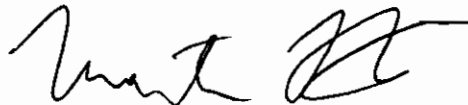
11 D. An award of retribution;

12 E. An award to Cascades of the costs of suit, including its reasonable attorneys' fees;

13 F. An award of damages for violation of the Cartwright Act.

14 G. Such other and further relief as this Court and/or a jury may deem proper and just.

15  
16 NIRO HALLER & NIRO  
DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP

17  
18 By:   
19 Martin L. Fineman

20 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Cascades Computer Innovation LLC

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

**JURY DEMAND**

Cascades demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable.

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DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP

By: 

Martin L. Fineman

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Cascades Computer Innovation LLC

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