

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Telcom Ventures LLC v. Apple Inc.

Telcom Ventures · No. 25-cv-05041-RFL · Decided January 12, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of California granted Apple Inc.'s motion to stay Telcom Ventures LLC's patent infringement action pending inter partes review proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The court concluded that the early procedural stage of the case, the potential simplification of issues, and the absence of undue prejudice to Telcom Ventures each supported a stay. The court ordered the parties to file joint status reports every six months and to notify the court within 30 days after completion of the USPTO proceedings.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Rita F. Lin
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
DECIDED	January 12, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-05041-RFL
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant Apple Inc. moved to stay the patent-infringement litigation pending inter partes review proceedings before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court evaluated the motion to stay under the three-factor test used for stays pending inter partes review: whether discovery is complete and a trial date has been set, whether a stay will simplify the issues, and whether a stay would unduly prejudice or create a clear tactical disadvantage for the nonmoving party.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- patent law
- patent infringement

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the patent-infringement action should be stayed pending the USPTO Director's decision on Apple's inter partes review petitions and any resulting inter partes review proceedings.
2. Whether the three stay factors—stage of litigation, likely simplification of issues, and prejudice or tactical disadvantage to Telcom—weighed in favor of a stay.

HOLDINGS

1. A stay pending inter partes review was warranted because the litigation was at an early stage, inter partes review was likely to simplify or narrow the issues, and Telcom would not suffer undue prejudice or a clear tactical disadvantage.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Courts consider three factors when evaluating whether to stay a case pending inter partes review: "(1) whether discovery is complete and whether a trial date has been set; (2) whether a stay will simplify the issues in question and trial of the case; and (3) whether a stay would unduly prejudice or present a clear tactical disadvantage to the nonmoving party.""

"Apple's motion to stay the case pending inter partes review is GRANTED."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Telcom alleged that certain Apple Pay features infringed eight patents, later dismissing claims concerning four patents. Apple filed four inter partes review petitions targeting every claim of a patent at issue; the USPTO Director denied two petitions and continued consideration of the other two on the merits and non-discretionary considerations. The litigation was in its early stages: initial disclosures had been served, but patent-rule disclosures and discovery had not occurred, and no Markman hearing or trial had been scheduled.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Telcom filed suit in the Southern District of Florida on October 4, 2024, alleging that Apple Pay features infringed eight patents. Apple's motion to dismiss and motion for reconsideration were denied, the case was transferred to the Northern District of California, and Telcom dismissed claims concerning four patents. Apple then filed four inter partes review petitions; two were denied institution and two remained pending. Apple moved to stay the action, and the court granted the motion.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The parties must file a joint status report every six months and notify the court within 30 days after completion of all USPTO proceedings. If an appeal of the final decision is contemplated, Telcom may renew its objection to a stay pending appeal.

CASES CITED

- PersonalWeb Techs., LLC v. Apple Inc., 69 F. Supp. 3d 1022, 1025 (N.D. Cal. 2014)
- Oyster Optics, LLC v. Ciena Corp., No. 4:20-CV-02354-JSW, 2021 WL 4027370, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 22, 2021)
- Zomm, LLC v. Apple Inc., 391 F. Supp. 3d 946, 957 (N.D. Cal. 2019)
- Cypress Semiconductor Corp. v. GSI Tech., Inc., No. 13-CV-02013-JST, 2014 WL 5021100, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 7, 2014)

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