

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

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In the Public Hearing on:)
COMPETITION AND INTELLECTUAL)
PROPERTY LAW AND POLICY IN)
THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY.)
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APRIL 9, 2002

Room 432
Federal Trade Commission
6th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., NW

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing,
pursuant to notice, at 9:35 a.m.

WORKSHOP CHAIRPERSONS:

- MICHAEL, BARNETT, FTC
- MATTHEW BYE, FTC
- JILL PTACEK, DOJ
- MAGDALEN GREENLIEF, PTO

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1 PANEL ON: "CROSS-INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVES ON PATENTS":
2
3 DEAN ALDERUCCI,, Walker Digital
4 LES HART, Harris Corporation
5 NANCY J. LINCK, Guliford Pharmaceuticals
6 MARY U. MUSACCHIA, SAS Institute
7 RICHARD STALLMAN, Free Software Corporation
8 TIMOTHY CASEY, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson

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MR. BARNETT: If we could go ahead and get started.
Good morning. My name is Mike Barnett. I'm a staff attorney here with the Federal Trade Commission, and I'm joined by Matthew Bye, also a staff attorney here at the FTC.

I would like to welcome you to this morning's hearing on cross industry perspectives on patents. This hearing represents one of several business related hearings dedicated to various high-tech industries in the fields of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, software, the Internet, as well as various hardware and semiconductor related industries.

This hearing differs from prior business related hearings in that prior hearings have separately dealt with issues related to particular industry groups, whereas today's hearing combines these industries in an effort to explicitly determine how these industries' intellectual property concerns differ and how they are alike.

Joining me today are my colleagues from various government agencies, and I would like to introduce Jill Ptacek from United States Department of Justice and Magdalen Greenlief at United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Gathered with us are representatives from various companies and the legal community to provide us with their insights and experience in patents, competition and

1 innovation within their business or field and hopefully, in
2 turn, their industries in general.

3 In my opinion, I think this is an impressive group of
4 individuals who are distinguished in their fields, and I'm
5 anxious to hear their thoughts.

6 With that, I think we should begin. We will start by
7 briefly introducing each panelist, and following their
8 introduction, they will provide a brief explanation of what
9 their companies do or their area of expertise, to provide us
10 with some perspective toward their relationship in the
11 industry.

12 Following these introductions some of our
13 participants have graciously offered to provide brief
14 presentations to introduce us to ideas and issues that they
15 find particularly relevant and important to the issues at
16 hand, at which point then we will begin the moderated
17 discussion portion of the hearing.

18 To my far right we have Leslie J. Hart. Les Hart is
19 Vice President of Intellectual Property for Harris
20 Corporation, an international communication equipment company
21 with operating divisions serving a variety of communication
22 markets.

23 Mr. Hart has spent 25 years with Harris
24 Corporation. 20 years were as Vice President, General
25 Counsel of the semiconductor sector of the business.

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1 Les?

2 MR. HART: Yes. A few words on Harris Corporation.

2

1 compiler now supports over 30 different architectures and
2 seven programming languages.

3 Richard?

4 MR. STALLMAN: I am not a lawyer. I'm a software
5 developer, at least I was before I became the leader of a
6 political and social movement. In our movement, we develop
7 free software, free as in freedom, which means that you, the
8 user, have the freedom to study what the software does,
9 change it to suit your needs, distribute it to other people
10 and thus form a community where you are allowed to
11 cooperate.

12 You don't have to do these things yourself. If
13 you're a business, say, you could hire a skilled person to do
14 it for you. So, these freedoms are vital and important and
15 useful for everyone who uses computers.

16 Now, this gives us unfortunate experience with the
17 patent system.

18 MR. BARNETT: Thanks, Richard.

19 Next we have Nancy Linck. Nancy Linck is Senior Vice
20 President and General Counsel for Guliford Pharmaceuticals,
21 Incorporated, in Baltimore, Maryland. Nancy has been with
22 Guliford since late 1998 when she resigned her position as
23 Solicitor at the United States Patent and Trademark Office
24 where she served as Solicitor for four years. Prior to that she
25 was partner with the law firm of Cushman, Darby & Cushman. She

1 has also taught at both Georgetown Law Center and George
2 Washington School of Law as an adjunct professor.

3 Nancy?

4 MS. LINCK: Thank you. Guliford Pharmaceuticals is a
5 publicly traded proprietary drug company, as you were told,
6 in Baltimore. It employs 280 people, approximately. It
7 changes every day, and we have more than a hundred U.S.
8 patents.

9 Guliford at this time has one commercial product
10 which is used to treat brain cancer, and we have products to
11 treat Parkinson's disease, diabetic neuropathy, and ovarian
12 and lung cancer.

13 As yet, Guliford is not a profitable company.
14 Therefore, we have a burn rate of approximately, I believe
15 it's \$60 million a year, so in order to stay afloat, we
16 depend very heavily on investment in our technologies and on
17 partnering primarily with larger drug companies. Thanks.

18 MR. BARNETT: Thanks, Nancy.

19 Now to my far left we have Dean Alderucci. Dean
20 Alderucci is the Chief Counsel of Intellectual Property for
21 Walker Digital Management, a business-solution invention and
22 development company. He directs the creation and patenting
23 of software products and participates in commercialization
24 efforts. He has previous experience as an attorney in an
25 intellectual property law firm and is a software engineer.

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1 to work by groups such as Working Mothers and others.

2 MR. BARNETT: Thanks, Mary.

3 Finally we have Timothy Casey. Tim Casey is a
4 partner from Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver and Jacobson where
5 he's Chairman of the firm's intellectual property and
6 technology transactions department.

7 Prior to joining Fried, Frank, Mr. Casey was Chief
8 Technology Counsel, Senior Vice President and Assistant
9 Secretary of WorldCom, Inc., where he headed all legal
10 aspects of the worldwide technology, intellectual property
11 operations of WorldCom and Express MCI Communication Corps.

12 He has also held tenures as Director of Intellectual
13 Property at Silicon Graphics, Incorporated, and as Divisional
14 Patent Counsel at Apple Computer Corporation.

15 Tim?

16 MR. CASEY: Thank you. That helps explain a little
17 bit as to probably why I'm here in that I've only recently
18 gone back into private practice after a long time of being
19 in-house in the computer software and telecommunications
20 industries, so hopefully I'll bring somewhat of a perspective
21 from a number of different industries into this discussion
22 today.

23 MR. BARNETT: Thanks, Tim.

24 We'll now begin with the presentations. Dean, would
25 you like to start?

1 MR. ALDERUCCI: Mr. Chairman, members and staff of
2 the Federal Trade Commission and officials of the Department
3 of Justice, Walker Digital, like countless other companies
4 and individual inventors, has experienced difficulties due to
5 inadequate PTO funding.

6 We have consistently supported an increase in PTO
7 funding because our business depends on a timely and quality
8 examination of patent applications. Unfortunately,
9 inadequate funding hinders both.

10 Financing for PTO operations has not kept up with
11 increases in patent filings, despite the fact that all of our
12 patent laws, and in fact the very theory behind the patent
13 system, are predicated upon an agency that examines patent
14 applications efficiently, accurately and in a timely manner.

15 During these hearings, a substantial portion of the
16 testimony has referred, directly or indirectly, to PTO fee
17 diversion, and to the resulting scope of patents issued in
18 the United States. Fee diversion is a real issue. Business
19 is paying for a better PTO and not getting it. Unlike FDA
20 fees, which have reduced examination time frames, PTO
21 fees often go straight into the general treasury.

22 This may help balance the budget, but we all pay the
23 price when hundreds of millions of dollars in PTO funding
24 fail to be spent for their intended use.

25 Some testimony has also been critical of the patent

1 system and its effect on industry, while other testimony has
2 indicated that the patent system is essential to
3 competition. Some testimony has been conclusory and
4 unsubstantiated, and some has been accompanied by extensive
5 references and statistics.

6 To quote from Professor Lerner's testimony regarding
7 our patent system, "the issues are complex, and sometimes
8 difficult to understand. Simplistic claims frequently cloud
9 these discussions."

10 I propose that much of this testimony may be
11 reconciled, whether it comes from critics or proponents, from
12 academics, practitioners, industry or organizations.

13 Both sides agree that the current administration of
14 the patent law is not optimal. The proponents of the U.S.
15 patent system have requested that the PTO be adequately funded.
16 The critics of the U.S. patent system have denounced the
17 consequences of the PTO's shortcomings.

18 Specifically, the criticism regarding overly broad
19 patents, and the ensuing problems that such patents create,
20 is ironically largely a similar condemnation of the
21 inadequate resources of the PTO.

22 So where does the debate diverge?

23 The differences between proponents and critics lie in
24 their tacit assumptions regarding the PTO's shortcomings.
25 Proponents generally believe that the shortcomings are from

1 inadequate funding, and consequently more funding would
2 ameliorate conditions at the PTO.

3 On the other hand, the critics tend to assume that
4 the state of PTO operations is constant. For the critics,
5 past problems in the administration of patent laws serve as
6 an excuse to demand changes to those laws, rather than
7 improve the administration problems.

8 To the best of my knowledge, the critics have rarely,
9 if ever, addressed whether their arguments would hold if the
10 PTO operated efficiently. It is interesting that the
11 criticism invariably ignores what would happen if the PTO
12 were properly funded, managed and operated. In my opinion
13 this represents an inexcusable gap in the policy analysis of
14 U.S. innovation and competitiveness.

15 Take the problem of overly broad patents. To the
16 extent that these may be issued, better resources, properly
17 applied, would help eliminate the problem. There's no
18 substitute, and far more resources will help that. Critics
19 should also not ignore the fact that legal reviews also
20 operate to deal with failures in the examination process.

21 I define an efficiently operating PTO as one which
22 would, for the vast majority of patent applications, find the
23 most relevant prior art, render cogent decisions on
24 enablement and definiteness of claims, and issue high quality
25 patents in a timely manner.

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1 I note in passing that a mere increase in funding,
2 without also requiring substantial operational changes,
3 rarely results in significant improvement of any
4 organization. It could be demonstrated that an efficient PTO
5 would cure the shortcomings denounced by critics. Then the
6 critics and proponents would presumably agree to realize a
7 common goal -- implementing this efficient PTO.

8 However, I regret that I have never seen an empirical
9 analysis of the competitive benefits of an efficient PTO, nor
10 any estimates of the cost to implement such a PTO, nor any
11 conclusion regarding whether the cost would outweigh the
12 competitive benefits. I am furthermore unaware of any
13 quantitative research that predicts the reaction of businesses
14 to such a new environment. Regarding this lack of empirical
15 data, Judge Michel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal
16 Circuit has recently complained that many of those who advocate
17 patent reforms offer no support for their claims that there
18 are significant problems and that fundamental reform is
19 needed.

20 It is reasonable to assume that as the quality of
21 patents increases and the time to patent issuance decreases,
22 businesses would gradually but inevitably alter their
23 strategic behavior in a variety of ways. For example, not
24 only would business alter the amount of resources devoted to
25 acquiring patents, but they would also tend to devote more

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1 MR. STALLMAN: Many people assume that it's sensible
2 to have a patent system in software, and they question only
3 details, such as how many patents, which kinds, how broad and
4 so on.

5 This is, I believe, because there is an emotional
6 attachment to the idea that a system such as the patent
7 system must be a good thing, but in other areas, we're quite
8 capable of looking at a government program that was designed
9 to achieve a certain goal and questioning whether it does
10 achieve that goal, whether it makes any sense at all.

11 Now, I am a software developer. I don't have much
12 background in other fields of industry, and I don't have an
13 opinion about whether it's good or bad to have a patent
14 system in fields such as pharmaceuticals or automobile
15 manufacturing. I figure I'll leave the discussion of those
16 questions up to the people who know those fields, but I have
17 worked in the software field for a long time. I was in the
18 software field when there were officially no software patents in
19 the U.S., and I've been in it since, and it's clear to me that

16

1 the ones whose validity might be questionable that cause
2 obstructions to software development. Even patents covering
3 ideas I would say are brilliant have caused tremendous
4 obstruction in progress of software.

5 There is mathematical research now. I can't show you
6 statistics. I don't spend my time studying what the patent
7 system does. I spend my time trying to get software
8 developed, but I can tell you where to find mathematical
9 research showing how patents can obstruct progress in a field
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1 So even finding a better algorithm, which supposedly
2 the patent system is supposed to encourage people to do,
3 even if you find one, that may not help at all. And when
4 there are patents that cover a whole field such as the patent
5 on public key encryption, that can lock up the whole field
6 of activity for decades.

7 Now, people have the naive idea if you develop a new
8 product, there will be one patent for it and you will "get
9 the patent" and therefore the patent system will benefit you,
10 the developer, of this innovative product.

11 In some fields maybe it's like that, or more or less
12 like that, but fields vary tremendously in how much they are
13 like that. Software is at the opposite extreme.

14 If you look at a word processor, you'll see maybe a
15 hundred features. Well, each of those features is something
16 that might, in principle, have been patented by somebody
17 else. It might be patented by someone else. A combination
18 of two features might be patented by someone.

19 And the result is if you want to develop a word
20 processor, even if it has some innovative improvements,
21 you're at tremendous risk of running into patents belonging
22 to others that may make it impossible for you to develop the
23 program.

24 Standards that you want to comply with may be covered
25 by patents. Even official standards may be covered by patents,

1 which may not matter much in other areas of industry where
2 products are made by factories and where you could buy a widget
3 that implements a certain standard whose manufacturer licensed
4 the patent, and all you have to do is use it.

5 It's not like that in software. These licenses are
6 referred to as reasonable and nondiscriminatory, both are
7 false. They discriminate against free software that we
8 develop, and I think that's not reasonable. Many other

1 well known British telecom connecting to the machine through a
2 telephone line and traversing hyperlink patent.

3 MR. BARNETT: Thank you. Finally, we're going to hear
4 from Mary Musacchia.

5 MS. MUSACCHIA: Thank you. On behalf of SAS, I
6 commend the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of
7 Justice for seeking the views of the business community
8 through these hearings and welcome the opportunity to appear
9 today to present our perspective. My comments will focus
10 exclusively on the controversy surrounding business method
11 patents, or BMPs as they're commonly called.

12 SAS is concerned that the public perception of the
13 patent system has suffered with the introduction and rapid
14 growth of the filing and granting of business method
15 patents. Whether it is a patent on a Dutch auction, a one-
16 click shopping experience, or techniques to pictorially train
17 "cleaners of facilities," the public eye has been turned in
18 the direction, and the question asked, what is the value of a
19 patent system that grants monopolies on such innovations?

20 The historical justification of patents, as set forth
21 in the Constitution, empowers Congress to create a system to
22 promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing
23 for a limited time to the inventors exclusive rights to their
24 respective discoveries.

25 In exchange, the inventor makes full disclosure of

1 the invention. The economic theory of patents is that the
2 disclosure of the innovation will stimulate competition and
3 further innovations. By virtue of disclosure, society is
4 invited to invent design-arounds and further technological
5 advances are made, augmenting the storehouse of human
6 knowledge.

7 In industries such as manufacturing and electronics,
8 history proves that this is so. For every new microchip or
9 carburetor, the disclosure of the new invention spurs
10 competition to design improvements. It is also recognized
11 that in some industries, such as pharmaceuticals, a financial
12 recovery incentive may be required because of the expense
13 associated with the original discovery. Society's value to
14 granting this limited monopoly thus must be based upon either
15 a disclosure that would encourage subsequent innovations or
16 encourage expenditures for discoveries by creating a
17 plausible payback mechanism.

18 It has been in the last several years that the scope
19 of patent protection has been enlarged, resulting in a
20 dramatic increase in the number of patents, both filed and
21 issued. Certainly, not an insignificant portion of that
22 growth can be attributed to BMPs that have emerged from the
23 use of the Internet by businesses. These hearings are
24 valuable because they will seek to look at the impact of this
25 change on the economy and as a matter of public policy.

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1 Many business method patents simply take a commercial
2 brick and mortar business process and articulate it as an
3 Internet or electronic application. Having minimal or no
4 physical component, business method techniques cross the line
5 into abstractions, mere shadows of innovation. And while
6 mechanical processes have been patented, BMPs are not in
7 keeping with the historical and publicly held belief that
8 patents have an innovative technical character.

9 For example, when an electronic device is patented,
10 the disclosure of the new circuit in the text of the patent
11 is expected. With a business method, since the business is
12 already active in the marketplace, there's no incentive to
13 the filer to disclose within the patent.

14 In many instances, the business process, by its very
15 nature, is already public. Most typically, the underlying
16 technology that is used in the process, the actual lines of
17 code, is not part of the patent filing. What is seen most
18 often is a broad, non-illuminating description of already
19 public techniques. Thus, without information on the
20 technical mechanism, the disclosure of a business method
21 patent fails to augment public knowledge. In effect, there
22 is no longer a quid pro quo, the creation of intellectual
23 property right and its protection in exchange for public
24 disclosure.

25 In the marketplace, business methods are developed

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1 not in a research laboratory in a series of sequential
2 improvements upon past technology, as in the manufacturing
3 and electronics, nor in repeated breakthroughs, as in the
4 pharmaceutical industries, but in an arena of competition.
5 Iterative emulation, such as Internet advertising and
6 commerce, transferring brick and mortar techniques to the
7 Internet or systematizing human processes and human
8 transactions, appears to be the focus of business method
9 changes.

1 the first-mover advantage is a strong incentive, in many
2 cases ensuring adequate returns to compensate for the cost of
3 the implementation of the process. The government does not
4 need to intervene where the market works.

5 We live in a world that is growing increasingly
6 smaller. It's been the practice of the USPTO to work with
7 its counterparts in both Japan and Europe to harmonize the
8 patent laws. We agree that harmonization is necessary, but
9 as harmonization would apply to BMPs, the United States should
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1 recognize business method patents, stating, "Our key principle
2 is that patents should be for technological innovations."

3 The JPO requires that an invention be industrially
4 applicable, and further limited by the requirement that
5 inventions liable to contravene public order, morality or
6 public health shall not be patented. These two requirements
7 have resulted in the JPO refusing to grant patents for new
8 medical treatments, methods of typhoon control and business
9 methods. According to the Japanese, the systemization of
10 existing human transactions would not be deemed patentable
11 because it would be obvious to a person in the ordinary skill
12 in the art.

13 The industrial application requirement in both the
14 EPO and JPO, along with their requirement that patentable
15 inventions have a technical character, limits the extent of
16 patent protection that may be received for inventions of an
17 economic nature, a BMP. By explicitly including industrial
18 application as a prerequisite to even entering the realm of
19 patentability, the possibility of protecting processes solely
20 involving economic or personal utility, such as a method of
21 the training of a janitorial staff or the swinging a golf
22 club, is significantly reduced.

23 In a global marketplace, business method patents may
24 also introduce an artificial constraint on the competitive
25 process and should be evaluated for possible impact to the

1 U.S. Economy. Query: If the JPO and the EPO continue their
2 restricted approach to recognizing BMPs, will patent seekers
3 flock to the United States to obtain a protected monopoly,
4 constraining behaviors in the U.S., while leaving the rest of
5 the global marketplace free of impediments?

6 The dynamics are probably too new to really know how
7 this will play out, but it's certainly worth consideration and
8 study. If history provides a basis for judgment, there's
9 little to suggest that the previous lack of monopoly protection
10 for business methods, on any significant scale, hurt the growth
11 of U.S. business from the time our Founding Fathers authorized
12 Congress to create the patent system over two centuries ago.

13 Throughout the course of these hearings, numerous
14 suggestions have been made as regards BMPs. SAS has been a
15 proponent of full funding for the USPTO. This will help
16 improve the quality of the work, benefit those that use the
17 system and cease to be an indirect tax on inventors who have
18 contributed the most to the U.S. economy over the last two
19 years. However, full funding should not be considered a cure
20 to a fundamental flaw that exists by granting patents for
21 business methods.

22 It has been suggested that reducing the life of the
23 patents for BMPs to three years would be desirable. While
24 this would be an improvement on where we stand today, it
25 again does not address the underlying public policy issue.

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1 If BMPs have been defined clearly enough, they can be defined
2 clearly enough not to be granted.

3 Whatever action may be considered, it should be
4 conducive to harmonization on a global basis. There are no
5 borders, and careful consideration should be given to moving
6 towards the positions of the EPO and the JPO on this
7 subject.

8 I thank you for affording SAS the opportunity to
9 participate.

10 MR. BARNETT: Thank you, Mary.

11 With these ideas in mind, I would like to begin the
12 discussion portion of the hearing. Let me start with just,
13 more or less, some rules of the game. If during the course of
14 discussion during the panel, you would like to contribute,
15 just take your nameplate and stand it on end like this,
16 and that way we can call on everybody in turn, and nobody has
17 to waive their arms or anything along those lines.

18 I think at that point then we should start. I might
19 go ahead and start by asking either Les or Nancy or Tim if
20 they have any comments based upon what they've heard from the
21 various presentations? Since they elected not to give a
22 presentation in this case, if they had any particular
23 comments based on what's been said?

24 Sure, go ahead, Nancy.

25 MS. LINCK: I do have one general comment. There's

1 been a lot of discussion about improving the quality of

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1 difficult situation if they try to go to the office and get a
2 patent reexamined. There's pending legislation -- HR 1856,
3 1886, and Senate Bill 1754 -- that would go a long way to fixing
4 the reexamination system we have now. That way we could
5 focus funds on fixing bad patents that get through the
6 system -- and they do get through, it's inevitable -- rather
7 than focusing so much on trying to make every single patent that
8 the office examines a high quality patent. I just think it's
9 not really possible. We could hope for it, but I just don't
10 think it's possible.

11 MR. BARNETT: Thanks, Nancy. I think Tim had a
12 comment and then Les.

13 MR. CASEY: Yes. First, I have to clarify that I'm
14 not here speaking on behalf of anybody. This is just on my own,
15 so my views don't represent any views of a particular client or
16 that necessarily of the firm, just of myself.

17 I would like to address a couple things that came up
18 as a result of the prepared presentations, and that
19 is Mary's comment about the disclosure function of
20 the patent system. It is a good one, but in many ways, in
21 response to Richard's comments regarding software
22 patents, if you had an example where development was being
23 done on a data compression technology, and you had a
24 disclosure of that patent, then a lot of time wouldn't have
25 been wasted developing it, possibly because you would have

1 development of the current patent system in which states
2 issued their own patents, and look at some of the disputes
3 that arose as a result of the fact that we didn't have a
4 federalized system. And so you had a lot of disputes between
5 different states issuing different patents to people on roughly
6 the same inventions. There's a big story about steamboats and
7 patents being issued on different steamboat designs.

8 And in part, the federal system rationalized that,
9 taking common law perspective and putting it into a
10 common scheme that was utilized across the board. And that
11 had some fairly significant benefits, but even back then
12 people complained about patents. They complained they weren't
13 being adequately examined, and in fact for a period of time they
14 weren't examined at all. They complained they were inhibiting
15 the industry, yet we seemed to have developed anyway.

16 In fact, ten years ago I was in a panel with Richard
17 where the PTO was having a number of hearings about software
18 patents. One of the panels was in San Jose, and his
19 argument at the time was roughly the same as it is now, that
20 software patents are going to destroy the software industry.
21 But other than a few isolated examples where patents were
22 issued on stuff that perhaps they shouldn't have been issued
23 on, it's hard to see how the software industry has been
24 destroyed.

25 So you leave some question as to whether or not the

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1 Microsoft is one of these companies that it has been able to
2 license this technology out to, or would they have never been
3 in the sort of economic position they were in at the time
4 that they entered the license had they never had to pay for
5 licenses from other people in the first place and spent money
6 on a patent development program? It's impossible to say.

7 But what you can do is you can look at the data
8 that's there. You can look at when these announcements were
9 made, and you can track the progress from those particular
10 dates, and there is at least some evidence that there was a
11 benefit to it.

12 MR. BARNETT: Les, do you want to comment?

13 MR. HART: I would like to comment on all the patents
14 coming out of the patent office. At one end of the spectrum,
15 to litigate a patent day, it's fairly complex. You're
16 talking \$2 million in legal fees, so at the far end of the
17 spectrum, you would think, "Well, it's very dangerous and very
18 expensive to have obviously invalid patents out there."

19 But let me suggest that from my experience where I
20 have licensed semiconductor patents for 20 years, both
21 licensing mine and being the object of infringement claims by
22 others, that reasonable business people negotiating patent
23 licenses are not going to run the risk of getting involved in
24 a \$2 million per patent litigation.

25 If a patent was being asserted against me or I'm

1 asserting it against someone else and someone comes up with
2 prior art, clearly if it anticipates those claims, the basis
3 of one or two reasonable people withdraw those patents from
4 consideration. They're dead. They know it, and no one is
5 going to risk a \$2 million per patent litigation over that.

6 So there is a screening process that exists in the
7 real world that I have experienced that says, sure, some
8 patents are going to slip by. I've seen it where it appears
9 to be an immature examiner who just missed some classes that
10 he should have searched in, but in my experience that hasn't
11 happened very often.

12 MR. BARNETT: Thanks. Richard, you had a comment?

13 MR. STALLMAN: Yes. I feel that you have
14 misrepresented what I said both in San Jose ten years ago and
15 what I said today. First of all, you've been very convincing
16 in arguing that owning patents has been beneficial for the
17 companies you've worked for. I'm not surprised. I wouldn't
18 argue against that, but you gave me some advice in a rather
19 condescending way. In order to give someone advice, you
20 really should study the scenario first.

21 This program I was talking about was written about a
22 year after someone saw an article in a journal, so even with
23 today's practice of sometimes publishing patent applications
24 after 18 months, he still would have been blindsided, and
25 the later program that was destroyed, well, it wouldn't have

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1 those companies as well?

2 MR. CASEY: Most of the time that's the way they work
3 out, absent cross licenses.

4 MR. STALLMAN: Right. What this shows is your patent
5 didn't even protect you from the big companies that might
6 have wanted to compete with you.

7 MR. CASEY: That's because there weren't very many at
8 the time. You cross licensed, but you didn't cross license
9 very much. That gave you an impetus to develop more, so you
10 weren't quite so one sided.

11 MR. STALLMAN: I'm sure it gives an impetus.

12 MR. BARNETT: We might step back for a moment, and
13 one thing that we're interested in, I think, is the role that
14 patents play in a company's innovation decisions. In other
15 words, why are companies innovating and where does the
16 decision to patent fit in with all this?

17 I might open this up to the panel. That question is,
18 intuitively patents are arguably spurring innovation, but where
19 does it fit in with the company's framework or the inventor's
20 framework? Does anyone have any
21 thoughts? Dean?

22 MR. ALDERUCCI: I would like to note that the
23 innovation spurred by the patent system is really two
24 components. One is the incentives that flow from
25 protecting your intellectual property, but the other, which is

1 rarely talked about, I found is the ability of anyone to
2 review the public disclosures in issued patents or published
3 patent applications.

4 And to the extent that it's a patent and it's
5 expired, you're free to use anything that is claimed or

1 title of the abstract, might not deal with that technology
2 area.

3 For example, I remember a patent that dealt with a
4 vending machine. It was basically a very simple vending
5 machine. In the middle of the patent, seemingly out of
6 place, was a very helpful description of revenue management
7 technique. If anyone who knows what revenue management
8 technique is, it's basically a way to alter your prices so you
9 can optimize your profits.

10 It really wasn't expected in the middle of a patent
11 regarding a vending machine which allowed the user to reach
12 in and take the food product themselves, which was part of the
13 innovation. But my point is, when you look at the disclosure
14 that the public patent system provides and you take advantage
15 of that disclosure, then you're much better off, and it tends
16 to increase your ability to innovate.

17 MR. BARNETT: Les, did you have a comment?

18 MR. HART: I'll use Harris Corporation as an example
19 of innovation and the part that it plays in management of the
20 company. Harris got in to the semiconductor business in the
21 early '60s, like many other companies like Intel and many
22 others, and once you started having sales, the first patented
23 company that would approach you would be Western Electric,
24 AT&T, Bell Laboratories, because they had the patent on the
25 transistor.

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1 That started the process at Harris of, say, you
2 went from the point where you had no patents and you were
3 building infringing product. You went from there, you
4 migrated from there to the point of saying, "We better get
5 some patents because the next time we have to deal with
6 Western Electric five years from now we better have some
7 patents that hopefully are infringed by Western Electric."

8 From that point you migrate even further, and if
9 you're really in a hurry to get patents, you might even
10 consider buying them from other companies, and that's
11 happening with an increasing frequency today, not so much 25
12 or 30 years ago. But in the migration path of innovation,
13 you're at the point now where you get patents for defensive
14 purposes, to defend yourself from somebody else with more
15 patents who comes after you.

16 Time marches on, and in the migration of the
17 importance of innovation, most of these companies in the
18 semiconductor industry are spending 12 to 15 percent annually
19 of their sales on R&D. You finally get to the point in the
20 migration of this where instead of being defensive, your
21 accumulation of patents may put you in a position that you
22 can license them actively and get a return, monetary return,
23 so that you can use that money to make further R&D
24 investments.

25 It migrates even further, and I think there are parts

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1 MS. MUSACCHIA: The question that you proposed was,
2 "How do your companies look at patents or innovation, how does
3 it impact your planning?" and for SAS it does not, and it

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1 obviously can't file a patent on something until it's been

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1 We represent a lot of investors. They're making
2 investments in pharmaceutical companies, and in doing due
3 diligence and trying to help those investors analyze what it
4 is they're getting into, most of the time the investment
5 decision rests upon how strong a patent protection that they've
6 been able to develop or the potential for that patent
7 protection based on pending applications that the company's
8 been able to develop, and that alone is a primary determinant
9 valuation in what kind of investment they're going to make.

10 So if you throw that away, you throw the patent
11 system away. In that particular industry, and that industry

1 was Deutsche increased its price to a point where General
2 decided it was worth doing the deal after all. They went ahead
3 with the merger, and there went the patent litigation.

4 So the patent litigation in that instance was a tool
5 that ended up being used more by General than Deutsche because
6 Deutsche filed it, because it gave them an opportunity to help
7 to increase the price the shareholders were getting for the
8 company.

9 Does that really have anything to do with patents?
10 Not necessarily, it's just another tool in industry
11 manipulation in corporate development.

12 MR. BARNETT: Nancy, I was wanting to hear your
13 comments on that, coming from the pharmaceutical industry as
14 well as PTO, but what are your thoughts in particular in
15 addition to any others, on the notion that different
16 industries are different from a patent perspective?

17 MS. LINCK: I think they are different, but maybe more
18 in their stage of evolution. I mean, Tim is absolutely right.
19 For proprietary drug companies and even for generics, patents
20 are absolutely critical. We do not move forward for
21 developing a drug for which we don't have patent protection,
22 that is a given. We can't bring in investor funds.

23 As I explained earlier, that's critical to our
24 company right now. Unless we have a big patent estate, a
25 strong patent stake, we can't patent with big pharma unless

1 we have a strong patent stake.

2 When I was the solicitor, I worked actually on the
3 software guidelines, and we did a lot of research on whether
4 or not software should be patentable, and initially we took
5 the position that it shouldn't be. We wanted to take the
6 In Re Lowrey case up to the Supreme Court and see if we could
7 get the Supreme Court to reverse the Federal Circuit.

8 And it was actually someone in the antitrust division
9 of the Department of Justice that convinced me that software
10 should be patentable, but if antitrust thinks software should
11 be patentable and the PTO thinks it shouldn't be, there's
12 something wrong with this picture.

13 Going back to the importance to different
14 industries, I think it's absolutely clear today, but when we
15 were looking into whether or not we should patent software,
16 the hope was that while the software industry was making
17 little tiny steps advancing its art, perhaps by providing more
18 meaningful protection through patents rather than copyrights we
19 would see more significant inventions being made in the
20 industry.

21 And, frankly, once we started patenting software, I
22 haven't studied that issue, and I don't know whether that has
23 happened, but certainly that was one of our rationale for
24 moving forward.

25 I think also those who work in the intellectual

1 property area, patents specifically, for the most part
2 believe strongly that different technology should not be
3 treated differently. They have not been treated differently
4 for several hundred years and our system continues to work
5 very well.

6 And while there have been times when there have been
7 questions about patenting different technologies such as
8 life, the Chakrabarty case, we've moved forward with saying that
9 inventions in that field should be patentable. I think before
10 we change that, before we treat different technologies
11 differently, we should really move very slowly to make sure that
12 that's not going to negatively impact the way our system works.

13 MR. BARNETT: Richard?

14 MR. STALLMAN: What we've seen here is a
15 recommendation that there's no need for caution before you
16 impose the patent system on a field that hasn't had it
17 before, but there is a recommendation for caution in not
18 making that change.

19 Why in the world should all fields be treated alike?
20 It seems like sort of a religious assumption when you can easily
21 see that the relationship between patents and products is very
22 different between different fields, and that means the effect of
23 having patents is very different in different fields. Never
24 will the software field evolve to be like pharmaceuticals.

25 What it takes to develop a pharmaceutical, to find a

1 pharmaceutical that will work and then to test it is very,
2 very different from what's involved in developing a program.
3 Many drugs are polypeptides. They are proteins, essentially.
4 Do you know how many amino acids typically appear in a large
5 protein drawing or how many atoms would appear in a drug that is
6 not a protein, an order of magnitude even?

7 I would guess thousands of amino acids or maybe
8 thousands of atoms in something that is not a protein is the
9 limit of what humans can do. Now, this is because that field
10 is terribly hard. I'm not saying that those people are not
11 smart. I'm saying that the field, what they have to do, is so
12 hard.

13 For us, what we have to do is much easier, so a
14 program with a thousand components in it, a thousand
15 operators, that's trivial and you can write that in a week.
16 Hard programs have maybe millions of operators in them. You
17 might have 20 operators to choose from, just as there's 20
18 amino acids you could choose from in a protein. So what this
19 shows is how different the jobs are that we have to do.

20 And then you get these fairly simple designs that are
21 terribly hard to develop and test, and then you get a patent
22 on the whole thing. In software, if a patent covered a
23 single entire program, it wouldn't cause any trouble, so
24 patents affect and relate to products very differently
25 in these two fields. I think these are the obvious candidates

1 for being treated differently.

2 MR. BARNETT: I might ask Dean and Mary, because
3 they're both in software related fields, what their thoughts
4 are, and then we might go to a break after that.

5 MR. ALDERUCCI: I would like to clarify that software
6 is provided for the more commonly assumed software that is
7 developed for PCs or services. There's also invented software.
8 There's software that goes into very low tech devices, and I'll
9 give one specific example.

10 Software is now used in cash registers. The industry
11 likes to call them point of sale terminals, but most people
12 would probably call them cash registers. By development, I mean
13 the ability to replicate a process that has been demonstrated to
14 work on, for example, a cash register might be very simple. It
15 might be the case that once a given piece of software is proven
16 to work very well in an environment, in a business environment,
17 then it might be a very good business decision to copy it.

18 Now, it might also be true that even though this
19 software was very simple to develop, it was very difficult to
20 prove that it would work. Now, what I mean by work is that
21 it would actually have a net benefit to the business, that it
22 would, for example, increase the sales of whatever business
23 is running the software.

24 So you can see in a certain type of industry that
25 wouldn't be very open to innovation -- let's say it's an

1 industry in a subsegment of retail that's not very
2 open to innovation -- if you had to convince this business
3 that it was going to interact differently with its customers in
4 order to increase a profit, the natural reaction is going to be
5 reluctance.

6 You might have to expend significant resources in

1 in the testing. The development is in the prototyping on
2 various industries, collecting the statistics, tweaking what
3 works and doesn't work.

4 And I'll note along these same lines, Mary made a
5 comment that business methods are not developed in a
6 sequential testing and research manner, and that's just
7 completely untrue, at least in the business segments that
8 I've been involved in.

9 MR. BARNETT: Mary, I'm curious on your thoughts,
10 particularly from the standpoint of your comments earlier
11 about SAS's approach to patenting, but also just in general.

12 MS. MUSACCHIA: I think that what I've tried to do is
13 articulate, in the business method arena what you begin to
14 see is really an effort by businesses to take events that are
15 already known in most cases, process that for the most part.
16 I think it's a phrase out of the Japanese phrase, it's the
17 human transaction that already exists, and you now

1 that I'm trying to direct it to.

2 In terms of the laboratory reference, the suggestion
3 there is that again in most places people have studied the
4 marketplace in a lot of these business methods that I'm
5 discussing, and they just look at what exists out there.
6 They see what is happening, whether it's in the financial
7 industry, whether it's in the food service industry,
8 whatever, in the janitorial industry.

9 I still struggle with that one every time I've read
10 that patent, claims and all, and I sit there and say, "Oh, I
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1 that feel you can do this and they are doing it right now, so
2 that is again where we come back and say, "Take a look at what
3 is going on in Europe and Japan and other places,
4 particularly as it relates to this category of patents and
5 let's move in that direction." That's our fundamental
6 position. That's where we believe it needs to go.

7 Finally, just one other point, an intellectual
8 property right such as patent isn't like the right to
9 breathe. It isn't like the right to live. It is something
10 that is created by man in the Constitution. So when we talk
11 about protecting it, that is something again where we're talking
12 about protecting the original concept that was created by all of
13 us that sits in our Constitution, and we have evolved.

14 Congress evolved it. The Courts have evolved it.
15 There is nothing wrong with going back and taking a look and
16 saying, "Was the original purpose still being served?" and I'm
17 not a constitutional scholar, don't hold myself out to be
18 one, but I certainly think it is again an issue that was
19 debated at the time. It's debated now, and we don't believe
20 that we really are adhering to some of the original precepts
21 which is the quid pro quo for society.

22 What do we get? Do we really spur innovation? Is it
23 something we need to protect?

24 MR. BARNETT: Just as a quick follow-up, would you
25 have the same thoughts with software patents that are

1 arguably not business method patents?

2 MS. MUSACCHIA: Some patents that are not business
3 method patents, SAS would take the position that we also, had
4 we had our druthers, we would not have software patents.
5 That is water that has gone so far under the bridge of over
6 the past more than two decades. That is a discussion that we
7 think, while we would have loved for it to have happened and
8 for there never to have been software patents, we think
9 that's probably something that cannot be reversed, whereas
10 business methods is one that is so new the die is not so
11 irretrievably cast that it cannot be pulled back, and that's
12 why our comments are very heavily focused on the business
13 method arena.

14 MR. BARNETT: We might go with Dean, Richard and then
15 Tim.

16 MR. ALDERUCCI: I'll be very quick. I just want to
17 say, Mary, a large part of what you just said was basically
18 business systems that already exist in the public knowledge
19 should not be patented. I agree 100 percent.

20 I know for a fact that's why there's a Section 102
21 and Section 103 in the patent statute, but I also note that
22 the division or the way to categorize a business method is
23 not well defined. As far as I know I've never seen a
24 definition put forth that basically says a business method
25 invention is one which is a copy of something being done in

1 existence, but now it is in electronic form. That is clearly
2 not patentable, and there's clearly a remedy.

3 I'll just mention in passing, and I'll go to Richard
4 who has been waiting patiently, we, through our subsidiaries
5 and joint venture partners, have been on the receiving end of
6 overly broad patents. People have asserted certain patents
7 cover certain operations that we were performing or
8 contemplating performing, and it was a fairly straightforward
9 exercise for our research department to investigate the
10 relevant prior art and therefore obviate any further
11 discussion on the matter.

12 Now, it does take a bit of research, and our average
13 is around -- last time we did an average was several months
14 ago -- 26 hours of priority search per patent, when you want
15 to be completely sure you're not going to infringe someone's
16 patent. For example, when you're presented with someone
17 else's patent, you do a little bit more, but really in the
18 scheme of things it's not that much to invest.

19 MS. MUSACCHIA: Richard, if you'll let me add one
20 thing before we move on to you. Again this is why we have
21 pushed so hard that we look over at, for example, what's
22 going on in Europe because -- nobody has had a
23 monopoly on brilliance, and I think all of us would agree --
24 Europe at least has three tests they look at regarding your
25 patent. That invention, it has to have a technical field. You

1 have to solve a technical problem, get into a technical field,
2 enough to have technical features.

3 They do have criteria that they look at that help you
4 get to the definition of what can be a business method
5 patent, something that they can use to help articulate that.
6 So again it's why we continually urge because we believe in a
7 world without borders. For all practical purposes, in most
8 business, harmonization is important.

9 Look at what they're doing in Europe. Look at those
10 combinations of criteria that they use, and then implement
11 that, take some of that and put it together. You can do
12 the same thing in Japan, and at that point you have the three
13 largest patenting bodies together: EPO, JPO, and USPTO, and
14 that's where we all need to move.

15 And why force in these harmonization discussions --
16 why send our U.S. patent office representative over there and
17 constantly tell them to move in the direction, move in that
18 direction, come to the U.S. Why not for once throw them a
19 carrot and go in their direction?

20 MR. BARNETT: Richard?

21 MR. STALLMAN: Many distinctions are made by lawyers
22 which are not presented to you clear-cut. For instance,
23 there's a law against driving while intoxicated by alcohol.
24 There's no place you can draw the line between drunk and
25 sober. In fact, there's a continuum stretching from cold

1 sober to drunken unconscious, and there is absolutely no
2 place to draw a line that's any better than any other, so an
3 arbitrary line was drawn.

4 It's better than treating the two of them alike.
5 This idea that makes it seem hard is something that people do
6 when they don't want the job to be done. They try to
7 discourage from trying by making it seem impossibly hard.

8 Now, Dean -- is it? -- presented us with one scenario
9 full of maybes: maybe this might happen, maybe that will
10 happen, and the result might be an innovation in, say, point of
11 sale terminals.

12 Well, I'm not sure we should pay much attention to a
13 scenario with so many maybes on it, but supposing it did
14 happen, the biggest part of their work would have been in
15 establishing relationships with customers.

16 So this company which had invested so much effort in
17 establishing these relationships would get a very direct
18 benefit from doing so. They had an idea which probably took
19 a second, wrote a program which might have taken a few weeks
20 or maybe even a few months, and then spent a lot of resources
21 developing these relationships.

22 Well, then why shouldn't I be able to spend an equal
23 few weeks or few months and then try myself to develop such
24 relationships with some customers?

25 Now, there are two possibilities here. Either I'm a

1 big established company, and I've got a lot of patents that I
2 made them cross license me anyway, in which case their patent
3 is not going to do any good against me, or I'm so newcomer
4 and I haven't got a ghost of a chance of selling to those
5 companies unless I've got some other big advantage.

6 Why should the government create a secondary monopoly
7 for them to pile on to their relationship that they built with
8 these customers?

9 Anyway, this scenario may be a possible one.
10 It could be one way in which society could develop and put
11 into use such improvements in point of sale terminals, but
12 there's another way it can happen. Somebody who makes point
13 of sale terminals could put in the feature they think is
14 better and put that in their competition with other companies
15 that make such terminals, and then another company can see
16 that and say, "Well, gee I don't think that's quite so good, I
17 think I can do it better," and they could tweak it
18 differently.

19 Just because you can show a scenario whereby with a
20 patent system companies could take advantage of that, that
21 doesn't mean society needs it to create monopolies in order
22 to get these things done at all. There are other ways that
23 things like that have happened in the past and can still
24 happen today.

25 MR. BARNETT: Tim and then Dean, and then we'll take

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1 the protection on those interfaces is going to be the
2 simplest. That is then, the more valuable it's going to be
3 because it's going to be utilized by other people.

4 You have to have some levels of complexity, but where
5 the real value comes in is where you create a simple
6 interface between the human whose attempting to interact with
7 the technology and the technology itself.

8 The other thing that I wanted to touch on is I don't
9 think it's so easy to define what exactly is technology.
10 What is a technical field? Where exactly did you have a
11 technical problem?

12 I'm an electrical engineer by original training and
13 practice. I look at a lot of patented inventions or things
14 people are interested in protecting, and I think it's very
15 difficult to be able to define exactly where the technology
16 stops and something else starts.

17 It's perhaps like Richard's example of when you're
18 drunk or when you're sober. Although I think there was some
19 empirical data of when you were impaired or not impaired. They
20 did test that a little bit, although maybe they made it
21 up. I don't know.

22 But I think drawing that line between where does
23 technology start and stop is also very similar. We would
24 have to do it on a guess, and whether or not that
25 guess is correct is hard to say.

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1 MR. BARNETT: Dean, and then we'll take a break.

2 MR. ALDERUCCI: I'll briefly comment. Mary has an
3 excellent suggestion regarding harmonization between the
4 Europe and Japan, and I'm a big proponent of harmonization
5 for other reasons, but I would note that there are several
6 recent court decisions in New York regarding what the
7 technical effect is.

8 There's an excellent book by an associate of mine
9 named number Keith Ferrisberg who is a European patent
10 attorney. He's written a book of software patents in
11 Europe, and he has several examples of that -- and if you'll
12 call him up, he'll be glad to give you more -- but there are
13 several examples of what a technical effect is and there are
14 a few recent ones that say a sufficient technical effect is,
15 for example, to increase user friendliness to increase profit
16 and sales. So I think the Europeans are actually divergent to
17 more of a U.S. viewpoint.

MR. BARNETT: I'm sorry, I thought you were divergent to

1 I think I would like to hear your thoughts on reexamination
2 versus litigation and why reexamination isn't used more.

3 MS. LINCK: Thank you. Obviously for a small company
4 like mine, litigation is really not an option, so that's one
5 reason why I'm stressing the importance of a strong
6 reexamination system.

7 The system that presently is in place, at least the
8 *inter partes* system, began as legislation back in 1990 or so
9 that would have, in fact, provided us with a system that would
10 have been useful to address bad patents rather than
11 litigate.

12 It provided for a right of appeal to the Federal
13 Circuit for patent challengers or third parties, and it also
14 did not have the estoppel provision that ultimately ended up
15 in the legislation that now kicks in the minute that a
16 third-party files a reexamination. That third-party cannot
17 later raise issues that either were raised or could have been
18 raised during reexamination later in litigation if that party is
19 sued. That patent, of course, if it makes it through reexam,
20 it's not strengthened legally, but in fact, in the eyes of the
21 jury or the eyes of the Court, if it's been through the process
22 twice, it's considered to be a stronger patent.

23 So once a third-party goes into reexam, they need the
24 right to be able to take that reexam all the way up to the
25 Federal Circuit and out of the Patent and Trademark Office,

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1 and they need the ability to be able to raise issues later on
2 in a court action, if they don't ever get into Federal Court.
3 I think it's fair that once a third-party takes a reexam into
4 Federal Court, then they should be estopped from raising
5 issues that they raised or could have raised.

6 Right now, there is legislation pending, as I
7 mentioned, that would provide third parties with the right to
8 appeal to the Federal Circuit. The estoppel provisions that
9 kick in the minute reexam is filed would not be corrected by
10 the pending legislation, and I would urge the FTC and DOJ to
11 support the pending legislation that would fix reexam, but
12 also to urge Congress to fix the estoppel provision.

13 There's also another problem with the reexam as it is
14 today. When I was a solicitor, a case came down, In Re Portola
15 Packaging, where the court said that any patent that
16 was before the patent office as prior art during the first
17 examination could not be relied upon during reexamination,
18 that there was a presumption that, in fact, the office did its
19 job and considered every single piece of prior art, not only
20 alone, but in combination with every other piece of prior art
21 that had been cited during original reexamination, and that
22 is just not realistic. The office is very limited on its
23 time to examine patent applications. Oftentimes there will
24 be hundreds of references cited.

25 The present pending legislation would fix that

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1 what it's going to cost you to defend yourself against it, so
2 there is a real cost to having invalid patents out there in
3 that if someone is actually asserting them and they bother to
4 file litigation, then you have to go ahead and deal with that.

5 It would be wonderful if we had an effective
6 reexamination process that provided you with an alternative
7 to having litigated against these patents, and I think some
8 of the solutions that Nancy's mentioned would go a long way
9 in getting us there, but I'm still not sure that it's enough,
10 and there's a number of reasons for that.

11 One is, I don't know that the system even, as
12 proposed, necessarily encourages people who have art to come
13 forward with it, and I'll give you an example. Years ago
14 when we had the pure *ex parte* system. We instituted a
15 reexamination where we had like nine different references
16 that we felt were all good references against the patent. But
17 we didn't want to come forward with all of them at one time
18 because if you throw them all into it and the Patent Office
19 looks at it and they go ahead and issue the patent over
20 those, over the prior art that you made available, then
21 your chances of ever being able to present any different
22 arguments in litigation related to that prior art pretty much
23 go out the window because you've got a presumption then that
24 the patent office considered that art and decided that the
25 subject matter was patentable anyway.

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1 So we filed a reexamination with three of the
2 references. Because it was an *inter partes*, and we
3 had no right to object to the arguments that were made by the
4 patent owners, we then had to wait until the office issues
5 its response to our first filing. At which point we filed a
6 new reexamination with the next three pieces of art so that
7 we had an opportunity to respond to what was said in the
8 first case.

9 So that was the system where luckily we had a lot of
10 art and ultimately the patent got knocked out. In fact, we
11 did this three times, but if you only have two references, then
12 you may have to go forward with both of those in order to be
13 able to have what seems like a more fair process.

14 It's important to recognize why the process isn't
15 necessarily fair because the ownership of the patent, in
16 responding to the reexamination issuance by the patent
17 office, can make a lot of different arguments. Most of
18 the time what they do is go in, slightly modify the patent
19 claims to respond to the reexamination, narrow them -- and it
20 somewhat turns out to be a fairly insignificant way to maybe
21 get around the art -- and they end up with actually stronger
22 claims coming out of the reexamination than they had going
23 into it, because now they've improved how the claims read on
24 technology that other people are utilizing.

25 They've removed prior art as reference, and as a

1 result, they have a patent that's even easier for them to be
2 able to litigate, so you don't improve the situation at all.
3 You only make it worse. Making it an *inter partes*
4 proceeding where the party that's filed it has at least the
5 opportunity to argue their case other than the one-time shot
6 when they file their reexamination application would be a
7 long step in fixing that, as would be the appeal process
8 because the practice had been in the past at least to assign
9 the same examiner to the question of whether or not to reexamine
10 patent.

11 Well, the examiner has somewhat of an embedded
interest in not having been wrong in the first place.

1 prior art and come out with a patent that seemingly was more
2 valid than it was when it went in, and fortunately the case
3 was settled.

4 Summary judgment motions were never ruled on, but
5 notwithstanding litigation being more expensive than
6 reexamination, we were having a lot more faith in the *ex*
7 *parte* proceeding in the litigation by way of summary
8 judgments motions than we were in reexaminations.

9 MR. BARNETT: Nancy?

10 MS. LINCK: I wanted to make one comment on what Tim
11 said which I think he well stated the *ex parte* reexam and
12 *inter partes*, if we could have a system that's being
13 proposed. On the estoppel issue, if a party is worried about
14 estoppel, of course they could always stop at the Board of
15 Appeals. If the party felt that if estoppel doesn't kick in
16 until that point and a party felt they didn't have a good
17 chance before the Federal Circuit based on the record before
18 the Patent and Trademark Office, they could stop at that
19 point and estoppel would not be an issue.

20 MR. BARNETT: Richard?

21 MR. STALLMAN: The phenomenon of a patent becoming
22 more dangerous after reexamination is something I've been
23 worried about too, and it calls to mind a phenomenon I've seen
24 that as the context of activity changes, then what you have
25 is that basically the same idea would take a different form

1 question like many of the others I've asked. I'm wondering,
2 if you change to having a reexamination where both parties
3 are present, would that in and of itself reduce the danger
4 that the patent holder would simply rewrite the claims to
5 stand up and gerrymander the claims, basically, or would you
6 need other changes in the system to prevent that?

7 MR. CASEY: That's why I'm proposing that you would
8 need additional changes because right now, they have the
9 ability to go in and amend the claims here in the process in
10 order to defend any argument presented.

11 MS. LINCK: You have to have a basis in the
12 specification so if it's something that's newly developed
13 like the web based server that you were speaking of, they
14 couldn't just add that to the claims unless it's supported by
15 the specification written ten years earlier.

16 MR. STALLMAN: We're miscommunicating. I am imaging
17 a patent issued in the 1990s, when there already were web
18 based applications and that would have covered both, and the
19 scenario is that the defendants dig up prior art which
20 involves a client server application prior art from the
21 1980s, not that it's a patent from the 1980s.

22 MR. CASEY: Just to address that issue, I think it's
23 an open question as to whether or not you can do that. The
24 Federal Circuit just came out with a new case, Johnson &

23

1 disclosed it in the specification but you didn't write claims
2 to cover it, you're now going to be barred from being able to
3 go back and reclaim the material that was disclosed.

4 I'm not quite sure whether it's even a great result.

5 MS. LINCK: That's a doctrine of equivalents case.

6 MR. CASEY: Right, you're not going to be able to
7 argue through the doctrine of equivalents that you have a
8 right to that material, but would you be able to go back? And
9 they said in part of it that your solution is to go and seek
10 a reissue of the patented claim material that you hadn't
11 previously claimed. But if that's barred by doctrine of
12 equivalents, then there's got to be some question as to
13 whether or not it's really appropriate to go back and claim
14 stuff through the reissue process when people out in the
15 public thought it was part of the disclosed material in the
16 first place.

17 So you're still going to have a lot of uncertainty
18 related to what someone can cover in the specification long
19 after the fact.

20 MR. BARNETT: Nancy?

21 MS. LINCK: As far as going back and recapturing the
22 material by reissue, you certainly cannot broaden your claims
23 after two years in any way that would capture something that
24 would not have been captured under the broader claims, so I
25 think that's part of --

1 MR. CASEY: Right, but you can narrow it any time.

2 MS. LINCK: You can narrow the claims, yes.

3 MR. CASEY: It doesn't take a lot to narrow the
4 claim. It may be one word.

5 MS. LINCK: If you narrow claims, then the original
6 alleged infringer was already ensnared by the original --

1 server type implementation, they could then narrow their claim
2 to gerrymander it around that prior art, so it's not a matter of
3 broadening in any sense of the word.

4 It's a matter of making it immune, basically
5 withdrawing from whatever little islands the actual prior art
6 happens to be in, so that they can defend everything else. And
7 because of the constant change in surrounding
8 technological context, you can just be sure that what people
9 actually want to do today is different from what they
10 actually wanted to do in the 1980s, which means that
11 narrowing to withdraw from the specific prior art of the
12 1980s is always possible while still having what people want
13 to do today.

14 Always is an exaggeration -- very, very often. Once in
15 awhile there's a living fossil.

16 MR. BARNETT: Dean?

17 MR. ALDERUCCI: I merely want to make sure I
18 understand -- for my own edification I want to understand
19 your example -- so are you saying that the claims that would
20 cover both web and client server embodiments, that was a
21 valid claim, and it was supported by the original
22 specification that was filed in the '90s or it's invalid?

23 MR. STALLMAN: I'll not sure which sense of valid. It's
24 invalid because you then find prior art from the 1980s, so in
25 that sense if looked at on its own without the possibility of

1 narrowing it would be invalid.

2 MR. ALDERUCCI: But the portion of it as it were --
3 not that you can have partially valid and partially invalid
4 claims, but the portion of it that was web based was not in
5 the prior art, is that part of the example?

6 MR. STALLMAN: Well, if you believe that that's
7 really a separate idea, if your threshold for what
8 constitutes an invention is that low that just using a web
9 based communication technique instead of a specially written
10 client server program would really make an invention, indeed
11 by that low standard the web based one would be an
12 invention.

13 Now, I don't think that's true. I think that's a
14 foolish way to look at it, but as long as the patent system
15 looks at it that way, you will have this phenomenon that by
16 narrowing the claim to just the particular details of the way
17 people would do it that would be most useful to do it in
18 today's context, they can get a valid claim emerging to
19 replace the invalid one.

20 MR. ALDERUCCI: I see. The claim was directed to --
21 one embodiment was clearly invalid because it was not new and
22 because it was obvious.

23 MR. STALLMAN: I would say it should be obvious from
24 the previous one, but in fact the way the patent system seems
25 to judge the issue of obviousness, their threshold is very,

1 very low. You have a phenomenon where prior art becomes like
2 American soldiers in Vietnam. They cover the ground that
3 they stand on, but they don't project their force to any
4 distance because the distance to which they project their
5 force is measured by the threshold of unobviousness when that
6 is very low. Essentially whatever examples you find from the
7 past make no difference at all.

8 MR. BARNETT: We might step back a moment, and one
9 thing I'm interested in, in lieu of a reexam system, I guess
10 when in doubt, litigation is the only other option. I'm
11 interested to ask, Les, we've heard testimony at least in the
12 semiconductor industry and you had mentioned earlier this
13 notion of an escalating number and more and more people are
14 patenting and conceivably that leads to cross licensing
15 situations, but I'm curious if you can let us know sort of
16 the math that goes on, or compare and contrast litigation
17 decisions when you're dealing with a competitor or participant
18 in the market who has a patent in litigation versus a patent
19 holder who is not a participant in the market?

20 I'm curious if there's a difference there or if you
21 have any thoughts on that. Could you pass the microphone
22 over to Les, please?

23 MR. HART: First of all, in my experience, probably if
24 you're trying to license your patents, I would say 80 percent of
25 the time you're going to come to an amicable resolution of this

1 with the party that you're negotiating with.

2 So we're dealing with the other 20 percent where your
3 choices are about three or about two. You can forget it; go
4 away mad, but go away; or exercise the only other option you
5 have and that is to go into court. Of those 20 percent, in
6 my experience, probably 80 percent of the 20 percent settle
7 very quickly after the litigation has started.

8 It might start some discovery, but in the cases I have
9 seen, very few cases seem to go through trial, verdict and
10 judgment.

11 So for the vast majority of the cases of semiconductor
12 cross licenses negotiated as part of the settlement, you get
13 a far better result because a judgment in a patent litigation
14 only is dealing with past damages. And whether or not you're
15 going to get an injunction going forward or settling the
16 whole thing on the cross license basis covers the future,
17 covers both sides' patents.

18 It covers the issues of the patents you're going to
19 get on inventions in the next period of the term, which
20 typically in our industry has been five years. So settling
21 these things is a lot better than litigating, but when you do
22 litigation, the settlement is a lot better than what you
23 would get with a judgment because it's far more all
24 inclusive.

25 MR. BARNETT: I might ask a follow-up. I guess in

1 some of the prior testimony, we heard concern that with the
2 increasing frequency of patenting in the semiconductor industry,
3 there is a situation with a lot more patent holders who aren't
4 interested in cross licensing and are more, for lack of a better
5 term, strictly rent seeking, and if you noticed, is that an
6 increasing¹¹ trend and if so, what your thoughts were?

7 MR. HART: Yes. Just give me a little more
8 clarification. It was not clear to me exactly what you're
9 getting at. Rent seekers are new entrants in to the field
10 that do not have a patent position?

11 MR. BARNETT: Rent seekers being someone who does
12 have a patent but who is not a participant or not an entrant
13 into
14 the market and so they're not interested necessarily in a
cross license and more sr32b a

1 to license them, and the money we got from that, we invested
2 in the R&D that we otherwise couldn't afford to do in the
3 business line that we wanted to be in.

4 MR. BARNETT: Tim?

5 MR. CASEY: Going back to one thing that we haven't
6 addressed, and it seems to relate to this, arguably patents have
7 caused this to happen in the marketplace in the first place, and
8 in the context of licensing, if you at least start with the
9 premise that patents exist at least in certain industries -- I'm
10 not going to get into that argument -- and will continue to
11 exist in those industries for some period of time, and the
12 unlikelihood that we're simply going to get rid of them, then
13 you have a couple of scenarios that you can follow.

14 One is when someone asserts a patent against you,
15 what do you do? Well, you can hope it goes away. Sometimes
16 that works. You can seek to license it, either through a
17 cross license or through the payment of money or through the
18 trading of services. I think that factor gets underlooked
19 a lot, that everyone assumes that every patent asserted
20 results in someone having to pay money for it and that's
21 often not the case. They trade things. I've traded all sorts
22 of things in patent license agreements that weren't money per
23 se, but that enabled the company that I was working with to
24 enter into a market that it wasn't in, to develop those product
25 lines that it didn't have, all by virtue of being able to

1 utilize the patents as leverage. That enabled us to be able to
2 get someone to pay attention to us who may not have otherwise
3 wanted to do so.

4 And in some cases, where the opposing party is someone
5 who has a large portfolio of patents, you can get a freedom to
6 operate. And that gets underlooked in terms of the value that
7 that brings forward in many cases because a lot of companies,
8 because of the existence of these patents, spend a lot of time
9 and a lot of resources trying to avoid infringing on somebody
10 else's patented technology.

11 And many times that time and resource is wasted
12 effort that could be better spent if they had a license to
13 the patents that that company has and no longer had to worry
14 about whether or not they were infringing and could in fact
15 actively seek to utilize them. In a number of cases where
16 we've entered into patent licenses that ended up costing us much
17 less than we ever thought that they would, when we analyzed it
18 from a damage perspective -- what's the potential risk we have
19 here? -- and we found we were able to get a license for pennies
20 on the dollar, compared to what we thought the risk was, that we
21 then had the freedom to be able to utilize the patented
22 technology.

23 And we would go through, look at the portfolio, and
24 figure out what groups in the company might be able to make
25 use of it. We make those patents available to them and say,

1 "Use this stuff, go through here and see anything you want,
2 and you're now free to utilize it," and that's actually had
3 some very positive benefits in terms of the product changes
4 and innovations that the company has been able to come
5 forward as a result of that.

6 The other thing is, patents will also prompt people to
7 seek a way around them, and I think that's very important to
8 remember as one -- what I always thought, whether or not it
9 really was is hard to say -- motive behind the patent
10 system in the first place.

11 If someone has a patent on something, you can either
12 pay them for it, stop using it or find a way around it, and
13 perhaps the most significant way in which patents promote
14 innovation is the fact that sometimes they force people to find
15 a way around it. Well, how do they find around it? They have
16 to invent something else. They have to come up with something
17 new that enables them to avoid that.

18 It may be a very small change, but in other cases it
19 may be something that's quite significant. So you have to look
20 at that aspect of what are patents adding and I think that's
21 fairly substantially significant.

22 MR. BARNETT: Les and then Richard? .

23 MR. HART: On the notion of designing around patents,
24 there's an added danger in doing that versus paying what it
25 takes to get a license. And that is, if you're going to design

1 around, you better do it well because if you are in
2 litigation and you don't have a good legal opinion that the
3 course you did take did avoid the patent or if you don't have a
4 good legal opinion that says you don't need a license, as you
5 all know, you're faced with the prospect of being unlawfully
6 infringing.

7 And I bet in cases like that, there's an in-house
8 counsel during the course of the year, you can get -- I'm
9 sure Tim knows this too -- you can get a very large number of
10 charges of infringement from people that are out there. I
11 just think of college professors being one of the more
12 typical examples where you'll get a letter saying, "This
13 patent we think you're using" and the business you're in, you
14 get a lot of them. To send every one of those out to an
15 outside counsel to get an opinion that you're not infringing
16 a valid claim can be very, very expensive.

17 So you rely on in-house counsel to do a preliminary
18 check to see whether or not you have a problem or not. And
19 again, if you're in litigation, you're relying on in-house
20 counsel's opinion that you've done it well enough to avoid
21 a unlawful infringement.

22 So there's a root example of why you may be very well
23 off just taking a license and getting the free use, or
24 thereafter the incremental free use, of all of these patents
25 rather than just trying to avoid it and run that risk of

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1 I think they should have that freedom. I would like to have

1 compression algorithm instead of LZW for their images. That's
2 not the only example. There's an Apple patent covering font
3 hinting in true type fonts.

4 Now, we might be able to come up with another way of
5 doing font hinting, but it would do us no good, so the result
6 is in our community we can't have good looking fonts. To
7 redevelop all those fonts would be a gigantic job.

8 Little by little that may be what we have to do, but
9 simply developing a better technique to do the job that this
10 patent covers a way of doing wouldn't help us at all. You have
11 to look at the effects of patents in the structure of the feed
12 to see what they're really doing.

13 If Microsoft has patents on aspects of .NET, then
14 first of all we might find a better way of doing it, but if
15 that isn't 100 percent compatible with the applications users
16 write for .NET, it won't do us any good at all. It might
17 be technologically superior. Hell, there might be things that
18 we already know that are technologically superior that everybody
19 knows aren't patented. It still won't do any good at providing
20 users a practical alternative to Microsoft.

21 MR. BARNETT: Thanks, Richard. At this point I think
22 we're getting close in time.

23 I might open the floor for any closing comments, but
24 one I think I am interested in in the context of that and
25 perhaps combine them or whatnot, is we talked a lot about the

1 impacts of patents on innovation, and I'm curious if anyone
2 has any thoughts on sort of the flipside of that, how
3 competition affects innovation.

4 MR. ALDERUCCI: I'll comment that Richard apparently
5 has standards which are technologically inferior, but are still
6 entrenched in the industry, and it's not because of their patent
7 position that it's so entrenched. It's presumably because of
8 their market position. Is that true?

9 MR. STALLMAN: Well, yes, that's true. They get it
10 entrenched. They can make it. They can entrench it because
11 of their market position, and then they use the patents to
12 prevent us from doing any effective competition to it.

13 MS. MUSACCHIA: I want to add something on the LZW
14 because I think one of the things with compression algorithms
15 is that there's a huge debate in the software field about
16 that particular patent. I always find it very interesting
17 that Richard is citing it because there are a number of
18 companies and literature about compression algorithms.

19 And so some people have argued, and you can read it
20 in the literature -- have argued that the LZW patent and
21 compression actually snuck up on somebody because they were
22 off using compression algorithms that they had themselves
23 created, but because of the way it was written and drawn it
24 was also a somewhat not broad.

25 And I'm out of my depth of field a little bit, but

1 there were people that were concerned about whether or not
2 they did or did not infringe such a patent because you could
3 go into the literature and find from innumerable places
4 discussion in actual formula on a compression algorithm.

5 And so that is one of those cases where there was
6 quite a bit of debate and probably still remains so. The
7 other issue, in terms of Richard's comment, that people didn't
8 move for some societal reason, a lot of times compression
9 algorithms are very, very deep in product so it's not merely
10 a matter of saying we're trying to persuade somebody to
11 change. A lot of times it's very difficult to make a change
12 once something is already embedded in a piece of technology,
13 embedded deep in a product, so this is something else to be
14 recognized.

15 On a closing comment basis, the only thing I wanted
16 to say is that again going back to the position that we have
17 been advocating about Europe, and I very much appreciate
18 Dean's comment, the European system is one where while the
19 EPO will go ahead and grant the patents, the cases that the
20 gentleman may have been referencing were possible
21 interpretations by the various countries because the
22 enforcement is done by the individual nations within the
23 European Union.

24 The European Union, though, has within the last six
25 months come in order and said in their push within the union

1 itself to get more harmonization and bring all the countries
2 in line so some of the judicial interpretations where you may
3 have found an individual country or court in a country coming in
4 one direction or going in another, if you read some of the
5 public statements, and there's been articles in the Wall Street
6 Journal recently on this very point.

7 The Europeans take it on the chin from the U.S.
8 companies as they come to us and complain about the fact that
9 we are going to have stricter standards. And that is the
10 direction that at least the European Union Commission is
11 talking about pushing when they harmonize even in their
12 judicial settings within the European union.

13 Again I appreciate very much when you have cases
14 where you're going to find courts in some of the countries
15 going in different directions but that's not where the actual
16 union is going.

17 And so the last point I wanted to make is my
18 summary comment. This is an industry where there are a large
19 number of small significant inventors. I'm on the Board of
20 Directors in NCEITA, North Carolina Electric and Information
21 Technology Association. They did a study in North Carolina --
22 just call NCEITA, they'll give it to you -- and they found in
23 North Carolina we have in excess, I think, of 4,000 small high
24 tech companies in the information technology field of which
25 less than 10 percent have more than 15 employees.

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1 Well, when you begin to think about it, that means
2 there are an awful lot of companies out there that are coming
3 out of the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, people
4 that are being spun off out of University of North Carolina
5 at NC State, NC state campuses.

6 These companies are small, and yet they're
7 innovative. They are the ones that are creating a lot of new
8 technology. So I would recommend anybody, again if you want
9 to see where some of the small companies are, look at the
10 local trade associations that exist within those states and
11 start asking them how many members do they have? How many of
12 those companies are small? What are their sizes? And then ask
13 what their business is? How many of them are developing
14 technology in the security field? How many of them are
15 developing technology of one type or another? And I think you
16 will find a lot of interesting information. They're not
17 going to be litigating. They may not even be patenting
18 because they can't afford it.

19 They can't get the attorneys' opinions because they
20 don't have the money. They're still looking for angel funds
21 and VC funding, the idea of finding the money to do the
22 other, but this is where that innovative heart is coming
23 from.

24 And again as you look at it, please go out in the
25 field to some of these small technology trade associations

1 and see who is out there and what they're actually doing as
2 opposed to what some of the larger people who can afford to
3 send me up here for a couple days are doing.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. BARNETT: Tim?

6 MR. CASEY: It's an interesting thought. The patents
7 are a form of competition in and amongst themselves. We
8 often look at patents in terms of how it's affecting
9 competition in other areas, but clearly just based on what
10 you've heard today, there's any of a number of people out
11 there who are competing solely on the basis of patents, and
12 that is the competition, and in fact that is the industry.

13 So sometimes I think we view patents in the context of
14 the industries in which they are around, but they are a form of
15 competition amongst people in industries or in technology much
16 the same way as companies compete for employees or capital or
17 customers or any of a number of other things.

18 And in terms of barriers of entry into that
19 particular field, a barrier of entry into being able to compete
20 in the patent field is significantly less than it is in many
21 other areas. In fact an inventor can write their own patent
22 application.

23 The patent office provides directions and will help
24 pro se applicants in trying to put together a patent
25 application without utilizing an attorney, although it's not

1 necessarily always the greatest idea. Especially if you
2 think you have something that's very valuable, you might want
3 to get some professional help, but there is the ability to be
4 able to do that.

5 The price is relatively low if you go about it that
6 way. But even if you use an attorney, your fees may range
7 from \$10,000 to \$30,000 to get an application on file and
8 prosecute it through the patent office, which is significantly
9 less than the billions of dollars that it might cost you to
10 build your own semiconductor fab, so certainly the barrier to
11 entry in that market is quite a bit different.

12 And in fact, there's nothing stopping anybody from
13 patenting anything that they may develop and entering the
14 market whenever they want to. You may not be able to build
15 the market, but you can certainly build things having to do
16 with semiconductors and have a patent on it and actually have
17 a say in the marketplace as a result of that that you may not
18 otherwise have as an individual.

19 MR. BARNETT: Thanks, Tim.

20 Richard?

21 MR. STALLMAN: I don't know whether to cry or laugh
22 at the idea that people can compete using patents. It's
23 true, of course, once you have patents you'll get people
24 competing just to get patents, and they will have a say in
25 the marketplace and a negative kind of say, so I can't

1 dispute any of the facts that you've just said. Whether this
2 is a good thing for society, though, is a different question.

3 Now, it may not matter so much with regard to making
4 semiconductors. You say it costs a large amount of money to
5 set up a fab line, and those that have that enough money can
6 afford to deal with the patent system. For them it's a side
7 issue.

8 But for a lot of us, free software developers don't
9 spend ten thousand dollars and if we had to, it would be
10 crippling. That's the thing that gives free software its
11 strength. It doesn't take any labor, just their labor.
12 That's what makes it possible for us to develop a spectrum of
13 software that covers the whole range of things people want to
14 do and do it so well.

15 So we are in danger of being crushed. If it costs as
16 much to develop a software package as it does to build a fab
17 line, the situation would be very different.

18 MR. BARNETT: Thanks, Richard.

19 Nancy?

20 MS. LINCK: In the drug industry we have essentially
21 two kinds of competitors. We have other proprietary drug
22 companies, and then we have the generic drug companies. And
23 with respect to the proprietary drug companies, we try very
24 hard to develop our drugs so that they don't fall within the
25 claims of another competitor. But in fact, if we have strong

1 patent protection for our drug, developing a drug to cure a
2 disease is such a difficult process that our primary focus is
3 moving that drug forward, and we will find a way to market
4 that drug.

5 I don't know of any drugs that have been developed
6 that would treat diseases that have been kept off the market
7 by a competitor's patents. Maybe that's because I've only
8 been in the drug business for three and a half years, but I
9 think drug companies work together to make sure that drugs that
10 can help people get on the market.

11 With respect to generic drug companies, they are
12 growing rapidly and taking over more and more of the
13 pharmaceutical sector, and I believe the average life of a
14 patent once you get approval for a drug is about 11
15 years, not the full term of the patent.

16 So we try very hard during the drug development
17 process to get follow-on, I believe you call them sequential
18 or follow-on patents to the formulations or to the dosages or
19 to different indications, in an attempt to get more of our

once you get approval for a drug, we try to get more of our

1 according to a Tufts survey, so that's how we deal with
2 competition.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. BARNETT: We'll finish with Les.

5 MR. HART: Regarding patents and competition
6 between big companies and small companies, the small company
7 that would get a patent on its innovations early on has a
8 tremendous amount of leverage against large companies later
9 on, if that high gear becomes part of the mainstream of
10 technology.

1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N O F R E P O R T E R

2

3 CASE TITLE: COMPETITION AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW AND

4 POLICY IN THE KNOWLEDGE-BASED ECONOMY

5 HEARING DATE: APRIL 9, 2002

6

7 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the transcript contained herein

8 is a full and accurate transcript of the notes taken by me at

9 the hearing on the above cause before the FEDERAL TRADE

10 COMMISSION to the best of my knowledge and belief.

11

12 DATED: APRIL 16, 2002

13

14

15 DEBRA L. MAHEUX

16

17 C E R T I F I C A T I O N O F P R O O F R E A D E R