

Court to review patent judgment against Microsoft

November 29 2010

(AP) -- The Supreme Court agreed Monday to referee a \$290 million dispute between Microsoft Corp. and a Canadian technology company over complaints that a tool used in the popular Microsoft Word program violated patent protections.

The high court on Monday agreed to hear an appeal from the Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft, which wants the multimillion dollar judgment against it erased.

Toronto-based i4i sued Microsoft in 2007, saying it owned the technology behind a tool used in Microsoft Word. The technology in question gave Word 2003 and Word 2007 users an improved way to edit XML, which is [computer code](#) that tells the program how to interpret and display a document's contents.

The lower courts say Microsoft willfully infringed on the [patent](#), and ordered the world's largest [software maker](#) to pay i4i \$290 million and stop selling versions of Word containing the infringing technology.

Microsoft now sells versions of Word that do not contain the technology in question.

Microsoft executive David Howard said the company is glad the justices decided to hear their appeal.

"It's a clear affirmation that the issues raised in this case are critical to

the integrity of our [patent system](#)," Howard said. "We look forward to presenting our case to the Supreme Court."

Chief Justice John Roberts did not take part in the consideration or the decision in this case. He reported owning between \$100,000-\$250,000 worth of Microsoft stock in 2009 on his annual disclosure report.

The court will hear the case sometime next year.

The case is [Microsoft v. i4i](#), 10-290.

©2010 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Court to review patent judgment against Microsoft (2010, November 29) retrieved 26 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-11-court-patent-judgment-microsoft.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--