

Apple patent wielded against Samsung possibly invalid

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Samsung's high-stakes legal battle with Apple was bolstered Tuesday by word that the US Patent and Trademark Office was second-guessing a patent at issue in the case.

Officials re-examined an Apple [patent](#) for an effect that makes a smartphone screen appear to "bounce" when an edge is tugged by a finger and tentatively concluded it should be invalidated because it was not new, intellectual property analyst Florian Mueller reported at FossPatents.com.

"Apple's rubber-banding (overscroll-bounce) patent is still going to go through a lengthy process before it may or may not be invalidated," Mueller said in a blog post.

The tentative decision by the patent office could be used by [Samsung](#) to petition US District Court Judge Lucy Koh to override part of a jury verdict that called for the South Korean company to pay Apple \$1.05 billion in damages.

The patent was one of a half-dozen at the heart of a massive clash between the US and South Korean electronics giants in federal court in California.

[Apple](#) is seeking to ban various Samsung phones and tablets on the basis of that verdict in Koh's [courtroom](#).

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