

FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
NORFOLK DIVISION

2014 MAY 22 A 11:06

CLERK US DISTRICT COURT  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

N5 TECHNOLOGIES LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITIGROUP INC.

and

CITIBANK, National Association,

Defendants.

C.A. NO. 2:14-cv-242  
(HCM)  
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff N5 Technologies LLC ("N5") files this complaint for patent infringement against Defendants Citigroup Inc. and Citibank, National Association (collectively, "Defendants").

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff N5 is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia with its Registered Office and principal place of business at 10432 Balls Ford Road, Suite 300, Manassas, Virginia 20109.

2. On information and belief, Defendant Citigroup Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal office at 399 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022. This Defendant may be served through its registered agent, CT Corporation System, 111 Eighth Avenue, New York, New York 10011.

3. On information and belief, Defendant Citibank, National Association, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Citigroup Inc., is a federally-chartered banking institution with its principal place of business and registered headquarters at 701 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street North, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104. This Defendant may be served at that address.

4. N5 is the owner of U.S. Patent No. 7,197,297 to Myles, et al., titled “Authentication Method for Enabling a User of a Mobile Station to Access to Private Data or Services” (“the ’297 Patent”).

5. Defendants directly or indirectly distribute, market, sell and/or offer to sell throughout the United States, including in this judicial district, a banking product and/or service known as “Text Banking” through which the Defendants provide certain information to their customers and allow them to perform certain banking transaction or obtain account information through the use of mobile devices that can send and receive text messages.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6. This is an action for patent infringement, arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.*

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

8. Defendants conduct substantial business in this judicial district and regularly solicit business from, do business with, and derive revenue from goods and services provided to customers in this district, and have committed acts of patent infringement in this judicial district and such acts are continuing. For example and without limitation, Defendants have eleven branch locations in this district offering full service to its account holders and potential customers, and Defendants’ website is accessible to residents of this district. Because

Defendants have committed acts of patent infringement in this judicial district, and/or are otherwise present and doing business in this judicial district, this Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants.

9. Defendants are properly joined in this action because each of the Defendants directly or indirectly distributes, markets, sells and/or offers to sell throughout the United States, including in this judicial district, banking products and/or services known as “Text Banking” that utilize the same infringing process. Thus, this action arises out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences relating to the distribution, marketing, selling and/or offering to sell Defendants’ Text Banking service. Defendants’ Text Banking service is offered and marketed at least at its branch locations in this judicial district and through its website at <https://online.citibank.com/US/JRS/pands/detail.do?ID=CitiMobileSMS>.

10. Because Defendants have committed acts of patent infringement in this judicial district and because Defendants provide services and/or products in this judicial district, do business in this judicial district, and otherwise have minimum contacts here, including but not limited to branch locations in this district in which account holders are instructed and encouraged to perform the infringing Text Banking service, venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), (c), and 1400(b).

**COUNT I – INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,197,297**

11. N5 realleges and incorporates herein by reference the allegations stated in paragraphs 1-10 of this Complaint.

12. After full and fair examination, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued the ’297 Patent on March 27, 2007, to the inventors Colin Myles and Richard Owen. N5 is the owner by assignment of all right, title and interest in and to the ’297

Patent, including the right to sue, enforce and recover damages for all past, present, and future infringements of the patent. A true and correct copy of the '297 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

13. Defendants have infringed and are continuing to infringe, literally or through the doctrine of equivalents, directly, jointly, or indirectly, contributorily and/or through the inducement of others, one or more claims of the '297 Patent, by making, using, offering to sell and/or selling in this judicial district and elsewhere within the United States and/or importing into the United States Text Banking products and services that are within the scope of at least claim 1 of the '297 patent, constituting infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271 (a), (b), (c) and/or (g).

14. Defendants' direct infringement includes, without limitation, practicing the method of at least claim 1 of the '297 Patent. Specifically, Defendants' direct infringement includes, among other things, making, placing into service, and otherwise using a system by which they obtain account information by sending a text-based request that includes a user unique identifier and receiving a text-based response in return.

15. As a result of the activities described above, Defendants are liable for direct infringement of at least claim 1 of the '297 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(a).

16. To the extent any fact finder concludes that Defendants do not literally satisfy any element of the claims of the '297 Patent, those elements are met under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

17. Alternatively and in addition to their liability for direct infringement of at least claim 1 of the '297 Patent, Defendants are also liable for indirectly infringing at least claim 1 of the '297 Patent in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by inducing direct

infringement in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) and by contributing to direct infringement in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c).

18. Defendants have been aware of the '297 Patent at least since service of the complaint in this action and their infringement is ongoing.

19. The direct infringement induced and contributed to by Defendants includes at least the continued use of Defendants' infringing Text Banking system by their account holders and vendors acting in combination with Defendants.

20. Defendants encourage continued direct infringement of at least claim 1 of the '297 Patent by at least widely publicizing the infringing Text Banking service, instructing and encouraging their account holders to register for and use the infringing Text Banking system, and providing on their website tools and instructions for conducting the directly infringing use.

21. Defendants induce continued infringement by at least encouraging and instructing account holders and/or vendors to perform some or all of the claimed steps, while also performing certain of the steps themselves and in coordination with such performance by account holders and/or vendors.

22. Defendants' specific intent to cause their account holders and/or vendors to directly infringe is evident at least by their knowledge of the '297 Patent and from the striking similarity between the infringing Text Banking service and the claims of the '297 Patent. Both the '297 Patent and the infringing Text Banking service provide access to account information by sending a text-based request that includes a user unique identifier and providing the account information in a text-based response.

23. Defendants contribute to direct infringement of at least claim 1 of the '297 Patent by providing their account holders and/or vendors with component tools for operating and

interacting with the infringing Text Banking service, including a list of commands for accessing account information. These commands are not staple articles of commerce and have no substantial non-infringing uses. They are a material component of and specifically designed to work with the infringing Text Banking service, and their only purpose is to interact with other elements of the Text Banking service in a manner that directly infringes at least claim 1 of the '297 Patent.

24. Defendants' acts of infringement have caused damage to N5 and N5 is entitled to recover from Defendants the damages sustained by N5 as a result of Defendants' wrongful acts in an amount subject to proof at trial, but in any event no less than a reasonable royalty. Defendants' infringement of N5's exclusive rights under the '297 Patent will continue to damage N5, causing irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law unless enjoined by this Court. Defendants' ongoing infringement is willful and deliberate, as Defendants became aware of the infringing nature of their Mobile Banking products and services at the latest when they received a copy of N5's complaint, entitling N5 to increased damages and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 284 and 285.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, N5 prays that it have judgment against Defendants for the following:

- (1) Adjudging that Defendants have infringed the '297 Patent;
- (2) Permanently enjoining and restraining Defendants and their agents, servants, employees, affiliates, divisions, and subsidiaries, and those in association, active concert or participation with any of them, from further acts of infringement, contributory infringement or inducement of infringement of the '297 Patent;

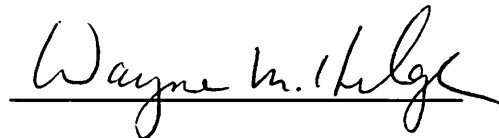
- (3) Awarding damages to N5, together with both pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- (4) Awarding increased damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- (5) Finding that this action constitutes an exceptional case pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- (6) Awarding N5 all of its costs in this action, including attorneys' fees and expenses; and
- (7) Awarding such other and further relief, at law or in equity, to which N5 is justly entitled.

**JURY DEMAND**

N5 hereby demands a jury trial on all issues so triable pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Dated: May 22, 2014

Respectfully submitted,



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