

# Daily Journal

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## TOP LAWYERS OF THE DECADE 2011-2020

### Charles K. Verhoeven

#### Behind the wheel of technology innovation

Verhoeven has been at the center of some of the most impactful intellectual property disputes in the technology sector over the last decade.

The Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP partner made a name for himself during a crucial point in the internet evolution in the late aughts. But his work for Alphabet-owned Waymo in the fight with Uber over driverless technology sealed his status as one of the most impactful litigators in Silicon Valley of the past decade. *Waymo v. Uber Technologies*, 3:17-CV-939 (N.D. Cal., filed Feb. 23, 2017).

Waymo sued Uber for trade secrets theft after its founder, Anthony Levandowski, decamped to the rideshare company. The dispute centered on Waymo's Light Detection and Ranging self-driving technology.

The case settled for \$250 million settlement on the fifth day of trial, and Levandowski later

pleaded guilty to a federal criminal charge and was sentenced to 18 months in prison. *U.S. v. Levandowski* 19-CR-00377 (N.D. Cal., filed Aug. 15, 2019).

"The plan was for Levandowski to recruit the team that worked for him at Waymo to join a yet-to-be-created startup, Ottomotto, which Uber would later acquire," Verhoeven recalled. "The evidence showed that Levandowski secretly downloaded thousands of Google proprietary files, at least four times, on the same days he was secretly meeting with Uber."

But this wasn't Verhoeven's first high-stakes litigation. He was a key jouster in the "smart phone wars" — disputes between major mobile manufacturers over commercial licensing, patents and designs for smartphones and their operating systems.

Verhoeven was lead counsel defending the Android ecosystem from intellectual property claims by Apple and Microsoft against original equipment manufacturers using Android. He obtained a limited exclusion order on behalf of Sonos and a cease-and-desist order from the U.S. International Trade Commission barring Apple from importing AT&T versions of several iPhone models.



Jana Ašenbrennerová / Special to the Daily Journal

*Samsung v. Apple* 337-TA-794, ITC, (June 4, 2013).

He defeated Apple two more times in separate cases on behalf of HTC and Samsung in 2011 and 2013, respectively. For both, Verhoeven obtained a finding of no violation of Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930.

Apple initially sought exclusion on operating system patents against HTC and also tried to exclude virtually all of Samsung's smartphones from being imported into the United States. *Apple v. HTC* 337-TA-710, (ITC, Dec. 29, 2011). *Apple v. Samsung* 337-TA-796 (ITC, Aug. 9, 2013).

Verhoeven successfully blocked Microsoft, which sought to exclude his client Motorola, from importing its smartphones into the United States in 2010. He obtained an order that year of no violation of Section 337 as to eight of nine patents.

Verhoeven said he hopes to continue serving as a contributor to future innovations.

"All of the work impacts so much of society, today and tomorrow. We learn new, cutting-edge technology, and they impact my trial work. It's always very interesting, fun and exciting," he said.

— Gina Kim