

Divided Patent Infringement – U.S. Supreme Court’s Ruling on *Limelight vs. Akamai*

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In the U.S., there are a few well-settled doctrines on patent infringement. For example, infringement requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be practiced; where a participant does not directly infringe, he may still be liable under indirect infringement; there can be no indirect infringement without direct infringement, etc. Based on case law, all these doctrines are only applicable to scenarios involving one participant who single-handedly practices every element of the claimed steps. Problems arise when multiple parties jointly practice the claimed method – who shall be held liable? For direct infringement, indirect infringement or both? A close look at *Limelight vs. Akamai* will walk you through these concepts and hopefully provide some insights of this U.S. Supreme Court decision on liabilities in divided patent infringement.