Apple-Samsung judge presses lawyers to settle

Observers think judge's efforts are not likely to gain traction with the dueling companies.

By Saul Sugarman
Daily Journal Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO – U.S. District Judge Lucy H. Koh on Wednesday made a final plea for attorneys to settle a high-profile lawsuit between Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., which are dueling in a trial over patent infringement and trade secret allegations.

“It's time for peace,” Koh told attorneys for the two companies in the morning, outside the jury's presence. “I see real hope for both sides if we go to a verdict. I think it's worth one more try for the parties.”

Lawyers for both companies agreed to a telephone mediation in the afternoon with U.S. Magistrate Judge Joseph C. Perrett of San Francisco, who tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a settlement before the trial started. But they did not indicate a resolution was likely.

Legal observers were not surprised by Koh's request, but did not expect the smartphone and tablet wars between Cupertino-based Apple and Mountain View-based Google Inc. and its allies, as well as Samsung, to end before one side was several major cases.

“Unfortunately, I think the parties have settled the larger dispute. They have too much to lose otherwise,” Mark A. Lemler, a San Francisco Law School professor who specializes in antitrust, said of the Apple-Samsung case, seen in an email. “But it’s not clear that standing on one’s position has helped, before the verdicts come out.”

Koh suggested that, even if the companies do not settle, they should consider streamlining their allegations by removing some “unnecessary” claims from their cases. She added in a separate email to attorneys that she expected to order a trial to begin as early as July.

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Crowdfunding: making sure it works

By逆势 Lee
Daily Journal Staff Writer

It is usually important to clearly understand the jobs of the rule-making bodies and the compliance agencies to ensure that the regulation and enforcement actions are not unduly burdensome on the businesses. However, in some cases, the enforcement actions may be excessive and unwarranted. It is important for entrepreneurs to understand the regulatory landscape so that they can make informed decisions. In this context, the article discusses the importance of crowdfunding and the legal issues that arise in connection with it.

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