



ECG Defense Contractor Client Receives Punitive Damages and Injunction Following Unfair Competition Trial

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Last week an Orange County jury found a small Tennessee high-tech company, together with its President and CEO, Andrew Cook, liable for unfair competition, fraud and slander. The suit was brought by Sabtech Industries, a local defense contractor headquartered in Yorba Linda. During a second phase of the trial, punitive damages and an injunction were imposed against all of the defendants.

Sabtech manufactures NTDS computer boards deployed by the U.S. Navy during the Persian Gulf War. Sabtech's boards help guide both the Patriot and Cruise missile systems.

In reaching its verdict, the jury found that defendants engaged in a ten-month covert campaign to pirate Sabtech's technology in order to develop a competing NTDS board design. The jury also found that defendants slandered Sabtech and its products to the Navy and other defense contractors, like Boeing Corporation. In so doing, the jury found "clear and convincing evidence" that defendants acted with malice, oppression or fraud.

According to David A. Robinson of the Enterprise Counsel Group, Sabtech's attorneys:

"This verdict should send a clear message to the defense industry. Hard work and industry is still the way to succeed. Resorting to industrial espionage to "reverse engineer" someone else's product is against the law and will be punished."

Enterprise Counsel Group, A Law Corporation ("ECG"), is a firm of business trial lawyers based in Orange County, California, with extensive trial and appellate experience throughout the State of California. Over the course of the past 17 years, ECG's attorneys have successfully handled a wide variety of business trials and civil appeals in state and federal courts, including business torts, breach of contract, telecommunications, computer hardware products liability, software licensing enforcement, high technology litigation, corporate and partnership dissolution, securities litigation, real estate litigation, construction defects, wrongful termination and employment discrimination defense, professional malpractice (attorneys, real estate brokers, escrow companies and securities brokers), complex collection actions, bankruptcy adversary proceedings, trade secrets, unfair competition and patent litigation. ECG is listed in the Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.



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