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Hunton & Williams LLP Secures \$31 Million Jury Award for Infringement of Patents Held by Client Energy Transportation Group, Inc.

Hunton & Williams client Energy Transportation Group, Inc. was handed a \$31 million jury verdict February 4 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, for infringement of patents held by the company. The case involved feedback cancellation technology used in hearing aids, which was developed by a team of inventors led by one of the icons in research for the hearing impaired, Dr. Harry Levitt. Dr. Levitt consulted with a former ETG subsidiary, Audimax, where these patents were developed.

After a two-week trial before Chief Judge Gregory M. Sleet, the jury found that the high-end, modern digital hearing aids offered by the defendants — Widex A/S and Widex Hearing Aid Company, Inc., and a collection of six companies owned by William Demant Holding Company A/S — incorporated the patented feedback

cancellation technology of the Levitt patents. The jury also returned a finding that Widex's infringement was willful, and found the patents valid. It awarded damages in the amount of \$15 million against Widex and in the amount of \$16 million against Demant. The damages awarded reflect a royalty on the defendants' sales of hearing aids that incorporated feedback cancellation.

Settlements were reached with several other hearing aid manufacturers before trial.

The Hunton & Williams trial team was led by Marty Steinberg, a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers; Intellectual Property Practice Group head Brian Buroker; and Maya Eckstein, an experienced intellectual property litigator and trial lawyer.

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