



The Asus logo is displayed on an Asus ZenBook UX301LA laptop computer, manufactured by Asustek Computer Inc., during a product unveiling in Tokyo, Japan, on Oct. 29, 2013. Photographer: Akio Kon/Bloomberg

Bloomberg Law

Estelgia Convinces Trade Judge Asus Infringed Wi-Fi Patents (1)

Aug. 24, 2026, 11:32 AM PDT; Updated: Aug. 24, 2026, 2:37 PM PDT
By Michael Shapiro, Senior Reporter

Summary by Bloomberg AI

- Administrative Law Judge Doris Johnson Hines found ASUS Computer International and Plume Design Inc. infringed patents through their sales of certain Wi-Fi routers or related features.
- Estelgia LLC had acquired the patents, US Patent Nos. 7,936,714 and 10,735,973, from Netgear Inc. and met the requirement of showing there's a domestic industry using its patented inventions.
- The decision sends the case to the full commission, which has the authority to issue an exclusion order barring imports of those products to the US.

Patent holder Estelgia LLC secured a win at the US International Trade Commission, where a judge found ASUS Computer International and Plume Design Inc. infringed patents through their sales of certain Wi-Fi routers or related features.

Administrative Law Judge Doris Johnson Hines said in an initial determination that the ASUSTek unit sold routers that used inventions captured in a pair of patents that Estelgia, a non-practicing entity, acquired from Netgear Inc. — US Patent Nos. [7,936,714](#) and [10,735,973](#). The tribunal issued a redacted version of Johnson Hines' [234-page decision](#) on Aug. 21.

Johnson Hines also found that Estelgia had met the requirement of showing there's a domestic industry using its patented inventions. The judge found that the targets of the investigation invalidated some of the Estelgia patent claims but three of the claims survived.

Asus and Netgear are two of the country's leading providers of routers. Johnson Hines' ruling concludes that several Asus' next-generation, Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7 products infringe the patent claims. The decision sends the case to the full commission, which has the authority to issue an exclusion order barring imports of those products to the US.

Netgear previously accused TP-Link of infringing the '714 patent in an ITC action, but the companies [settled](#) their dispute in September 2024, with the Chinese tech giant paying Netgear \$135 million. Netgear transferred the '714 and '973 patents along with 67 others to Delaware-based Estelgia five months later, according to US Patent and Trademark Office records.

To secure its ITC win, Estelgia had to convince Johnson Hines that its technology wasn't predated by a

Cisco Systems Inc. dual-band router called Aironet, that the company launched in 2002. Though Cisco announced the product a month after the priority date for Estelgia's '714 patent, Asus argued that Cisco conceived of a key invention even earlier, such that its Aironet rendered the patent invalid.

The ITC staff who did an initial review of Estelgia's case agreed with Asus' patent invalidity argument, Johnson Hines wrote. But the judge saw it differently, relying on Asus' deposition testimony from a Cisco program manager who wasn't confident that Cisco's product had priority.

Johnson Hines noted that the program manager said Cisco "absolutely" conceived of its invention before the '714 patent priority date, but only after multiple phone calls, texts, and emails with Asus' lawyer.

The judge said she found the deposition testimony credible but the "changed testimony at the evidentiary hearing was not."

Hines Johnson, however, said certain Plume routers manufactured for the company by Sagemcom aren't infringing because of a license agreement entered into by Netgear. She also declined to recommend that the commission make Asus and Plume post a bond to cover their sales of infringing products after the commission issues a possible import ban and while the president reviews that order.

"We appreciate the Administrative Law Judge's careful consideration of the issues presented and are pleased with the Initial Determination's findings," said counsel for Netgear and Estelgia and **Latham & Watkins** partner **Kevin Wheeler**.

Asus in a news release emphasized that the decision was preliminary and the commission will be reviewing it. The ruling "does not currently impose any restrictions on the sale of ASUS WiFi and/or router products in the United States, nor does it affect software updates, warranty support or repair services," the company said.

Plume couldn't immediately be reached through its legal team at Greenberg Traurig.

Estelgia also sued [Asus](#) and [Plume](#) for infringement of its patents in the US District Court for the District of Delaware. Those cases were each paused while the ITC proceeding moved forward.

Asus is represented by Alston & Bird.

The case is [In Re: Certain Wi-Fi Routers](#) , USITC, No. 337-TA-1454, redacted initial determination released 8/21/26 .

(Updates at paragraphs five through nine and 14 with additional material from ruling, and context regarding Netgear's prior patent litigation and Estelgia's parallel patent suits.)

To contact the reporter on this story: Michael Shapiro in Washington at mshapiro@bloombergindustry.com

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Martina Stewart at mstewart@bloombergindustry.com