

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

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TLI COMMUNICATIONS LLC,	:	
	:	C.A. No. 13-1926 (GMS)
<b>Plaintiff,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>v.</b>	:	
	:	
	:	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
IMGUR LLC	:	
<b>Defendant.</b>	:	
	:	
	:	
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**First Amended Complaint for Patent Infringement**

Plaintiff TLI Communications LLC (“TLI”) files this First Amended Complaint for Patent Infringement against Imgur LLC (“Imgur”), wherein, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 271 and 281, Plaintiff seeks a judgment of infringement by Defendant of U.S. Patent No. 6,038,295 (the “295 Patent”) and damages resulting therefrom pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, as well as a preliminary and permanent injunction of the infringing activity pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 283, and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and in support thereof alleges as follows:

**The Parties**

1. Plaintiff TLI is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at 3422 Old Capitol Trail, Suite 72, Wilmington, Delaware 19808.
2. Defendant Imgur is a California limited liability company with its principal place of business at 929 Market Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, California 94103.

### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

3. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code.

4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because the action concerns infringement of a United States patent.

5. Imgur conducts substantial business in Delaware, directly or through intermediaries, including: (i) at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein; and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to individuals in Delaware.

6. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400.

### **The Patent-in-Suit**

7. TLI is the owner of the '295 Patent entitled "Apparatus and Method for Recording, Communicating and Administering Digital Images," which the United States Patent & Trademark Office lawfully and duly issued on March 14, 2000. A true and correct copy of the '295 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

### **Factual Background**

8. Dr. Heinz Mattes is the named inventor of the '295 patent.

9. The '295 patent claims priority to an application filed on June 17, 1996. The '295 patent was originally assigned to Siemens Aktiengesellschaft of Munich, Germany. TLI is the current owner of the '295 patent via assignment.

10. In the mid 1990's, Dr. Mattes, while working as a scientist for Siemens, recognized that mobile telephony and digital photography, each then in their infancy, would likely become more and more popular. Dr. Mattes recognized that mobile telephones could be

integrated with digital cameras, resulting in a proliferation of the quantity of digital images that could and would be taken.

11. Dr. Mattes invented a revolutionary way of communicating and recording such digital images, which allowed numerous images to be simply and quickly recorded, tracked, accessed and transmitted.

12. In 1996, Dr. Mattes' invention was among the winners of a Siemens idea competition, leading to Siemens initiating a project to develop a cellular telephone with an integrated camera.

13. The '295's patented inventions are applicable to the uploading and organization of digital images from a telephone. Over the past few years, smart cellular telephones that incorporate sophisticated digital cameras have exploded in popularity, as has social media. Today, hundreds of millions of digital images are uploaded onto computer servers and social media websites every day, including via [www.imgur.com](http://www.imgur.com) and [m.imgur.com](http://m.imgur.com). Imgur's products use the '295's patented technology, without license or authority, to classify those images so that they can be easily uploaded, stored, organized, retrieved and shared.

### **Imgur's Infringing Products**

14. Imgur owns and operates widely used image-based social networking services that are accessible, for example, on the World Wide Web, including at [www.imgur.com](http://www.imgur.com) and [m.imgur.com](http://m.imgur.com). Imgur's revenues are attributed to, among other things, display advertising, merchandise sales and fee-based services.

15. Imgur purports to be "the home of the web's most popular image content" with 300 million images uploaded in 2012 and 364 billion image views.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [www.imgur.com](http://www.imgur.com); <http://imgur.com/bestof2012>.

16. Imgur offers websites, software and downloadable applications, especially designed for mobile devices having telephones, including iPhone and Android mobile telephones, and other mobile telephone platforms, which allow telephone users to easily characterize and upload digital images to Imgur servers. On information and belief, Imgur's website can be directly accessed from many mobile telephones, which also uploads digital images characterized with user-information. In addition, Imgur provides downloadable applications, which also provide for uploading digital images to Imgur servers. Imgur entices its users to upload digital images by providing easy-to-use platforms and instructions, and Imgur stores and archives the digital images uploaded to its servers using the characterization information provided by its users. As a result, visitors are attracted to Imgur where they can easily view, retrieve and share those images, resulting in more visitors to Imgur, and increased Imgur revenues.

17. So that these digital images could be captured, uploaded, stored and organized, Imgur fashioned products and processes that, on information and belief, employ TLI's patented technology. The infringing products include, but are not limited to, the products and processes that Imgur uses to capture, upload, store and organize the digital images it receives from mobile devices having telephones, including via [www.imgur.com](http://www.imgur.com) and [m.imgur.com](http://m.imgur.com). Discovery is expected to uncover the full extent of Imgur's unlawful use of TLI's patented technology beyond these accused infringing products already identified through public information.

**CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Infringement of the '295 Patent)**

18. TLI incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 17 of the Complaint as if set forth here in full.

### **Direct Infringement**

19. Imgur has been and is currently directly infringing one or more claims of the '295 Patent by making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling within the United States, and/or importing into the United States, without authority, the aforementioned platforms that upload and store digital images from mobile devices having telephones. For example, and without limitation, Imgur has directly infringed and continues to directly infringe the '295 Patent in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States. Imgur's infringement includes, without limitation, (i) making and using the apparatus of claim 1 and claims dependent thereon, and (ii) practicing the method of claim 17 and claims dependent thereon.

20. Specifically, Imgur's direct infringement includes, without limitation (i) its uploading of digital images from mobile devices having telephones onto Imgur servers (or onto servers operated on or for Imgur's behalf ("Imgur servers")), (ii) its testing of its Imgur products by uploading images from mobile devices having telephones onto Imgur servers within the United States, and (iii) its maintaining Imgur servers that categorize and store images that were uploaded via mobile devices having telephones. Imgur also directs and/or controls its employees, executives, customers, and agents to use the aforementioned digital image uploading platforms to upload images from mobile devices having telephones onto Imgur servers within the United States.

21. To the extent that claim 1 of the '295 Patent is construed to require a system with a claim element not practiced by Imgur, Imgur would also directly infringe claim 1 at least because it directs and/or controls the practicing of all claim elements or because it places the invention into service. For example, Imgur provides websites, platforms and software to mobile telephone users that provide and enable image uploading, thereby putting the invention into

service. Moreover, Imgur directs and/or controls the practicing of all claim elements, as shown for example, by Imgur entering into contracts with its users, Imgur instructing its users how to upload digital images from mobile devices having telephones, Imgur automatically syncing digital images from mobile devices having telephones onto its servers, Imgur automatically uploading digital images from mobile devices having telephones onto its servers, Imgur automatically tagging digital images that it uploads onto its servers from mobile devices having telephones with characterization information of the users, and Imgur automatically archiving the digital images that it uploads onto its servers with characterization information of the users.

22. To the extent that claim 17 of the '295 Patent is construed to require a method with a step not practiced by Imgur, Imgur would also directly infringe claim 17 at least because it directs and/or controls the practicing of all claimed steps. Imgur directs and/or controls the practicing of all claim elements, as shown for example, by Imgur entering into contracts with its users, Imgur instructing its users how to upload digital images from mobile devices having telephones, Imgur automatically syncing digital images from mobile devices having telephones onto its servers, Imgur automatically uploading digital images from mobile devices having telephones onto its servers, Imgur pre-loading image uploading software on mobile devices having telephones, Imgur automatically tagging digital images that it uploads onto its servers from mobile devices having telephones with characterization information of the users, and Imgur automatically archiving the digital images that it uploads onto its servers with characterization information of the users.

23. At least as a result of the computer software and hardware that performs these activities, Imgur is liable for literal direct infringement of the '295 Patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271(a).

24. To the extent that any fact finder deems any of the elements of the '295 patent claims not literally satisfied by the structure or use of the Imgur platform, these elements are satisfied under the doctrine of equivalents.

**Indirect Infringement**

25. Alternatively, and in addition to its liability for direct infringement of the '295 Patent, Imgur is also liable for indirectly infringing the '295 Patent in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by inducing direct infringement in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) and contributing to direct infringement in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c).

26. Imgur has been aware of the '295 Patent since at least December 13, 2013, when it was served with the original complaint in this action (D.I. 1), which was filed on November 18, 2013. The original complaint is incorporated herein by reference.

27. Upon Imgur's gaining knowledge of the '295 patent, it was, or became, apparent to Imgur that the operation of its digital image uploading platforms and software resulted in infringement of the '295 Patent. Imgur has continued to engage in the aforementioned activities constituting inducement of infringement, notwithstanding its knowledge (or willful blindness thereto) that the activities it was inducing result in infringement of the '295 Patent.

28. The direct infringement induced and contributed to by Imgur includes at least the uploading of digital images from mobile devices having telephones to Imgur servers by end users acting alone or in combination with Imgur. For example, and without limitation, to the extent that claim 1 is construed to require a system with the system placed into service by a user who uploads digital images from a mobile device having a telephone (and it is determined, for example, that Imgur does not direct and/or control that user), the user would be considered to be a direct infringer of claim 1. Imgur knows that these users are infringing the '295 Patent and

Imgur has specific intent to encourage the users to infringe the '295 Patent. As another example, to the extent that claim 17 is construed to require a method with steps performed by one or more entities other than Imgur, for example, a user (and it is determined, for example, that Imgur does not direct and/or control these entities), Imgur induces those entities to perform those infringing acts, knowing that the acts constitute infringement of the '295 Patent and with specific intent to encourage those acts and encourage infringement.

29. Imgur encourages direct infringement of the '295 Patent at least by widely publicizing its social network, by providing image-uploading tools via its website, by providing image-uploading software, by automatically syncing images from mobile devices having telephones, by automatically tagging images uploaded from mobile devices having telephones, by automatically characterizing images with user information when uploaded from mobile devices having telephones, by providing image storage, by storing images uploaded from mobile devices having telephones according to user-characterization information, by providing image-uploading, downloadable applications for mobile devices having telephones, and by providing instructions for conducting the directly infringing use of uploading digital images from mobile devices.<sup>2</sup>

30. Imgur induces infringement at least by encouraging, facilitating and instructing users to use the '295 Patent's inventions by uploading digital images to Imgur servers from mobile devices having telephones. Imgur does this by providing image uploading software and platforms (including, for example, automatic upload software, and pre-loaded, downloadable and/or directly accessible upload software via Imgur websites and platforms) to its users, and by

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<sup>2</sup> See, for example, <http://imgur.com/help/uploading>; <http://imgur.com/help/images>.



instructing its users how to upload images to Imgur servers, thereby inducing the use of the claimed inventions.<sup>3</sup>

31. Imgur is inducing infringement of the '295 Patent by, among other things, knowingly and with specific intent, actively encouraging its customers, suppliers, agents and affiliates to make, use, sell and/or offer for sale the aforementioned Imgur image uploading platforms in a manner that constitutes infringement of one or more claims of the '295 Patent, knowing that such activities infringe at least one claim of the '295 Patent, and with the knowledge and specific intent to encourage, direct and facilitate those infringing activities, including through the creation and dissemination of promotional and marketing materials, instructional materials, product materials and technical materials.

32. By inducing its customers', suppliers', users', agents' and affiliates' use of the methods claimed in the '295 Patent and their making and/or using the aforementioned Imgur image uploading platforms, Imgur has been and is now indirectly infringing under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) one or more claims of the '295 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

33. Imgur contributes to the '295 Patent's direct infringement by, among other things, knowingly and with specific intent, actively encouraging its customers, suppliers, agents, users and affiliates to make, use, sell and/or offer for sale Imgur's aforementioned image uploading platforms and services that constitutes infringement of at least claims 1 and 17 of the '295 Patent. For example, to the extent that any claim is construed to require a system, Imgur provides components, including image-uploading, pre-loaded software, websites and/or downloadable applications, for use in systems, which facilitate the uploading of digital images

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<sup>3</sup> *See id.*

from mobile devices having telephones. Imgur knows that such products constitute a material part of the inventions of the '295 Patent, knows those products to be especially made or adapted to infringe the '295 Patent, and knows that those products are not staple articles or commodities of commerce suitable for substantial non-infringing use. Imgur knows that by providing such components to its customers, its customers will infringe at least one claim of the '295 Patent, and Imgur knows that its customers do infringe the '295 Patent. Imgur image uploading software has no substantial non-infringing uses.

34. By contributing to its customers', suppliers', agents', users' and affiliates' use of the methods claimed in the '295 Patent and their making and/or using the aforementioned Imgur image uploading platforms, Imgur has been and is now indirectly infringing under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) one or more claims of the '295 Patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents.

#### **271(f) Infringement**

35. Imgur is liable for infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271(f) when the end user is outside the United States by supplying its software components for combination outside the United States.

#### **Joint Infringement**

36. Alternatively, the actions alleged above establish joint infringement of at least claims 1 and 17 by Imgur and its customers, users, suppliers, agents and affiliates for which they should be found jointly and severally liable.

**Remedy for Imgur's Infringement**

37. As a result of Imgur's unlawful infringement of the '295 Patent, TLI has suffered and will continue to suffer damage. TLI is entitled to recover from Imgur the damages adequate to compensate for such infringement, which have yet to be determined.

38. Imgur will continue to infringe the '295 Patent unless and until it is enjoined by this Court.

39. Imgur's acts of infringement have caused and will continue to cause irreparable harm to TLI unless and until Imgur is enjoined by this Court.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, TLI prays for a Judgment in favor of TLI and against Defendant as follows:

- A. That Imgur has directly infringed the '295 Patent;
- B. That Imgur has indirectly infringed the '295 Patent;
- C. That Imgur and its customers, users, suppliers, agents and affiliates have jointly infringed the '295 Patent;
- D. An order preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendant and its affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives, licensees, successors, assigns, and all those acting for it and on its behalf, or acting in concert with it directly or indirectly, from further acts of infringement of the '295 Patent;
- E. A full accounting for and an award of damages to TLI for Defendant's infringement of the '295 Patent; including enhanced damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, together with pre- and post-judgment interest;
- F. That this case is "exceptional" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- G. An award of TLI's reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs; and

H. A grant of such other and further equitable or legal relief as this Court deems proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

TLI hereby demands trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: February 10, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

**FARNAN LLP**

/s/ Brian E. Farnan

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