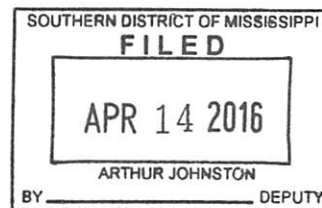


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
SOUTHERN DIVISION



Warren Howard

PLAINTIFF

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:16cv127 LG-RHW

Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corp.

DEFENDANTS

COMPLAINT

COMES NOW, plaintiff, Warren Howard, pro se, and for cause of action against the defendants(s), Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corp. would state:

The grounds upon which the court's jurisdiction depends is Title 35 U.S. Code 271 Infringement of Patent (willful infringement of plaintiff's patent by the Ford Motor Company and General Motors Corp.).

JURISDICTION

I.

Plaintiff is an adult resident citizen of the county of Harrison, State of Mississippi. Defendant 1: Ford Motor Company, is located in the County of Wayne, State of Michigan, and Defendant 2: General Motors Corp., is located in the County of Wayne, State of Michigan.

FACTS

Defendant 1:

Ford Motor Company: I, Warren Howard, filed an application for a U.S. patent on January 13, 1992 and was granted a patent (No. 5,394,955) on March 7, 1995 (see Attachment 1). My invention is an audio system seat belt safety device that I call "Click to Play -C2P". It is a lifesaving technology which will not allow the radio to come on unless the seat belt is buckled. I am filing a patent infringement lawsuit against the Ford Motor Company for incorporating, without my permission, my audio system seat belt safety technology into their Ford "My Key System" (see Attachment 2). This is especially troubling since, in 1995, the year I receive my patent, I tried to interest the major auto makers, including Ford Motor Company, in licensing this technology. The response that I received from the auto companies was that it sounded like a good idea but I needed some letters of support and indication that the public would benefit from this invention.

I contacted numerous governmental agencies, governors, and legislative bodies (including the president of the U.S.) informing them of my invention (see Attachment 3) in order to seek their support. Many were supportive and encouraged the auto industry to consider the importance of this technology. Additionally, local media outlets have followed my journey over the years, including several published articles from the Sun Herald newspaper and a story aired on WLOX-TV (see Attachment 4 including CD from WLOX-TV). My story also includes the fact that I almost lost my life when Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005 (a neighbor rescued me from the roof of my house). Unfortunately, I did lose my home and all material possessions in this horrific storm. However, I've included attachments that will help clarify my case for the court's consideration. To make matters worse, I received a SBA loan to rebuild my home after Katrina, but the contractor embezzled the money from me and many other homeowners on the

coast and fled the state. To this day, I still live in a small FEMA cottage (see Attachment 5). Even more heartbreaking than all of the above was the shock I felt when I learned that my invention was incorporated in the Ford "My Key System" (see https://youtu.be/pLkUOZ_OYKA which describes buckling up to unmute the radio as one of the features of the "My Key System").

According to their commercial, Andy Sarkisian, Ford's Safety Product Manager, invented the "My Key System". He may have invented their "My Key System", but he certainly did not invent the seat belt reinforcement and non-audio capability technology which causes the radio not to start until the seatbelt is buckled. That technology happens to be my Patent No. 5,394,955.

It is my contention that the Ford Motor Company willfully kept my patent information for years hoping that no one would come forth to claim the invention when they incorporated it into their vehicles. I have spent over 20 years working to perfect (see Attachment 6) and market this invention. I believe the giant auto industries will, if they can get away with it, take advantage of hard working, everyday citizens by stealing their inventions. This is ironic since the big three auto makers were bailed out with taxpayer money (my money included) when they were experiencing a major financial crisis. Ford may have been in a better position than the other two auto companies, but Ford still benefited from the bailout monies. In addition, I realize that individuals seldom file law suits against the major auto makers. However, I believe that "right is right" and "wrong is wrong". I am especially encouraged by the best known and precedent setting patent infringement cases against Ford Motor Company (1978-1990) and Chrysler Corporation (1982-1992) that Dr. Robert W. Kearns actually won. Because of this case, we now know that Robert W. Kearns invented the intermittent windshield wiper systems used on automobiles today. It is my prayer that justice will prevail in my case against the Ford Motor Company.

I would like for the court to clarify the following questions:

1. Does the Ford Motor Company own a patent for the seat belt and muted radio technology?

Can they produce the patent?

2. Why did Ford express no interest in my invention yet placed the technology in their cars years later?

RELIEF

1. Recognition and credit for my invention and patent

2. \$50 million .

3. Royalties for unauthorized use

4. Car or truck of my choice

FACTS

Defendant 2:

General Motors Corp: I, Warren Howard, filed an application for a U.S. patent on January 13, 1992 and was granted a patent (#5,394,955) on March 7, 1995 (see Attachment 1). My invention is an audio system seat belt safety device that I call "Click to Play -C2P". It is a lifesaving technology that does not allow audio to be turned on in a car until the seat belt is buckled. I am filing a patent infringement lawsuit against the General Motors Corp. for incorporating, without my permission, this technology into their 2016 Chevrolet Malibu. This is especially troubling since, in 1995, the year I receive my patent, I tried to interest the major auto makers, including General Motors Corp., in licensing this technology. The response that I received from the auto companies was that it sounded like a good idea but I needed some letters of support and indication that the public would benefit from this invention.

I contacted numerous governmental agencies, governors, and legislative bodies (including the president of the U.S.) informing them of my invention (See Attachment 3). Many were supportive and encouraged the auto industry to consider the importance of this technology. Additionally, local media outlets have followed my journey over the years, including several published articles from the Sun Herald newspaper and a story aired on WLOX-TV (see Attachment 4 including CD from WLOX-TV). My story also includes the fact that I almost lost my life when Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast in 2005 (a neighbor rescued me from the roof of my house). Unfortunately, I did lose my home and all material possessions in this horrific storm. However, I've included attachments that could help clarify my case for the court's

consideration. Even more heartbreaking than all of the above was the shock I felt when many friends called to congratulate me for having my invention included in the 2016 Chevrolet Malibu. According to their commercial (see <https://youtu.be/m7mP1qyBQiw>), their technology is known as Teen Driver (Report Card) and is a monitoring system for parents to keep up with their teen drivers. One feature of their technology is that the radio will not turn on unless the seat belt is fastened, which is my Patent No. 5,394,955.

I believe that General Motors Corp. willfully kept my patent information for years hoping that no one would come forth to claim the invention when they incorporated it into their cars. I have spent over 20 years working very hard to perfect (see Attachment 6) and market this patent. I believe the giant auto industries will, if they can get away with it, take advantage of hard working, everyday citizens by stealing their inventions. I realize that individuals seldom file law suits against the major auto makers. However, I believe that "right is right" and "wrong is wrong" and I am especially encouraged by the precedent setting patent infringement cases against Ford Motor Company (1978-1990) and Chrysler Corporation (1982-1992) that Dr. Robert W. Kearns actually won for inventing the intermittent windshield wiper mechanism. It is my prayer that justice will prevail in my case against General Motors Corp.

I would like for the court to clarify the following questions:

1. Does General Motors Corp. own a patent for the seat belt and muted radio technology? Can they produce the patent?
2. Why did General Motors express no interest in my invention yet placed the technology in their cars years later?

RELIEF

5. Recognition and credit for my invention and patent
6. \$50 million
7. Royalties for unauthorized use
8. Car or truck of my choice

Respectfully submitted, this the 14 day of 4, 2016

Warren Howard

NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER OF PLAINTIFF:

Warren Howard

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