(Case 8:22-cv-01770	Document 1	Filed 09/27/2	2 Page 1 of 15	Page ID #:1	
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17		UNITED	STATES DIS	TRICT COUR	Г	
18	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA					
19						
20	BRIUS TECHNO	LOGIES, INC	C., Ca	ase No. 8:22-cv	-01770	
21	Plaint	tiff,			0.5	
22	v.			COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF		
23	SWIFT HEALTH	SYSTEMS II	NC.	UNINF RINGE		
24	d/b/a/ INBRACE a OF SOUTHERN C	and UNIVERS	$\begin{array}{c c} SITY & D \\ A, & \end{array}$	EMAND FOR	JURY TRIAL	
25	Defer	ndants.				
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Plaintiff Brius Technologies, Inc. ("Plaintiff" or "Brius"), by and through its
 attorneys, alleges for its Complaint against Defendant Swift Health Systems Inc.
 d/b/a/ InBrace "InBrace") and the University of Southern California ("USC")
 (collectively, "Defendants") as follows:

5

NATURE OF THE ACTION

6 1. Brius brings this action for a declaratory judgment of noninfringement 7 of the U.S. Patent No. 11,129,696 ("the '696 patent"), arising under 28 U.S.C. §§ 8 1331, 1338(a), 2201, and 2202. A true and correct copy of the '696 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Brius seeks this relief because InBrace purports to possess 9 10 certain rights under the '696 patent by virtue of a license from USC and has wrongly 11 alleged that Brius infringes the '696 patent. Brius denies that it has infringed, or 12 infringes, any properly construed claim of the '696 patent. In addition to directly 13 accusing Brius of infringement, on information and belief, InBrace has represented 14 to others, including orthodontists and customers, that Brius is infringing InBrace's 15 patent rights. Brius, thus, brings this action to remove the cloud of uncertainty that 16 InBrace's allegations have imposed on Brius' business.

17 2. The face of the '696 patent identifies USC as the owner by assignment
18 of the '696 patent. On information and belief, InBrace has a contractual relationship
19 with USC and/or serves as USC's agent for purposes of commercializing and
20 enforcing the '696 patent.

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THE PARTIES

3. Brius is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State
of Delaware, with its principal place of business at 2611 Westgrove Drive, Suite 109,
Carrollton, Texas, 75006. Brius is a leading provider of innovative orthodontic
technology, including its Independent Mover[®] technology, which provides teeth
straightening solutions that are efficient and aesthetic.

4. On information and belief, InBrace is a corporation organized and
existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business

at 111 Academy Drive, Suite 150, Irvine, California 92617. InBrace purports to have
 certain rights under the '696 patent by virtue of a license from USC. On information
 and belief, InBrace has a contractual relationship with USC and/or serves as USC's
 agent for purposes of commercializing and enforcing the '696 patent.

5 5. On information and belief, USC is a corporation organized and existing
6 under the laws of the State of California, with its principal place of business at 3551
7 Trousdale Parkway, ADM 352, Los Angeles, California 90089. USC is listed as the
8 owner by assignment of the '696 patent. (Ex. 1 at cover.)

9 6. On information and belief, InBrace and USC together possess all
10 substantial rights under the '696 patents. Joinder of these parties is appropriate under
11 Rules 19 and/or 20 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under the
Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202, and further under 28 U.S.C.
§§ 1331 and 1338(a) because this action involves claims arising under the patent laws
of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1 *et seq*.

17 8. This Court has general personal jurisdiction over InBrace at least 18 because (1) InBrace maintains a principal place of business in Irvine, California 19 within this District, and (2) InBrace has had continuous and systematic business 20 contacts with the State of California and this District. On information and belief, 21 InBrace has been registered to do business in the State of California since 2014 and 22 employs over 150 individuals at its Irvine, California location. This Court also has 23 specific personal jurisdiction over InBrace because InBrace has engaged in 24 enforcement activities relating to the '696 patent in and from California and this 25 District, including for example through communications from its CEO.

9. This Court has general personal jurisdiction over USC at least because
(1) USC is incorporated in California, (2) USC has its principal place of business in
Los Angeles, California within this District, and (3) USC has had continuous and

systematic business contacts with the State of California and this District. On
information and belief, USC employs over 28,000 faculty, staff, and student workers,
a large portion of whom are employed in the State of California and within this
District, and further enrolls over 49,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional
students in the State of California and within this District. (*See*https://about.usc.edu/facts/.)

7 10. Venue in this District is proper under 28 USC §§ 1391(b) and (c) at least
8 because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Brius' claims
9 occurred in this District and because each of Defendants is subject to personal
10 jurisdiction in this District such that they reside in this District.

11 11. An actual, immediate, and justiciable controversy exists between Brius
12 and Defendants regarding the noninfringement of the '696 patent. InBrace purports
13 to possess certain rights under the '696 patent by virtue of a license from USC and
14 has asserted that Brius infringes this patent. Brius denies that it infringes, or has
15 infringed, any properly construed claim of the '696 patent.

16 12. The controversy is immediate and substantial as reflected by the parties'
17 escalating communications regarding alleged infringement by Brius. Within months
18 after the '696 patent issued, InBrace communicated to Brius personnel that it believed
19 Brius was infringing certain InBrace patents, though InBrace did not specifically
20 identify which patents it believed to be infringed.

21 On or about May 4, 2022, InBrace's CEO emailed Brius' then-CEO and 13. 22 vice president of sales, stating InBrace's belief that Brius' "product designs that have 23 appeared on various social channels . . . are covered by several InBrace patents," 24 though he did not specify which patents those were. The email further attached a 25 presentation including a slide that purported to compare InBrace's product with several examples of Brius' products incorporating Independent Mover[®] technology. 26 A true and correct copy of the slide is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. Consistent with 27 the email, the slide stated: "On social media and at clinical presentations, Brius team-28

members have been showing product iterations that we believe are covered by
 Several [sic] InBrace patents."

3 14. On or about August 19, 2022, InBrace's CEO again emailed Brius' then-CEO and vice president of sales, and attached another presentation referencing 4 5 alleged infringement by Brius. A true and correct copy of the presentation is attached 6 hereto as Exhibit 3. In the presentation, InBrace again pointed to several examples of Brius' products incorporating Independent Mover® technology and specifically 7 8 identified the '696 patent. Given the context of the parties' earlier communications, 9 it was apparent from the presentation that InBrace was accusing Brius of infringing the '696 patent. 10

11 15. In August 2022, Brius appointed an interim CEO. On or about
12 September 26, 2022, Brius' interim CEO had a telephone conference with InBrace's
13 CEO to discuss InBrace's infringement allegations and the August 19, 2022
14 presentation. During the telephone conference, InBrace's CEO confirmed that it was
15 InBrace's position that Brius was infringing the referenced '696 patent and
16 potentially other unidentified patents. Underscoring the immediacy of the matter,
17 InBrace's CEO indicated that enforcement would be inevitable.

18 16. On information and belief, InBrace has represented, and continues to
19 represent, to customers that Brius is infringing the '696 patent.

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FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Brius' Independent Mover[®] Technology

17. A common objective in orthodontics is to correct teeth misalignment
(malocclusion) by using devices referred to as "braces" to reposition teeth to a more
functional or aesthetically pleasing location. Typically, braces employ an archwire—
a thin, flexible wire—placed along a patient's dental arch and secured to brackets
that are fixed to the front of the patient's teeth. Archwires for orthodontic
applications are available as precut arch-shaped wires or spools of wire that can be
further shaped. The shape and stiffness of the archwire as well as the archwire-

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bracket interaction, in turn, govern the forces applied to the teeth and thus the 1 2 direction and degree of tooth movement.

3 18. To exert a desired force on a patient's teeth, an orthodontist will 4 manually incorporate bends in the archwire when initially placing and securing it to 5 the patient's teeth. The movement of any one tooth, however, can cause unintentional 6 movement of other nearby teeth. Through regular appointments, the orthodontist will 7 visually assess the progress of the treatment and make manual adjustments to the 8 archwire, or replace or reposition the brackets. The adjustment process can be time consuming and tedious for the patient, and often results in patient discomfort for 9 10 several days following an appointment.

11 19. Eschewing archwires altogether, Brius developed an innovative orthodontic treatment system that uses "Independent Movers[®]" positioned on the 12 13 back (lingual) side of the teeth to efficiently and effectively treat all ranges of 14 malocclusions. This technology allows an orthodontist to manipulate a 3D virtual 15 model of the patient's teeth to develop a treatment plan that is then used to create a custom-designed set of Independent Movers[®]. 16

Unlike archwires, Brius' Independent Movers® are formed from sheets 17 20. 18 of nickel titanium (NiTi) alloy and include structures of varying shapes and cross-19 sections, such as arms, bends, ribbons, and bars-all designed and pre-programmed 20 to move each tooth independently to its final, desired location. An example of Brius' 21 Independent Movers[®] is shown below:

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1		(https://brius.com/orthodontists/.)
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2 21. Brius' Independent Mover[®] technology advantageously minimizes the
3 unwanted movement of teeth, providing for a more efficient treatment that reduces
4 the number of office visits, patient discomfort, and overall treatment time.

5 22. Underscoring the innovative nature of the Independent Mover[®]
6 technology, Brius has applied for and obtained numerous patents covering aspects of
7 this technology, including U.S. Patent Nos. 10,383,707, 10,905,527, 10,993,785,
8 and 10,980,614.

9

The '696 Patent

10 23. The '696 patent is entitled "Orthodontic appliance with snap fitted, non11 sliding archwire" and "relates to orthodontic appliances, including archwires and
12 associated orthodontic brackets." (Ex. 1 at title, 1:22-23.)

13 24. The '696 patent issued from U.S. Patent Application No. 16/292,126,
14 filed on March 4, 2019 ("'126 application") and purports to claim priority to U.S.
15 Patent Application No. 15/249,198, U.S. Patent Application No. 14/067,690, and
16 U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/720,263 (collectively "priority
17 applications"). (Ex. 1 at cover.)

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25. Independent claim 1 of the '696 patent recites:

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1. A custom archform configured to follow a dental arch segment, the custom archform comprising:

a plurality of bracket connectors, each bracket connector of the plurality of bracket connectors corresponding to an individual tooth of the dental arch segment such that the plurality of bracket connectors respectively correspond to each and every tooth of the dental arch segment,

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- interproximal each a plurality of segments, 24 interproximal segment of the plurality of interproximal segments corresponding to each and every interdental space of the dental arch segment, 25 wherein each interproximal segment of the plurality of 26 interproximal segments is interspersed between a pair of bracket connectors of the plurality of bracket 27 connectors,
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1	wherein the archform defines a longitudinal axis and wherein each interproximal segment comprises a first
$\frac{2}{2}$	longitudinal axis, and an interproximal loop between
3 1	loop comprising a first portion configured to extend in
4	second portion configured to extend in an occlusal
6	along the longitudinal axis between the first and second points that provides an unobstructed opening
7	configured to face in the occlusal direction to within the interproximal loop without extending on an
8	occlusal side of the longitudinal axis; and
9	wherein the archform comprises a custom memorized shape that is configured to move teeth of the dental
10	arch segment from an initial configuration to a digitally pre-determined expected alignment obtained
11	using image data of the patient's teeth by forces imparted by the archform on respective orthodontic
12	locked to respective orthodontic brackets disposed on teeth of the dental arch segment
13	26. Independent claim 19 of the '696 patent recites:
14	10 A custom archform configured to fit within a human
15	mouth and follow a dental arch segment, the custom archform comprising:
16	a plurality of bracket connectors, each bracket connector
17	an individual tooth of the dental arch segment such that the plurality of bracket connectors correspond to
18	each and every tooth of the dental arch segment that is to be manipulated by the custom archform,
20	a plurality of interproximal segments, each interproximal segment of the plurality of
21	interproximal segments corresponding to each and every interdental space between teeth of the dental
22	arch segment, wherein each interproximal segment of the plurality of interproximal segments comprises an
23	interproximal loop,
24	interproximal segments is interspersed between each adjacent pair of bracket connectors of the plurality of
25	bracket connectors, wherein the archform defines a longitudinal axis and
26	wherein the interproximal loop comprises a first point on the longitudinal axis a second point on the
27	longitudinal axis, a second point of the longitudinal axis, and a curve extending away from the longitudinal axis in a gingival direction between
28	the first point and the second point, without extending on an occlusal side of the longitudinal axis, to define

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1	a gap along the longitudinal axis that is open in an occlusal direction to facilitate flossing,				
2	wherein the archform comprises a customized shape a digitally pre-determined expected alignment of the				
3	teeth, obtained using image date of the patient's teeth				
4	an expected alignment of the teeth, the customized shape configured to move teeth of the dental arch				
5 6	expected alignment by forces imparted by the archform on orthodontic brackets disposed on teeth of the dental segment; and				
7	wherein when the plurality of bracket connectors are				
8	portion of the archform is configured to deflect,				
9	thereby transferring forces to the teeth of the dental archform and causing orthodontic tooth movement.				
10	27. As set forth in independent claims 1 and 19, all of the claims of the '696				
11	patent require an "archform."				
12	28. A true and correct copy of the '126 application (that issued as the '696				
13	patent) as filed is attached as Exhibit 4.				
14	29. The term "archform" did not appear in the '126 application as filed. (See				
15	generally Ex. 4.)				
16	30. The term "archform" did not appear in any of the '696 patent's priority				
17	applications as filed.				
18	31. During the prosecution of the '126 application, the applicants submitted				
19	a preliminary amendment dated July 31, 2020. A true and correct copy of the July				
20	31, 2020 preliminary amendment is attached as Exhibit 5.				
21	32. It was in the July 31, 2020 preliminary amendment that the applicants				
22	first proposed any claims including the term "archform" during the prosecution of				
23	the '126 patent.				
24	33. In the July 31, 2020 preliminary amendment, the applicants canceled all				
25	of the then-pending claims that recited the term "archwire" and added new claims				
26	that recited the term "archform." (Compare Ex. 4 at 31-36 (claims reciting				
27	"archwire"), with Ex. 5 at 2-5 (newly added claims reciting "archform").)				
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34. In the July 31, 2020 preliminary amendment, the applicants represented
 that "no new matter ha[d] been added" but did not identify any support in the
 specification of the '126 application for the term "archform." (Ex. 5 at 6.)

35. During the prosecution of the '126 application, the applicants submitted
another preliminary amendment dated October 13, 2020. A true and correct copy of
the October 13, 2020 preliminary amendment is attached as Exhibit 6.

36. In the October 13, 2020 preliminary amendment, the applicants again
canceled the then-pending claims and added new claims reciting the term
"archform." (Ex. 6.)

10 37. In the October 13, 2020 preliminary amendment, the applicants again
11 represented that "no new matter ha[d] been added" but did not identify any support
12 in the specification of the '126 application for the term "archform." (Ex. 6 at 6.)

38. During the prosecution of the '126 application, the Examiner issued a
notice of allowability dated August 23, 2021 containing an Examiner's amendment
to the specification. A true and correct copy of the notice of allowability containing
the Examiner's amendment is attached as Exhibit 7.

17 39. The Examiner noted that authorization for the amendment was provided
18 by the applicants' prosecution counsel and amended paragraph [0043] of the '126
19 application as follows:

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

AT [0043] of the originally filed specification, LINE 4, after "interproximal loops by the archwire legs 103." INSERT –The archform 101 may define a longitudinal axis. The interproximal segments of the archform 101 may include a first point on the longitudinal axis, a second point on the longitudinal axis, and an interproximal loop 105 between the first and second points. The interproximal loop 105 can include a first portion configured to extend in a gingival direction away from the first point and a second portion configured to extend in an occlusal direction to the second point. The interproximal loop 105 can define a gap along the longitudinal axis between the first and second points that provides an unobstructed opening configured to face in the occlusal direction, the unobstructed opening providing access into the interproximal loop 105. The archform 101 can include an interproximal loop 105

Case 8:22-cv-01770 Document 1 Filed 09/27/22 Page 11 of 15 Page ID #:11 1 extending away from the longitudinal axis in a gingival direction between the first and second points, without extending on an occlusal side of the longitudinal axis, to 2 define a gap along the longitudinal axis that is open in an 3 occlusal direction to facilitate flossing.-(Ex. 7 at 3-4.) 4 5 40. The amendment to paragraph [0043] of the '126 application is reflected in the issued '696 patent on column 7, lines 10-28, hereinafter referred to as the 6 7 "archform" passage: The archform 101 may define a longitudinal axis. The interproximal segments of the archform 101 may include a 8 first point on the longitudinal axis, a second point on the 9 longitudinal axis, and an interproximal loop 105 between the first and second points. The interproximal loop 105 can include a first portion configured to extend in a gingival 10 direction away from the first point and a second portion 11 configured to extend in an occlusal direction to the second point. The interproximal loop 105 can define a gap along the longitudinal axis between the first and second points 12 that provides an unobstructed opening configured to face 13 in the occlusal direction, the unobstructed opening providing access into the interproximal loop 105. The archform 101 can include an interproximal loop 105 14 extending away from the longitudinal axis in a gingival 15 direction between the first and second points, without extending on an occlusal side of the longitudinal axis, to 16 define a gap along the longitudinal axis that is open in an occlusal direction to facilitate flossing. 17 18 (Ex. 1 at 7:10-28.) 19 41. The "archform" passage did not appear in the '126 application as filed. 20 (See generally Ex. 4.) 21 The "archform" passage did not appear in any of the '696 patent's 42. 22 priority applications as filed. 23 43. The "archform" passage refers to an "archform 101" three times. (Ex. 24 1 at 7:10-28.) 25 44. The three references to an "archform 101" in the "archform" passage 26 are the only instances (outside of the claims) in which the term "archform" appears 27 in the specification of the issued '696 patent.

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1 45. Although the "archform" passage refers to an "archform 101," the 2 specification of the '696 patent in the preceding paragraph and elsewhere refers to an 3 "archwire 101": 4 To engage the **archwire 101** into an orthodontic bracket on a misaligned tooth, temporary deflections of the **archwire 101** may take place. The archwire can be made of any 5 material, such as a shape memory alloy, beta-titanium, or 6 stainless steels. 7 (Ex. 1 at 7:1-5 (emphasis added); see also id. at 6:40, 6:46-48, 6:59, 6:62, 6:64-66, 8 7:55, 7:57, 8:11, 8:59, 11:23 (referencing "archwire 101").) 9 46. The specification of the '696 patent uses the terms "archform" and 10 "archwire" interchangeably. 11 47. All of the embodiments described in the '696 patent incorporate an 12 archwire or a bracket for accommodating an archwire. 13 48. Figures 1A-1B the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an archwire. 14 (Ex. 1 at 4:41.) 15 49. Figures 2A-2B the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an archwire. 16 (Ex. 1 at 4:46.)

17 50. Figures 3A-11 of the '696 patent each reflect an embodiment that 18 includes an archwire and/or an orthodontic bracket for accommodating an archwire. 19 51. Figures 3A-3H of the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an 20 orthodontic bracket into which "an archwire may be snap fitted." (Ex. 1 at 4:51-52.) 21 Figures 4A-4E of the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an 52. 22 orthodontic bracket into which "an archwire may be snap fitted." (Ex. 1 at 5:3-5.) 23 53. Figures 5A-5E of the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an 24 orthodontic bracket into which "an archwire may be snap fitted." (Ex. 1 at 5:18-20.) 25 54. Figures 6A-6F of the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an 26 orthodontic bracket into which "an archwire may be snap fitted." (Ex. 1 at 5:33-35.) 27 Figures 7A-7F of the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an 55. 28 orthodontic bracket into which "an archwire may be snap fitted." (Ex. 1 at 5:50-52.)

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1 56. Figures 8A-8E of the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an 2 orthodontic bracket into which "an archwire may be snap fitted." (Ex. 1 at 5:66-6:1.) 3 Figures 9A-9B of the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an 57. 4 orthodontic bracket and "archwire." (Ex. 1 at 6:14-19.) 5 Figures 10A-10C of the '696 patent reflect an embodiment of an 58. 6 orthodontic bracket and archwire." (Ex. 1 at 6:20-26.) 7 59. Figure 11 of the '696 patent reflects an embodiment of an orthodontic 8 bracket and "archwire." (Ex. 1 at 6:27-28.) 9 The specification of the '696 patent does not describe an "archform" as 60. anything other than an archwire. 10 11 The specification of the '696 patent does not support an "archform" as 61. 12 encompassing anything other than an archwire. 13 62. A person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the alleged invention of the '696 patent would have understood the term "archform" as used in the '696 14 15 patent claims to refer to an archwire. **CLAIM FOR RELIEF** 16 (Declaratory Judgment of Noninfringement of the '696 Patent) 17 18 63. Brius repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in the 19 preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Brius and 20 64. 21 Defendants concerning the noninfringement of the '696 patent. 22 65. InBrace purports to possess certain rights under the '696 patent by virtue 23 of a license from USC. 24 InBrace has alleged, and continues to allege, that Brius' orthodontic 66. appliances incorporating Independent Mover[®] technology infringe the '696 patent. 25 26 Brius denies that it has infringed, or infringes, any properly construed 67. 27 claim of the '696 patent. 28

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1	68.	Brius' orthodontic appliances incorporating Independent Mover®				
2	technology	technology do not infringe any properly construed claim of the '696 patent at least				
3	because the	y do not include an archwire, and hence an "archform" as required by the				
4	claims of th	e '696 patent.				
5	69.	69. Brius is entitled to a judgment from this Court that Brius does not				
6	infringe, and has not infringed, any properly construed claim of the '696 patent.					
7	70. Declaratory relief is necessary and appropriate so that Brius may					
8	ascertain its rights with respect to the '696 patent.					
9	JURY DEMAND					
10	Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Brius hereby					
11	demands a jury trial on all issues and claims so triable.					
12	PRAYER FOR RELIEF					
13	WHE	EREFORE, Brius respectfully requests the following relief:				
14	А.	A judgment declaring that Brius has not infringed, and does not infringe,				
15		any claim of the '696 patent;				
16	В.	An order permanently enjoining and restraining Defendants, their				
17		officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all others acting				
18		for, on behalf of, or in active concert with any of them, from stating,				
19		implying, or suggesting that Brius has infringed, or infringes, the '696				
20		patent;				
21	C.	An order finding that this is an exceptional case and awarding Brius its				
22		costs, expenses, disbursements, and reasonable attorneys' fees under				
23		35 U.S.C. § 285 and all other applicable statutes, rules, and common				
24		law; and				
25	D.	Such other relief, in law or in equity, to which Brius may show itself to				
26		be entitled or as this Court deems just and proper.				
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