

# Patent 'Death Squad' System Upheld by U.S. Supreme Court

Bloomberg Law **reports** that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld an administrative review system that has helped Google Inc., Apple Inc. and other companies invalidate hundreds of issued patents.

The 7-2 court found that a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office review board that critics call a patent "death squad" wasn't unconstitutionally wielding powers that belong to the courts.

Reporters **Greg Stohr** and **Susan Decker** provide background: "Silicon Valley companies have used the system as a less-expensive way to ward off demands for royalties, particularly from patent owners derided as "trolls" because they don't use their patents to make products. Drugmakers and independent inventors complain that it unfairly upends what they thought were established property rights."

**Read the Bloomberg article.**