

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

ADAPTIX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

AMAZON.COM, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:14-cv-01379-PSG

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO DISMISS

(Re: Docket No. 142)

ADAPTIX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

SONY MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS (USA),
INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:14-cv-01385-PSG

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO DISMISS

(Re: Docket No. 131)

ADAPTIX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

APPLE INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-00364-PSG

ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO DISMISS

(Re: Docket Nos. 17, 25)

ADAPTIX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

APPLE INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-00365-PSG

ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO DISMISS

(Re: Docket Nos. 22, 28)

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ADAPTIX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

HTC CORPORATION, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-00366-PSG
ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO DISMISS
(Re: Docket Nos. 16, 19)

ADAPTIX, INC.,

PLAINTIFF,

V.

HTC CORPORATION, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-00367-PSG
ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO DISMISS
(Re: Docket Nos. 24, 30)

ADAPTIX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

AMAZON.COM, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-00962-PSG
ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO DISMISS
(Re: Docket Nos. 15, 27)

ADAPTIX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

DELL, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-00971-PSG
ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO DISMISS
(Re: Docket No. 27)

ADAPTIX, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

SONY MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS (USA),
INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-00972-PSG
ORDER GRANTING MOTIONS TO DISMISS
(Re: Docket Nos. 20, 26)

1 Of the many “reforms” enacted by Congress in 2011 with the America Invents Act, maybe
2 the most curious is the anti-joinder rule, codified at 28 U.S.C. § 299. No longer can unrelated
3 accused infringers be bound in a single lawsuit “based solely on allegations that they each have
4 infringed the patent or patents in suit.”¹ Except where there are “questions of fact common to all,”
5 each defendant now gets its own complaint and case.

6 What makes this reform curious is that, since 2011, hardware manufacturers and software
7 developers have continued their march towards shorter release times for new products. New
8 products are now released not every few years, but every few months, weeks or even days. This
9 has meant that in most hardware and software patent cases, trial courts must decide whether to add
10 new products released before judgment is entered. Where the court does not permit a patentee to
11 add new products, based on the patentee’s lack of diligence or the prejudice to the accused
12 infringer, patentees often respond by filing new cases.

13 The convergence of these two trends is that where there once was one patent suit, there are
14 now two suits. Or three. Or, as here, dozens.

15 Defendants Apple Inc., HTC America, Inc., HTC Corporation, AT&T Mobility LLC,
16 Verizon Wireless, Amazon.com, Inc., Dell, Inc.² and Sony Mobile Communications (USA), Inc.
17 move to dismiss the seven newest cases that Plaintiff Adaptix, Inc. has filed for infringement of
18 United States Patent Nos. 6,947,748 and 7,454,212. Defendant AT&T also separately moves for
19 judgment on the pleadings in two cases that have been pending since 2014. Defendants say these
20 nine cases are duplicative of others against them that are pending before or previously adjudicated
21 by this court and are barred by claim preclusion, issue preclusion, the doctrine against claim
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26 ¹ 28 U.S.C. § 299(b).

27 ² Because Dell was dismissed from Case No. 5:15-cv-00971 on June 8, 2015, *see* Docket No. 50,
28 the motion as to Dell only is DENIED as moot.

1 splitting and the *Kessler* doctrine.³ Because the court agrees that these doctrines bar these follow-
2 on cases, Defendants’ motions are GRANTED.⁴

3 **I.**

4 While the AIA and its anti-joinder rule are relatively new, fights over the preclusive effect
5 of earlier patents suits are not. In 1907, in *Kessler*, the Supreme Court first considered the limits
6 on follow-on patent suits following a judgment of non-infringement. The owner of a patent for an
7 electric cigar lighter sued a competing seller of lighters for patent infringement in a first district
8 court.⁵ The court found *Kessler* did not infringe Eldred’s patent, and the Seventh Circuit
9 affirmed.⁶ Eldred then sued *Kessler*’s customer in a second district court for infringing the same
10 patent by selling the same *Kessler* lighters.⁷ *Kessler* responded by indemnifying his customer and
11 suing Eldred in a third district court to enjoin Eldred from suing his customers.⁸ Based on the
12 earlier judgment in the first district court, the third district court enjoined Eldred from his
13 proceeding in the second district court, as requested. Both the Seventh Circuit and the Supreme
14 Court affirmed.⁹

15 The Supreme Court noted that claim and issue preclusion did not apply because there was
16 no mutuality of parties and new acts of potential infringement may have occurred after the final
17 judgment in the first case.¹⁰ But it nevertheless held that the first suit between Eldred and *Kessler*

18 ³ See *Kessler v. Eldred*, 206 U.S. 285 (1907).

19 ⁴ As explained further below, Defendants Apple Inc., HTC America, Inc., HTC Corporation,
20 AT&T Mobility and Verizon Wireless will be referred to as the “Wave 3 Defendants” and
21 Defendants Amazon.com, Inc. and Sony Mobile Communications (USA), Inc. will be referred to as
the “Wave 4 Defendants.”

22 ⁵ *Kessler*, 206 U.S. at 285.

23 ⁶ See *id.* at 286.

24 ⁷ See *id.*

25 ⁸ See *id.*

26 ⁹ See *id.* at 286, 289.

27 ¹⁰ See, e.g., *Brain Life, LLC v. Elekta Inc.*, 746 F.3d 1045, 1056 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (“[T]raditional
28 notions of claim preclusion do not apply when a patentee accuses new acts of infringement, i.e.,
post-final judgment, in a second suit—even where the products are the same in both suits. Such

1 fully settled Kessler’s right “to manufacture, use, and sell the electric cigar lighter.”¹¹ A prior
2 judgment of non-infringement in a “court of competent jurisdiction . . . is entitled to respect,” and
3 “whether it proceeds upon good reasons or upon bad reasons, whether it was right or wrong,
4 settle[s] finally and everywhere” the claim of infringement.¹² The Court emphasized that a
5 patentee should not be able to harass another party by repeatedly filing infringement suits after
6 receiving a final judgment of non-infringement.¹³ More recently, in *Brain Life v. Elekta*, the
7 Federal Circuit explained that “[t]he *Kessler* Doctrine fills the gap between these preclusion
8 doctrines, allowing an adjudged *non-infringer* to avoid repeated harassment for continuing its
9 business as usual post-final judgment in a patent action where circumstances justify that result.”¹⁴

10 Adaptix is the owner by assignment of the ‘748 and ‘212 patents, both entitled “OFDMA
11 with adaptive subcarrier-cluster configuration and selective loading.” Both patents describe
12 methods for subcarrier selection for wireless communication systems. Subcarriers are narrow
13 frequency bands over which wireless devices transmit data, as, for example, between a smartphone
14 handset and the nearest base station for its cellular network. “In one embodiment, a method for
15 subcarrier selection comprises a subscriber measuring channel and interference information for
16 subcarriers based on pilot symbols received from a base station, the subscriber selecting a set of
17 candidate subcarriers, providing feedback information on the set of candidate subcarriers to the
18 base station, and receiving an indication of subcarriers of the set of subcarriers selected by the base
19 station for use by the subscriber.”¹⁵

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21
22 claims are barred under general preclusion principles only to the extent they can be barred by issue
preclusion, with its attendant limitations.”).

23 ¹¹ *Kessler*, 206 U.S. at 287.

24 ¹² *Id.* at 288.

25 ¹³ *See id.* at 290; *Brain Life, LLC*, 746 F.3d at 1055-56.

26 ¹⁴ *Id.* at 1056 (emphasis in original).

27 ¹⁵ Case No. 5:15-cv-00364: Docket Nos. 1-1, 1-2 at “Abstract.”

1 Over the past three years, Adaptix has filed over 35 cases in multiple “waves” of litigation
2 in this court and the Eastern District of Texas, alleging that LTE handset manufacturers and
3 wireless carriers infringe its two patents. Many, but not all of these cases were ultimately assigned
4 to the undersigned. As currently postured, these cases consist of four waves. In Wave 1, Adaptix
5 sued Motorola, Verizon, Apple, AT&T and HTC.¹⁶ In Wave 2, Adaptix sued Dell, Verizon,
6 Amazon, AT&T, Blackberry, Sony, T-Mobile/MetroPCS, HTC, Sprint, ASUSTek, Boost Mobile
7 and ZTE.¹⁷ In Wave 3, Adaptix filed four new cases against the same Wave 1 Defendants (with
8 one exception)¹⁸ after the court denied it leave to amend its infringement contentions in the Wave 1
9 cases.¹⁹ And a month after final judgment was entered in the Wave 1 cases, in Wave 4, Adaptix
10 filed an additional three cases²⁰—this time against Wave 2 Defendants whose cases were—and still
11 are—pending before this court.²¹ In all four waves of cases, Adaptix has asserted direct and
12 indirect infringement by 4G LTE products whose baseband processors are programmed to follow
13 the same 3GPP LTE standard referred to as “CQI Reporting Mode 3.”²²

14 ¹⁶ See Case No. 5:13-cv-01774: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 1; Case No.
15 5:13-cv-01777: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:13-cv-01778: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:13-cv-01844:
16 Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:13-cv-02023: Docket No. 1.

17 ¹⁷ See Case No. 5:14-cv-01259: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:14-cv-01379: Docket No. 1; Case No.
18 5:14-cv-01380: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:14-cv-01385: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:14-cv-01386:
19 Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:14-cv-01387: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:14-cv-02359: Docket No. 1;
20 Case No. 5:14-cv-02360: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:14-cv-02894: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:14-cv-
21 02895: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:14-cv-03112: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:15-cv-00165: Docket
22 No. 1; Case No. 5:15-cv-00166: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:15-cv-00167: Docket No. 1; Case No.
23 5:15-cv-00168: Docket No. 1. Blackberry, Dell and ASUSTek have settled and are no longer in the
24 cases. See Case No. 5:14-cv-01259: Docket No. 182; Case No. 14-cv-01380: Docket No. 113;
25 Case No. 14-cv-01386: Docket No. 120; Case No. 14-cv-01387: Docket No. 117; Case No. 14-cv-
26 03112: Docket No. 137.

27 ¹⁸ See Case No. 5:15-cv-00364: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:15-cv-00365: Docket No. 1; Case No.
28 5:15-cv-00366: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:15-cv-00367: Docket No. 1. The exception is Motorola,
who by this time had settled. See Case No. 5:13-cv-01774: Docket No. 195.

¹⁹ See Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 252.

²⁰ See Case No. 5:15-cv-00962: Docket No. 1; Case No. 5:15-cv-00971: Docket No. 1; Case No.
5:15-cv-00972: Docket No. 1.

²¹ As noted earlier, Dell later settled. See Case No. 5:15-cv-00971: Docket No. 49.

²² Some of the claims and products asserted in the Wave 3 and Wave 4 cases had been pleaded in
the Wave 1 and Wave 2 cases but were omitted from Adaptix’s infringement contentions. When

1 After a long, hard slog through fact and expert discovery in the Wave 1 cases, the court
2 ultimately granted Defendants’ motions for summary judgment of noninfringement and invalidity.
3 The court first held that under the Federal Circuit’s decision in *Ericsson, Inc. v. D-Link Systems,*
4 *Inc.*,²³ even if they supply handsets preprogrammed to perform multiple claimed steps, Defendants
5 still must perform at least one step of a claimed method themselves to be held liable for direct
6 infringement. Because there was no genuine dispute that Defendants perform no such step, no
7 reasonable jury could find that Defendants directly infringed.²⁴ The court then held that the term
8 “each cluster”—as it appears in claims 8 and 9 of the ’748 patent and claims 9 and 10 of its ’212
9 patent—is indefinite because the “each cluster” term “might mean several different things and no
10 informed and confident choice is available among the contending definitions.”²⁵

11 A short while later, the court entered final judgment in favor of the Wave 1 Defendants:

12 The Court enters final judgment in favor of [Defendants] and against [P]laintiff
13 Adaptix, Inc. [] on all of Adaptix’s claims for infringement of U.S. Patent No.
14 7,454,212 [] and U.S. Patent No. 6,947,748 []. Plaintiff shall take nothing by way
15 of its complaint.

16 In addition, claims 9 and 10 of the ’212 patent and claims 8 and 9 of the ’748 patent
17 are adjudged invalid. Defendants’ counterclaims with respect to all other patent
18 claims of the ’212 patent and ’748 patent are hereby dismissed without prejudice.²⁶

19 The Wave 3 and Wave 4 Defendants now move to dismiss their cases pursuant to Fed. R.
20 Civ. P. 12(b)(6) on the basis of claim preclusion, the *Kessler* doctrine, issue preclusion and the

21 Adaptix moved for leave to amend, the court denied the motion. *See* Case No. 5:13-cv-01776:
22 Docket No. 252; Case No. 5:14-cv-01379: Docket No. 123.

23 773 F.3d 1201 (Fed. Cir. 2014).

24 *See* Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 405 at 2-3.

25 *See* Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 413 at 2.

26 ²⁶ Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 419. As is its right, Adaptix has appealed both rulings.
27 *See* Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 440. “The established ruled in the federal courts is that a
28 final judgment retains all of its [claim preclusion] consequences pending decision of the appeal.”
Tripati v. Henman, 857 F.2d 1366, 1367 (9th Cir. 1988); *see also Eichman v. Fotomat Corp.*, 759
F.2d 1434, 1439 (9th Cir. 1985) (“The federal rule on the preclusive effect of a judgment from
which an appeal has been taken is that the pendency of an appeal does not suspend the operation of
an otherwise final judgment for purposes of [claim preclusion].”).

1 doctrine against claim splitting. In Wave 2, AT&T also moves to dismiss the cases against it
2 pursuant Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(c).²⁷

3 **II.**

4 This court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338. The parties further
5 consented to the jurisdiction of the undersigned magistrate judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and
6 Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a).

7 As a preliminary matter, Defendants request judicial notice of court records from the Wave
8 1 cases. On a motion to dismiss, “the Court may take judicial notice of ‘matters of public record,’”
9 such as court records, “without converting the motion into one for summary judgment.”²⁸ The
10 court may take judicial notice of a “fact that is not subject to reasonable dispute because it is
11 generally known” or “can be accurately and readily determined from sources whose accuracy
12 cannot reasonably be questioned.”²⁹ As Adaptix does not dispute the request, the court takes
13 judicial notice of the Wave 1 court records.

14 At this stage of the case, the court must accept all material allegations in the complaint as
15 true and construe them in the light most favorable to the non-moving party.³⁰ The court’s review is
16 limited to the face of the complaint, materials incorporated into the complaint by reference and
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18 _____
19 ²⁷ In a subset of the Eastern District of Texas cases, Judge Craven recently issued a report and
20 recommendation to the presiding judge that summary judgment be entered in favor of the carrier
21 and manufacturer defendants based on this court’s summary judgment order as to the ’212 patent.
22 Judge Craven based her finding on the doctrines of claim preclusion, issue preclusion and the
23 *Kessler* doctrine. *See Adaptix, Inc. v. AT&T Mobility LLC, et. al.*, Case No. 6:12-cv-00017: Docket
24 No. 363 (recommending that “(1) issue preclusion bars Adaptix from arguing (a) that any
25 Defendant directly infringes the method claims of the ’212 patent by selling LTE devices” and
26 “(b) that AT&T and Verizon directly infringe the method claims of the ’212 patent by controlling
27 the use of their respective customers’ LTE devices;” “(2) claim preclusion bars all of Adaptix’s
28 claims against AT&T and Verizon for infringement of the ’212 patent” and “(3) the *Kessler*
29 Doctrine bars all of Adaptix’s claims against AT&T and Verizon for infringement of the ’212
30 patent.”).

²⁸ *Morales v. Whole Foods Mkt., Inc.*, 897 F. Supp. 2d 987, 996 (N.D. Cal. 2012); *see also Mack v. South Bay Beer Distrib., Inc.*, 798 F.2d 1279, 1282 (9th Cir. 1986).

²⁹ Fed. R. Evid. 201(b).

³⁰ *See Metzler Inv. GMBH v. Corinthian Colls., Inc.*, 540 F.3d 1049, 1061 (9th Cir. 2008).

1 matters of which the court may take judicial notice.³¹ However, the court need not accept as true
2 allegations that are conclusory, unwarranted deductions of fact or unreasonable inferences.³²

3 Under Rule 12(b)(6), “dismissal can be based on the lack of a cognizable legal theory or the
4 absence of sufficient facts alleged under a cognizable legal theory.”³³ If a plaintiff fails to proffer
5 “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face,” the complaint may be dismissed
6 for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.³⁴ A claim is facially plausible “when
7 the pleaded factual content allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is
8 liable for the misconduct alleged.”³⁵ Dismissal is warranted where, even accepting all the
9 allegations in the complaint as true, a complaint cannot state a plausible claim for relief because
10 claim preclusion bars the cause of action alleged.³⁶ A party may properly raise preclusion defenses
11 on a motion under Rule 12(b)(6).³⁷ The same standards apply to motions under Rule 12(c),³⁸
12 which may be brought “[a]fter the pleadings are closed—but early enough not to delay trial.”³⁹

13
14 ³¹ See *id.*

15 ³² See *Sprewell v. Golden State Warriors*, 266 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir. 2001); see also *Bell Atlantic*
16 *Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 561 (2007) (“a wholly conclusory statement of [a] claim” will not
17 survive a motion to dismiss).

18 ³³ *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

19 ³⁴ *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570.

20 ³⁵ *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 663 (2009).

21 ³⁶ See, e.g., *D-Beam v. Roller Derby Skate Corp.*, 316 F. App’x 966, 968-69 (Fed. Cir. 2008)
22 (affirming dismissal of complaint for failure to state a claim, based on applications of claim
23 preclusion; “attempt to revive” suit by adding new defendants “fails as they are clearly in privity”
with prior defendant, and “new claim of patent infringement should have been brought in [prior]
action”); *Holcombe v. Hosmer*, 447 F.3d 1094, 1100 (9th Cir. 2007) (affirming dismissal of
complaint for failure to state a claim based on application of claim preclusion); *Klahn v. Quizmark,*
LLC, Case No. 13-cv-01977, 2013 WL 4605873, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 28, 2013) (same).

24 ³⁷ See *Scott v. Kuhlmann*, 746 F.2d 1377, 1378 (9th Cir. 1984); *Evarts v. W. Metal Finishing Co.*,
25 253 F.2d 637, 639 (9th Cir. 1958).

26 ³⁸ See *Cafasso v. Gen. Dynamics CF Sys., Inc.*, 637 F.3d 1047, 1055 n.4 (9th Cir. 2011); *Harris v.*
Cnty. of Orange, 682 F.3d 1126, 1132 (9th Cir. 2012).

27 ³⁹ *Lyon v. Chase Bank USA, NA*, 656 F.3d 877, 883 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting *Dworkin v. Hustler*
Magazine Inc., 867 F.2d 1188, 1192 (9th Cir. 1989)).

1 With trial well off in the Wave 2 cases, the court finds it proper to consider AT&T's Rule
2 12(c) motion together with the Wave 3 and Wave 4 Defendants' motions under Rule 12(b)(6).
3 Applying these rules' "functionally identical" standards,⁴⁰ the court is persuaded that Adaptix's
4 allegations in each of these cases are an improper redo of those it brought before.

5 **III.**

6 "If rights between litigants are once established by the final judgment of a court of
7 competent jurisdiction those rights must be recognized in every way, and wherever the judgment is
8 entitled to respect, by those who are bound by it."⁴¹ Between the final judgment in the Wave 1
9 cases and the similar scope of the cases in Wave 2, Adaptix's claims in the follow-on waves cannot
10 stand.

11 *First*, Adaptix's Wave 3 cases are barred by the doctrine of claim preclusion. The basic
12 tenet of claim preclusion is that "a final judgment on the merits bars further claims by parties or
13 their privies based on the same cause of action."⁴² Claim preclusion requires parties to bring all
14 available claims in one action, preventing parties from improperly splitting their claims and
15 harassing defendants and courts with "repetitive actions based on the same claim."⁴³ The purpose
16 of claim preclusion "is to 'relieve parties of the cost and vexation of multiple law suits, conserve
17 judicial resources, and, by preventing inconsistent decisions, encourage reliance on
18 adjudication.'"⁴⁴

19 In the Ninth Circuit, claim preclusion bars an action where a prior suit: (1) reached a final
20 judgment on the merits; (2) involved the same parties (or their privies) and (3) involved the same

21 _____
22 ⁴⁰ *Id.* (quoting *Dworkin*, 867 F.2d at 1192).

23 ⁴¹ *Kessler*, 206 U.S. at 289.

24 ⁴² *Montana v. United States*, 440 U.S. 147, 153 (1979).

25 ⁴³ *Clements v. Airport Auth. of Washoe Cnty.*, 69 F.3d 321, 328 (9th Cir. 1995); *see also Adobe Sys.*
26 *Inc. v. Wowza Media Sys., LLC*, Case No. 14-cv-02778, 2014 WL 5454648, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Oct.
27 27, 2014).

27 ⁴⁴ *Marin v. HEW, Health Care Fin. Agency*, 769 F.2d 590, 594 (9th Cir. 1985) (quoting *Allen v.*
28 *McCurry*, 449 U.S. 90, 94 (1980)).

1 claim or cause of action.⁴⁵ While disputes over claim preclusion are generally resolved according
2 to the law of the regional circuit, in patent cases, the second factor—whether both suits involve the
3 same claim or cause of action—is governed by Federal Circuit law.⁴⁶

4 As to the first prong, the court plainly issued a final judgment on the merits in the Wave 1
5 cases.⁴⁷ While such a fact would usually be undisputed, here, Adaptix parses each of the four
6 orders this court issued as to Defendants’ motions for summary judgement to suggest that the
7 judgment did not really dispose of all issues relating to the prior cases because the court did not
8 invalidate all claims or find non-infringement as to all claims. For example, the court held that a
9 reasonable juror could find that an end user of the Apple or HTC devices infringes even though
10 Adaptix produced no evidence that any individual acting on Verizon’s behalf infringes.⁴⁸ As
11 another example, the court found that a reasonable jury could find that the Apple and HTC
12 products infringe based on evidence in the record that suggests the products meet all the limitations
13 of the asserted claims.⁴⁹

14 But in *Brain Life*, the court specifically rejected such a premise, barring the assertion of
15 method claims against Elekta even though the prior suit against Elekta had produced only a
16 judgment of noninfringement of apparatus claims in the same patent.⁵⁰ “While the dismissal
17 without prejudice allowed for the possibility that acts of infringement of the method claims could
18 be subject to a future cause of action, that possibility was cut-off for all such acts predating the

19 _____
20 ⁴⁵ See *Mpoyo v. Litton Electro-Optical Sys.*, 430 F.3d 985, 987 (9th Cir. 2005); *Roche Palo Alto
21 LLC v. Apotex, Inc.*, 526 F. Supp. 2d 985, 997 (N.D. Cal. 2007), *aff’d*, 531 F.3d 1372 (Fed. Cir.
22 2008).

23 ⁴⁶ See *Acumed LLC v. Stryker Corp.*, 525 F.3d 1319, 1323 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

24 ⁴⁷ See Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 419 (“The Court enters final judgment in favor of
25 [Defendants] and against [P]laintiff Adaptix, Inc. [] on all of Adaptix’s claims for infringement of
26 U.S. Patent No. 7,454,212 [] and U.S. Patent No. 6,947,748 [].”).

27 ⁴⁸ See Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 405.

28 ⁴⁹ See Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 403.

⁵⁰ See *Brain Life, LLC*, 746 F.3d at 1058 (holding Elekta’s earlier judgment of noninfringement on
other theories enough to confer upon it the status of a non-infringer and give its products “the
status of noninfringing products”).

1 final MIDCO judgment once that judgment was entered.”⁵¹ Put another way, it is sufficient that
2 the court entered summary judgment on some theories to bar all other theories that were or could
3 have been brought. Consistent with this, the court entered final judgment in favor of Defendants
4 and against Adaptix “on all of Adaptix’s claims” for infringement of the ’212 and ’748 patents.
5 The court could not have been any clearer.

6 As to the second prong, it is undisputed that the Wave 1 Defendants and the Wave 3
7 Defendants are one and the same and that Adaptix is the sole plaintiff in both sets of cases. To the
8 extent that Adaptix also sued “John Does” in the Wave 3 cases that were not present in the Wave 1
9 cases, Adaptix has identified the John Does as “customers of [Wave 3 Defendants] who have
10 purchased or have been provided and have used the [accused products].”⁵²

11 This raises the question of whether the John Does are in privity with the Wave 3
12 Defendants. In the Ninth Circuit, privity analysis for the purposes of claim preclusion is focused
13 on the alignment of interests between parties; in short, “privity may exist if ‘there is substantial
14 identity between parties, that is, when there is sufficient commonality of interest.’”⁵³ Here, the
15 John Does—as customers of the Wave 3 Defendants—are shielded from the new action through
16 privity because during the Wave 1 cases, Adaptix was fully aware that customers like the John
17 Does existed, were in possession of the allegedly infringing devices and were operating those
18 devices on carrier Defendants’ LTE networks, yet failed to bring claims against them. Adaptix
19 makes no colorable argument to the contrary.

20 As to the third prong, the Wave 3 cases constitute the same claim or cause of action as the
21 previously-adjudicated Wave 1 cases. To determine whether the same cause of action is present
22 for purposes of claim preclusion in the patent infringement context, the Federal Circuit considers

23
24 ⁵¹ *Id.*

25 ⁵² *See, e.g.*, Case No. 5:15-cv-00364: Docket No. 1 at ¶ 4.

26 ⁵³ *Tahoe-Sierra Pres. Council, Inc. v. Tahoe Reg’l Planning Agency*, 322 F.3d 1064, 1081 (9th Cir.
27 2003) (quoting *In re Gottheiner*, 703 F.2d 1136, 1140 (9th Cir. 1983)); *United States v. ITT*
28 *Rayonier, Inc.*, 627 F.2d 996, 1003 (9th Cir. 1980) (“Courts are no longer bound by rigid
definitions of parties or their privies for purposes of applying [claim preclusion].”).

1 two factors: (1) whether “the same patents are involved in both suits” and (2) whether the accused
2 “products or processes” in the suits are the same or “essentially the same.”⁵⁴ It is undisputed that
3 the same patents—the ’212 and the ’748—are involved in the Wave 1 and the Wave 3 cases. It
4 also is undisputed that devices that were accused in the Wave 1 cases have also been accused in the
5 Wave 3 cases.⁵⁵ The only true dispute remaining is whether the new products that Adaptix added
6 in the Wave 3 cases—products that were not even on the market during the pendency of Wave 1—
7 are “essentially the same” such to bar Adaptix’s Wave 3 infringement claims.⁵⁶

8 The Federal Circuit addressed this very issue in *Nystrom v. Trex Co.*, ultimately holding
9 that newer versions of previously accused devices are “essentially the same” if they are materially
10 unchanged with respect to the plaintiff’s infringement contentions.⁵⁷ In *Nystrom*, the court entered
11 final judgment of non-infringement of Nystrom’s patent for outdoor wood-flooring boards.⁵⁸
12 Nystrom subsequently filed a second action against Trex under the doctrine of equivalents,
13 accusing a new line of wood-flooring boards.⁵⁹ Nystrom justified the second suit by arguing that
14 this new line could not have been raised in the previous action because they were not commercially
15 available until over a year after final judgment in the previous action.⁶⁰ But the Federal Circuit did

16 ⁵⁴ *Senju Pharm. Co. v. Apotex Inc.*, 746 F.3d 1344, 1349 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (emphasis omitted).

17 ⁵⁵ Adaptix accused the Apple iPad with Retina Display, iPad 3, iPad Mini, iPad Mini with Retina
18 Display, iPad Air, iPhone 5, iPhone 5c, iPhone 5s, HTC Droid DNA, HTC Droid Incredible 4G,
19 HTC Rezound, HTC One, HTC One Max and HTC Thunderbolt, as well as the AT&T and Verizon
20 LTE networks in both the Wave 1 and Wave 3 cases. *See* Case No. 5:15-cv-00365; Docket No.
21 27-3 at 5.

22 ⁵⁶ Adaptix accused the Apple iPad Air 2, iPad Mini 3, iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus, HTC Desire 612,
23 HTC One Remix and HTC One for the first time in the Wave 3 cases. *See id.*

24 ⁵⁷ *See* 580 F.3d 1281, 1283 (Fed. Cir. 2009); *see also Hallco Manufacturing Co. v. Foster*, 256
25 F.3d 1290, 1297-98 (Fed. Cir. 2001) (remanding for analysis of similarity for claim preclusion
26 purposes between earlier-accused product and a product produced through a redesign conducted
27 after conclusion of first suit); *Foster v. Hallco Manufacturing Co.*, 947 F.2d 469, 480 (Fed. Cir.
28 1991) (announcing “essentially the same” standard and remanding to district court for claim
preclusion analysis in case where new version of previously-accused device was produced years
after the initial action concluded).

⁵⁸ *See id.*

⁵⁹ *See id.*

⁶⁰ *See id.*

1 not buy that. “Where an accused infringer has prevailed in an infringement suit, ‘the accused
2 devices have the status of noninfringements, and the defendant acquires the status of a noninfringer
3 to that extent.’”⁶¹ The court then held that even if the two lines of boards were not identical in all
4 respects, they remained unchanged as to the claim limitations at issue in the first suit.⁶²

5 This case is no different. Now, as then, the accused functionality is based on the 3GPP
6 LTE industry standard. Adaptix itself admitted in its infringement contentions that “[t]he Accused
7 Products are based on the LTE chipset and have no material differences among them for purposes
8 of Plaintiff’s infringement analysis.”⁶³ Adaptix has not suggested to the court that its Wave 3 cases
9 accuse any functionalities that are substantially different from those accused in the Wave 1 cases.
10 Indeed, Adaptix argues instead that claim preclusion does not apply for two reasons: (1) because
11 claim preclusion does not extend to new acts of infringement post-final judgment and (2) because
12 claim preclusion does not bar new rights that arise post-judgment from new acts of infringement.
13 Both arguments, however, fail as a matter of law.

14 As to the first, Adaptix relies on *Aspex Eyewear, Inc. v. Marchon Eyewear, Inc.* for the
15 proposition that traditional notions of claim preclusion do not apply when a patentee accuses new
16 acts of infringement, i.e., post final judgment, in a second suit, even where the products are the
17 same in both cases.⁶⁴ Adaptix thus posits that *Nystrom* is inapplicable because this more recent
18 case holds otherwise. But the Federal Circuit never expressly overruled *Nystrom*. And so unless
19 and until the Federal Circuit sits en banc to resolve any inconsistency between the principles
20 elaborated in *Nystrom* and those of *Aspex*, the earlier ruling trumps.⁶⁵ Other courts have adhered to

21 _____
22 ⁶¹ *Id.* at 1285 (quoting *Young Eng’rs, Inc. v. U.S. Int’l Trade Comm’n*, 721 F.2d 1305, 1316 (Fed.
Cir. 1953)).

23 ⁶² *See id.* at 1283.

24 ⁶³ *See, e.g.*, Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 431-5 at 2 n.1.

25 ⁶⁴ *See Aspex Eyewear, Inc. v. Marchon Eyewear, Inc.*, 672 F.3d 1335, 1342 (Fed. Cir. 2012).
Adaptix also points to a similar holding in *Brain Life, LLC*, 746 F.3d at 1054.

26 ⁶⁵ *See Newell Cos. v. Kenney Mfg. Co.*, 864 F.2d 757, 765 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (adopting “the rule that
27 prior decisions of a panel of the court are binding precedent on subsequent panels unless and until
28 overturned [e]n banc”); *Deckers Corp. v. United States*, 752 F.3d 949, 965 (Fed. Cir. 2014) (“At
most, opinions expressed by . . . a subsequent panel regarding an earlier Federal Circuit panel

1 the *Nystrom* application of claim preclusion on this very basis.⁶⁶ This court sees no reason not to
2 do the same.

3 As to the second, Adaptix’s reading of *Gillig v. Nike, Inc.* is entirely off the mark. Adaptix
4 correctly points out that the Federal Circuit in *Gillig* reasoned that claim preclusion “does not apply
5 to new rights acquired during the action which might have been, but which were not litigated.”⁶⁷
6 But there are no new rights at issue in this set of cases. By suing Defendants for patent
7 infringement on the ’212 and ’748 patents, Adaptix asserted its patent property rights in the Wave
8 1 cases. Those patent property rights—even in the face of new acts of infringement—do not
9 change. Indeed Adaptix is trying to assert the very same rights in the Wave 3 cases that it already
10 asserted—and based on which a final judgment was entered in the Wave 1 cases. This is exactly
11 what the doctrine of claim preclusion seeks to prohibit. And *Gillig* certainly does not allow it.

12 In the end, all infringement theories and patent claims that could have been brought in the
13 Wave 1 cases are precluded in the Wave 3 cases.⁶⁸ As in *Nystrom*, Adaptix brought a second set of
14 cases “to have a second bite at the apple” on three types of claims: those it failed to bring
15 altogether, those it dropped voluntarily and those that were not permitted late in the game in the
16 Wave 1 cases.⁶⁹ Because Adaptix’s Wave 3 claims are precluded in their entirety, the Wave 3
17 cases are dismissed.

18 decision would constitute invitations to the en banc court to revisit the legal issue raised,” and to
19 the extent such an opinion purports to do more, “we would be bound to ignore it.”).

20 ⁶⁶ See, e.g., *Mentor Graphics Corp. v. EVE-USA, Inc.*, Case No. 10-cv-00954, 2014 WL 2533336,
21 at *1 (D. Or. June 4, 2014) (“[T]he *Foster* line of cases cannot be reconciled with *Aspex* and *Brain*
Life. Because one three-judge panel cannot overrule another, *Foster* controls until the Federal
22 Circuit sitting *en banc* says otherwise.”).

23 ⁶⁷ *Gillig v. Nike, Inc.*, 602 F.3d 1354, 1363 (Fed. Cir. 2010).

24 ⁶⁸ See *Levi Strauss & Co. v. Abercrombie & Fitch Trading Co.*, 719 F.3d 1367, 1371 (Fed. Cir.
25 2013) (claim preclusion extends to all grounds for recovery that were “previously available to the
26 parties, regardless of whether they were asserted or determined in the prior proceeding.”).

27 ⁶⁹ *Nystrom*, 580 F.3d at 1286 (“*Nystrom* made a tactical decision in his initial suit to forego any
28 infringement theory based on the doctrine of equivalents. That choice did not pay off. Given that
the *Trex II* boards remain materially identical to the *Trex I* boards with respect to the pertinent
claim limitations at issue, this court cannot under [claim preclusion] permit *Nystrom* [] to have a
second bite at the apple.”).

1 **Second**, the Wave 3 cases also are independently barred under *Kessler*. As noted earlier, in
2 *Kessler v. Eldred*, the Supreme Court prohibited subsequent patent infringement suits against a
3 defendant or its customers asserting the same patent against devices that are “essentially the same”
4 as those accused in a prior suit and in which the defendant obtained a judgment of non-
5 infringement.⁷⁰ Essentially, *Kessler* held that once an accused product is deemed non-infringing, it
6 maintains that status from the time of final judgment forward.⁷¹

7 The principal dispute here appears to be whether *Kessler* still applies or whether it has
8 somehow grown stale. Despite Adaptix’s pleas to the contrary, *Kessler* is still alive and well.⁷²
9 The Federal Circuit recently applied *Kessler* in *Brain Life v. Elekta*, holding that the *Kessler*
10 doctrine barred Brain Life’s suit with respect to a newer set of products because they were
11 “essentially the same” as the previously-accused products.⁷³ In *Brain Life*, Brain Life’s
12 predecessor MIDCO had sued Elekta, accusing three of its products of infringing.⁷⁴ After the court
13 entered a judgment of non-infringement, Brain Life acquired MIDCO’s patent rights and brought
14 its own suit against Elekta, accusing new versions of the previously-accused products and bringing
15 method claims that had been abandoned in the prior lawsuit.⁷⁵ The Federal Circuit barred the
16 second suit, holding that the products were “essentially the same” as those in the first suit, and that
17 because the method claims “were brought or could have been brought in the first suit,” the method
18 claims also were out.⁷⁶

19 _____
20 ⁷⁰ See *Kessler*, 206 U.S. at 285.

21 ⁷¹ See *id.* at 288 (“This judgment, whether it proceeds upon good reasons or upon bad reasons,
22 whether it was right or wrong, settled finally and everywhere, and so far as Eldred . . . was
concerned, that *Kessler* had the right to manufacture, use, and sell the electric cigar lighter before
the court.”).

23 ⁷² See *Speedtrack, Inc. v. Office Depot, Inc.*, 791 F.3d 1317, 1324 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (reaffirming
“the continued vitality of the *Kessler* doctrine”).

24 ⁷³ See *Brain Life, LLC*, 746 F.3d at 1058.

25 ⁷⁴ See *id.* at 1051.

26 ⁷⁵ See *id.*

27 ⁷⁶ See *id.* at 1058-59.

1 As discussed above, the Wave 3 cases fall squarely within the contours of *Kessler*. All of
2 the products at issue either were accused in the Wave 1 cases or are “essentially the same” as those
3 brought in the Wave 1 cases. And any and all theories brought in the Wave 3 cases “were brought
4 or could have been brought in the first suit.”⁷⁷ Adaptix counters that *Kessler* gives an accused
5 infringer rights “with respect to specific products that had been held to be non-infringing.” And
6 because this court issued certain orders on summary judgment allowing questions of infringement
7 to go before a jury, Adaptix now argues that this court never found that the accused products had
8 obtained “the status of non-infringing device[s].”⁷⁸ But this reasoning is contrary to the Federal
9 Circuit’s holding in *Brain Life*, where the court barred the assertion of method claims in the new
10 suit even though the prior suit only produced a judgment of noninfringement of apparatus claims of
11 the same patent.⁷⁹ Here, as in *Brain Life*, this court’s earlier judgment of noninfringement is
12 enough to confer upon the Wave 1 Defendants—who mirror the Wave 3 Defendants—the status of
13 non-infringers and to give their products the status of non-infringing products.

14 **Third**, issue preclusion independently bars Adaptix’s claims for direct infringement of the
15 method claims as to Verizon.⁸⁰ There are three requirements for issue preclusion: “(1) the issue at
16 stake must be identical to the one alleged in the prior litigation; (2) the issue must have been
17 actually litigated [by the party against whom preclusion is asserted] in the prior litigation; and
18 (3) the determination of the issue in the prior litigation must have been a critical and necessary part
19 of the judgment in the earlier action.”⁸¹ In the Wave 1 cases, the court held: (1) Verizon does not

20 _____
21 ⁷⁷ To the extent Adaptix may protest that it could not have brought certain theories because the
22 court denied it leave to amend those theories, the court’s findings rested on lack of diligence. *See*
23 Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 252. Adaptix’s inability to bring those theories thus was of
24 its own making. *See Nystrom*, 580 F.3d at 1286.

23 ⁷⁸ *Brain Life, LLC*, 746 F.3d at 1053.

24 ⁷⁹ *See id.* at 1050.

25 ⁸⁰ Verizon is the only Defendant that moved on the basis of issue preclusion at this time.

26 ⁸¹ *Nazomi Commc’ns, Inc. v. Nokia Corp.*, Case Nos. 10-cv-04686, 10-cv-05545, 2013 U.S. Dist.
27 LEXIS 85618, at *23 (N.D. Cal. June 18, 2013) (quoting *Trevino v. Gates*, 99 F.3d 911, 923 (9th
28 Cir. 1996)). *See also In re Palmer*, 207 F.3d 566, 568 (9th Cir. 2000); *Tecsec, Inc. v. IBM Corp.*,
731 F.3d 1336, 1341 (Fed. Cir. 2013).

1 directly infringe the method claims of the '212 and '748 patents by selling LTE devices,
2 (2) Verizon does not directly infringe the method claims of the '212 and '748 patents by
3 controlling the use of its customers' LTE devices and (3) no individual acting on behalf of
4 Verizon—ostensibly a Verizon employee—has used an accused device to perform any claimed
5 method.⁸² These identical issues were raised in Adaptix's Wave 3 complaint, which broadly
6 covers direct and indirect infringement by Verizon of all asserted claims of the '212 and '748
7 patents. The court's rulings on these issues were the result of an extensive set of briefings and oral
8 argument on summary judgment, leaving no question that the issues were actually litigated in full.
9 And it was on the basis of the court's summary judgment rulings that the parties agreed that no trial
10 in the case was necessary and submitted a proposed form of judgment to the court; these findings
11 were the primary basis for entry of final judgment.

12 Adaptix takes real issue only with the scope of issue preclusion as to Verizon's employee
13 use of the accused devices. Specifically, Adaptix argues that issue preclusion cannot bar future
14 employee use because the court's ruling was based on a lack of evidence, rather than on a
15 determination that no such use occurred.⁸³ Adaptix posits that it will provide such evidence in the
16 Wave 3 cases.⁸⁴ The court agrees with Adaptix that any employee use after the date of final
17 judgment in the Wave 1 cases is not barred by issue preclusion. But regardless, as discussed
18 above, it nevertheless is barred by claim preclusion and the *Kessler* doctrine.

19 **Fourth**, claim splitting bars Adaptix's claims against Sony and Amazon in the Wave 4
20 cases. The "main purpose behind the rule preventing claim splitting is 'to protect the defendant
21 from being harassed by repetitive actions based on the same claim.'"⁸⁵ In the Ninth Circuit, the
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23 ⁸² See Case No. 5:13-cv-01776: Docket No. 405 at 6-8. Where "the court rests its judgment
24 alternatively upon two or more grounds, the judgment concludes each adjudicated issue that is
25 necessary to support any of the grounds upon which the judgment is rested." *In re Westgate-*
California Corp., 642 F.2d 1174, 1176 (9th Cir. 1981).

26 ⁸³ See Case No. 5:15-cv-00364: Docket No. 34 at 14-15.

27 ⁸⁴ See *id.* at 15.

28 ⁸⁵ *Clements*, 69 F.3d at 328 (internal citations omitted).

1 test for claim splitting mirrors that for claim preclusion.⁸⁶ To that end, the question here is—
2 assuming that the prior suit were finally decided—whether the same parties or their privies to the
3 later suit were involved in the prior litigation and whether the prior litigation involved the same
4 claim or cause of action as the later suit.⁸⁷ While issues of claim preclusion or claim splitting are
5 generally governed by the law of the regional circuit, once again, in patent cases, the second
6 factor—whether both suits involve the same cause of action—is governed by Federal Circuit law.⁸⁸

7 As to the first factor, Sony, Amazon and Adaptix are parties to both the Wave 2 and the
8 Wave 4 cases. And as discussed above, to the extent that Adaptix adds “John Doe” Defendants,
9 they are in privity with Sony and Amazon such that claim splitting applies to the cases as asserted
10 against the John Does as well.⁸⁹

11 As to the second factor, just as with claim preclusion, it is met when the same patents are
12 asserted in both suits and “the accused device in the action before the court is ‘essentially the same’
13 as the accused device in a prior action between the parties that was resolved by a judgment on the
14 merits.”⁹⁰ The causes of action are the same even if different infringement theories are asserted in
15 the two suits.⁹¹

18 ⁸⁶ See *Adams v. Cal. Dep’t of Health Servs.*, 487 F.3d 684, 688-89 (9th Cir. 2007).

19 ⁸⁷ See *Icon-IP Pty Ltd. v. Specialized Bicycle Components, Inc.*, Case No. 13-cv-03677, 2013 WL
20 10448869, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 22, 2013) (quoting *Cent. Delta Water Agency v. United States*, 306
21 F.3d 938, 952 (9th Cir. 2002)); see also *Owens v. Kaiser Found. Health Plan, Inc.*, 244 F.3d 708,
22 713 (9th Cir. 2001); *Single Chip Sys. Corp. v. Intermec IP Corp.*, 495 F. Supp. 2d 1052, 1059 (S.D.
23 Cal. 2007) (noting that in the context of claim-splitting, “no final judgment on the merits is
24 required. Instead, what is required in the context of a claim-splitting analysis is to assume that the
25 first suit was final, and then determine if the second suit could be precluded.”).

26 ⁸⁸ See *Acumed LLC*, 525 F.3d at 1323 (Fed. Cir. 2008).

27 ⁸⁹ See *Tahoe-Sierra Pres. Council, Inc.*, 322 F.3d at 1081; *ITT Rayonier, Inc.*, 627 F.2d at 1003
28 (“Courts are no longer bound by rigid definitions of parties or their privies for purposes of applying
[claim preclusion].”).

⁹⁰ *Acumed LLC*, 525 F.3d at 1324.

⁹¹ *Nystrom*, 580 F.3d at 1286.

1 The case here is factually analogous to *Icon-IP*, where the court found that the doctrine of
2 claim-splitting barred a second suit in a patent infringement case.⁹² In the first case, Icon alleged
3 that Specialized infringed the patents by manufacturing and selling various bicycle seat models.⁹³
4 Nearly a year after filing its complaint in Icon I, Icon moved for leave to amend its infringement
5 contentions to add new bicycle seat models that Icon alleged infringe in the same manner as the
6 originally-accused seats.⁹⁴ The court denied Icon’s request because Icon had not been diligent in
7 moving for leave to amend its infringement contentions.⁹⁵ Shortly after this ruling, Icon filed a
8 new case, in which Icon alleged that Specialized infringed the same patents by manufacturing and
9 selling the bicycle seat models that the court had excluded from Icon I.⁹⁶ Specialized moved to
10 dismiss, arguing that the complaint in Icon II was barred by the prohibition against claim-
11 splitting.⁹⁷ The court granted the motion because the complaint in Icon II alleged infringement of
12 the same patents by the same defendant based on accused devices that were “essentially the
13 same.”⁹⁸

14 The Wave 4 cases are no different. In the Wave 2 cases, the court denied Adaptix leave to
15 amend its infringement contentions to add new devices—the Amazon Fire Phone and the Sony
16 VAIO Duo 13—and the induced and contributory infringement theories it had included in its
17 original complaint but had omitted from its initial infringement contentions.⁹⁹ Shortly thereafter,
18 Adaptix filed new cases against Amazon and Sony alleging direct, induced and contributory
19 infringement of the same patents—the ’212 and ’748 patents—against the same products: the

20 ⁹² See *Icon-IP Pty Ltd.*, 2013 WL 10448869, at *2.

21 ⁹³ See *id.*

22 ⁹⁴ See *id.* at *2-3.

23 ⁹⁵ See *id.* at *3.

24 ⁹⁶ See *id.*

25 ⁹⁷ See *id.* at *4-5.

26 ⁹⁸ See *id.* at *5-11.

27 ⁹⁹ See Case No. 5:14-cv-01379: Docket No. 123 at 3, 5.

1 Amazon Kindle Fire, Amazon Fire Phone, the Sony XPERIA TL, the Sony XPERIA ION and the
2 Sony VAIO Duo 13. Because the patents, products and theories in the Wave 4 cases mirror those
3 in the Wave 2 cases, the newer cases are barred by claim splitting.

4 As to the theories that Adaptix sought but failed to add to the Wave 2 cases and are now
5 realleged in the Wave 4 cases—contributory and indirect infringement—claim splitting bars those
6 theories as well. “To the extent the New Complaint includes new theories of infringement, if any,
7 with respect to the same patents and the same accused products already at issue in [pending
8 actions], . . . the new claims [are] barred by the doctrine of claim splitting.”¹⁰⁰ Any claims that
9 Adaptix brought or could have brought in the Wave 2 cases have no place in this new set of
10 cases.¹⁰¹

11 As to the products that Adaptix failed to bring into the Wave 2 cases diligently and thus
12 was denied leave to add to the case, claim splitting precludes relitigating products that are the same
13 or “essentially the same” as the products at issue in the earlier suit.¹⁰² As discussed above in
14 relation to claim preclusion, Adaptix’s claims of infringement are based on the accused products’
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18 ¹⁰⁰ *Fujitsu Ltd. v. Tellabs Operations, Inc.*, Case No. 12-cv-03229, 2013 WL 361810, at *3 (N.D.
19 Ill. Jan. 30, 2013); *see also Vigil v. The Walt Disney Co.*, Case No. 02-cv-04002, 2003 WL
20 22016805, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 5, 2005). Allegations of different claims of the same patent are
21 similarly barred by claim splitting. *See Biogenex Labs., Inc. v. Ventana Med. Sys., Inc.*, Case No.
22 05-cv-00860, 2005 WL 1869342, at *2-3 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 5, 2005).

23 ¹⁰¹ *See id.* at *2-3 (“[A] patent plaintiff should not be permitted to avoid the adverse consequences
24 of failing [to] assert all patent claims in a pending action by simply filing a new patent action. This
25 Court agrees with that conclusion. Otherwise, this Court’s express requirements governing patent
26 litigation and, in particular, preliminary infringement contentions, would be totally eviscerated. If
27 it were to permit Biogenex to assert claim 5 of the ’452 patent in the Second Action, the Court
28 almost certainly would consolidate or at least relate the two actions for purposes of judicial
economy, as they involve the same patents and the same accused conduct. Were that to happen, all
of the efforts of the Court and the parties relating to litigation of the ’452 patent in the First Action,
including the question of whether Biogenex should be permitted to assert claim 5 in that action,
would be negated. Biogenex essentially would have obtained a reversal of the Court’s ruling in the
First Action.”).

¹⁰² *See Nystrom*, 580 F.3d at 1285-86.


1 employment of the LTE standard, which Adaptix itself admits are “identical” across the cases.¹⁰³
2 The Wave 4 cases simply do not raise anything new. They are dismissed.¹⁰⁴

3 **IV.**

4 In sum, under the theories of claim preclusion and the *Kessler* doctrine, the Wave 3 cases
5 must be dismissed.¹⁰⁵ Adaptix’s claims for direct infringement of the method claims against
6 Verizon also must be dismissed under the theory of issue preclusion. Additionally, the Wave 4
7 cases must be dismissed as barred by the doctrine against claim splitting.

8 **SO ORDERED.**

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10 Dated: August 21, 2015

11 
12 PAUL S. GREWAL
13 United States Magistrate Judge
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24 ¹⁰³ See Case No. 5:14-cv-01379: Docket No. 115 at 2.

25 ¹⁰⁴ Sony and Amazon also challenge the Wave 4 cases as an improper collateral attack. Because
26 the court has already disposed of the matter in full based on claim splitting, the court does not
reach the issue of collateral attack.

27 ¹⁰⁵ This ruling also extends to Adaptix’s claims against AT&T in Case Nos. 5:15-cv-00962 and
28 5:15-00972 and against Verizon in Case No. 5:15-cv-00971.