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IP File

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### **Federal Circuit Decision Highlights Risk of Co-owning Patents**

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Co-owning any piece of property can lead to unwanted and unexpected headaches. And as demonstrated by the Federal Circuit in *STC.UNM v. Intel Corp.*, Fed. Cir. No. 2013-1241, this is especially true with respect to co-ownership of patents. Here, the Federal Circuit held that STC lacked standing to bring its patent infringement lawsuit against Intel because Sandia Corp., a co-owner of the patent-in-suit, refused to voluntarily join the lawsuit, and could not be involuntarily joined under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 19(a).

**TAGS:** co-owned patents, Federal Circuit, Intel, invention patent, patent act, Patent Litigation, patent-in-suit, Sandia Corp., STC, University of Mexico