

Cantor Colburn, Faro win Nikon patent suit

A Boston federal jury last week turned back a four-year-old patent-infringement lawsuit against Faro Technologies Inc. of Lake Mary, Fla., represented by Hartford patent law firm Cantor Colburn LLC, rejecting allegations that the company had violated U.S. patent law, Orlandosentinel.com reports.

The jury ruled against Nikon Metrology Inc.'s allegations that Faro violated Nikon's patent involving certain laser-based measurement equipment, [The Orlando \(Fla.\) Sentinel](http://TheOrlando.com) reports, citing documents filed in the case.

In a statement Tuesday, Cantor's lead trial counsel William J. Cass hailed the jury's decision. Cantor partner Andrew Ryan assisted in the case.

"Faro was surprised that this case was pressed so vehemently by Nikon, given the extensive history between the parties before the inventor applied for his patent," Cass said.

According to Orlandosentinel.com, the jury found that, although Faro technically infringed on the patents, there was

no violation because Nikon's patents were not valid in the first place. Faro had told the court it created the disputed piece of equipment years ago, before the two companies collaborated on certain projects. The jury agreed.

Michigan-based Nikon Metrology — formerly Metris USA Inc. — filed the suit in July 2008 in federal court in Massachusetts.

The jury's recent decision involved a laser-line probe accessory used with certain models of Faro Technologies' "FaroArm" laser-measurement system, Faro said in a prepared statement.

It was the second decision in Faro's favor in connection with the litigation, which involves two patents, Faro said.

"While Nikon may attempt to appeal the decision, the jury verdict favorably concludes this stage" of the case, said Faro, a maker of commercial and industrial measurement systems.

Lawyers for Nikon Metrology could not be reached for comment. ■