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FTC Releases Report on Patent Assertion Entities, Calls for Reforms to Reduce Nuisance Patent Lawsuits

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Subject:

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission issued its much anticipated study on patent assertion entities ("PAEs") on October 6, 2016. The report, entitled *Patent Assertion Entity Activity: an FTC Study*, defines a PAE as "*a firm that primarily acquires patents and seeks to generate revenue by asserting them against accused infringers.*" The report highlights the business practices of PAEs (based on non-public data from 2009 to 2014) and includes recommendations for patent litigation reform.

FTC Chairwoman Edith Ramirez praised the report for providing "*an empirical foundation for ongoing policy discussions,*" and said that the report's recommendations "*are designed to balance the needs of patent holders with the goal of reducing nuisance litigation.*"

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