

# Charles R. Hoffmann

Partner

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Charles R. Hoffmann, one of the founding partners of Syosset-based Hoffmann & Baron, LLP, went before the U.S. Supreme Court in May as counsel to Hauppauge-based Festo Corp. in a patent infringement suit against a Japanese firm.

The case challenges the long-standing “doctrine of equivalents,” which holds that minor or unsubstantial changes to a patented invention don’t excuse patent restrictions, and is seen as one of the most important and far-reaching patent cases to reach the High Court.

“This case for me has been a journey through our legal system,” said Hoffmann, who has served as counsel to Festo for 14 years. “I’ve been able to talk to so many different people and to lecture on the subject.”



On May 28, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed the doctrine of equivalents and sent the case back to a lower court for review.

In addition to Festo, Hoffmann represents a number of clients in mechanical and electrical arts, including biomedical instrumentation, environmental control and waste disposal systems.

Hoffmann, who dabbled with the thought of being an engineer, received a bachelor’s degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute before earning a juris doctorate from New York University School of Law.