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BREAKING: Groupon Ordered To Pay IBM \$82.5M In Web Patent Case

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Law360 (July 27, 2018, 4:05 PM EDT) -- A Delaware federal jury on Friday awarded IBM Corp. more than \$82 million after finding Groupon Inc. infringed four e-commerce patents that date to the early days of personal computing.

Jurors returned the verdict following approximately six hours of deliberations in a Wilmington courthouse and found that Groupon willfully infringed the patents. The \$82.5 million that IBM was awarded is about half of what it had sought in the case.

"The verdict is a vindication for IBM and a validation of the strength of its e-commerce portfolio," John Desmarais of Desmarais LLP, an attorney for IBM, said.

The jury's finding that the infringement was willful opens the door to the possibility that the judge overseeing the case could triple the damage award. Both sides will have a chance to argue over potential enhanced damages in the coming weeks.

"We continue to believe that we do not infringe on any valid IBM patents," Groupon spokesman Bill Roberts said. "To the extent these patents have any value at all - which we believe they do not - the value is far less than what the jury awarded, to say nothing of IBM's demand for \$167 million."