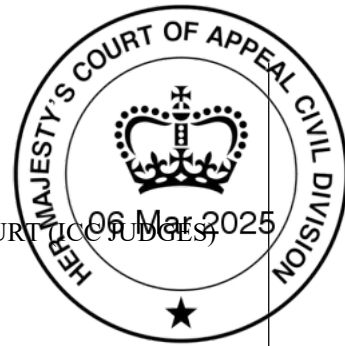




THURSDAY 06 MARCH 2025



IN THE COURT OF APPEAL

ON APPEAL FROM HIGH COURT BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURT (CCJ JUDGES)
JUSTICE MELLOR
IL-2021-000019

BEFORE LORD JUSTICE ARNOLD

CA-2024-001771

B E T W E E N

CRAIG STEVEN WRIGHT

CLAIMANT /
APPLICANT

ON PAPER

Application No.

CA-2024-001771
AND
CA-2024-001994

- and -

1. CRYPTO OPEN PATENT ALLIANCE
2. BTC CORE DEFENDANTS
3. BLOCK, INC., SPIRAL BTC, INC., COINBASE ENTITIES
4. SQUAREUP EUROPE LTD, SQUAREUP INTERNATIONAL LTD
5. BLOCKSTREAM CORPORATION INC
6. CHAINCODE LABS, INC
7. COINBASE
8. CYK

DEFENDANTS /
RESPONDENTS

ON CONSIDERING the submissions from the parties

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Dr Wright is ordered to pay COPA’s costs of opposing his applications for permission to appeal and to adduce further evidence, such costs being summarily assessed on the indemnity basis in the sum of £100,000.
2. Dr Wright is ordered to pay the Developers’ costs of opposing his applications for permission to appeal and to adduce further evidence, such costs being summarily assessed on the indemnity basis in the sum of £125,000.

REASONS

When opposing Dr Wright’s applications for permission to appeal and his ancillary applications to adduce further evidence, both COPA and the Developers applied for an order for their costs of doing so. I refused Dr Wright’s applications

by order dated 28 November 2024 (sealed 29 November 2024) but did not deal with COPA's and the Developers' applications. COPA and the Developers have subsequently requested that these applications be determined and have filed statements of costs. Dr Wright has not responded to these requests or made any submissions concerning the costs incurred. PD52C para 20(1) provides that there will normally be no order for the recovery of the costs of a respondent's written statement under para 19(1). COPA and the Developers contend that the present case is exceptional, and that Dr Wright ought to be ordered to pay their costs of responding to his applications assessed on the indemnity basis. I agree for the following reasons. First, Dr Wright's applications for permission to appeal were wholly without merit. Secondly, Dr Wright's applications for permission to adduce further evidence had no merit even if they did not quite reach the "wholly without" level. Thirdly, the volume and complexity of Dr Wright's documents was exceptional, wholly unnecessary, and wholly disproportionate. This was compounded by the fact that many of them were refiled repeatedly in different versions. Fourthly, Dr Wright improperly used AI to prepare his submissions, which risked significantly misleading the Court. Fifthly, the submissions filed by COPA and the Developers were of significant assistance to the Court. Lastly, there is reason to believe that Dr Wright pursued his applications in part for ulterior motives, and in particular in support of his publicity campaign.

Even though assessment on the indemnity basis is appropriate, it does not follow that Dr Wright should be ordered to pay the full amounts claimed, particularly since there was a degree of duplication between COPA and the Developers. COPA claim £122,343.40 and I consider that the appropriate sum is £100,000. The Developers claim £146,341.50 and I consider that the appropriate sum is £125,000.

BY THE COURT