

07-552 SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS V. APCC SERVICES, INC.

DECISION BELOW: 489 F3d 1249

LOWER COURT CASE NUMBER: 04-7034, 04-7035

QUESTION PRESENTED:

Federal regulations require petitioner telephone companies to make certain payments to the owners of payphones ("payphone service providers" or "PSPs"). This case arises from the PSPs' assignments to other companies - respondents here - of the right to litigate their dispute with petitioners over the amount of compensation. After the PSPs assigned their claims to respondents "for purposes of collection" and agreed to finance the litigation, respondents sued petitioners "on behalf of" the PSPs. Under the assignments, respondents can gain or lose nothing from the outcome of the case because all the proceeds will go to the PSPs. A divided panel of the D.C. Circuit nonetheless held that respondents have standing to sue petitioners. The question presented is:

Whether the assignment of a claim "for purposes of collection" confers standing on assignees which have no personal stake in the case and which avowedly litigate only "on behalf of" the assignors.

EXPEDITED BRIEFING SCHEDULE

CERT. GRANTED 1/4/2008