

Del. Jury Awards AI Co. \$23M In Trade Secret Case

By **Adam Lidgett**

Law360 (May 21, 2026, 4:50 PM EDT) -- A Delaware state jury has awarded artificial intelligence software developer C3.ai \$23.3 million in its suit accusing engine manufacturer Cummins Inc. of misappropriating its trade secrets.

Jurors returned their **verdict** on Tuesday in favor of C3, finding that Cummins, an Indiana company that supplies engines for Dodge Ram trucks, misappropriated five out of six of the trade secrets at issue.

Of those five, the jury awarded \$2 million each for four of the trade secrets and \$15.3 million for the fifth.

The jury also found that C3 proved Cummins breached a master subscription and services agreement that the parties had between 2021 and 2023 by misappropriating the trade secrets, but didn't award damages there.

And while the jury said Cummins showed that C3 also breached the agreement by deleting certain software and data, it didn't show that C3 breached the agreement by not sufficiently transferring knowledge. No damages were awarded there either.

C3 said in **its suit** that it was hired by Cummins in 2020 to build "an AI application for Cummins that dramatically reduced fuel consumption in its diesel truck engines." Three years later, Cummins terminated that deal and shortly after debuted "its own AI-driven fuel optimization and prognostic tool," according to court filings.

C3 CEO and chairman Thomas M. Siebel said in a statement that the company was happy with the jury's verdict.

"We placed our faith in the United States justice system, and the justice system worked," he said. "The jurors heard the evidence, applied the law, and unanimously concluded that Cummins misappropriated C3 AI's trade secrets. This verdict is a rebuke of Cummins' actions that reflect poorly on Cummins' executive management."

Cummins said in a statement to Law360 on Thursday that it "respects the jury's role and the legal process but disagrees with the outcome of the case," and that it stood by its "commitment to conduct business with integrity and respect of the law."

C3 is represented by Mark Klapow, Joanna Forster, Mark Supko, Keith Harrison, Joachim Steinberg, Hefeng Su, Elissa Tanenbaum, Anthony Sciuto and Kaylah Alexander of Crowell & Moring LLP, and John A. Sensing of Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP.

Cummins is represented by Ronald C. Machen, Joshua H. Lerner, Sarah R. Frazier, James Bor-Zale, Thais Ridgeway and Nicholas Werle of WilmerHale, Frederick L. Cottrell III, Katharine L. Mowery and Alexandra M. Ewing of Richards Layton & Finger PA, and Stephen J. Kraftschik of Polsinelli PC.

The case is C3.ai Inc. v. Cummins Inc., case number N23C-11-106, before the Supreme Court of the State of Delaware.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.

