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SUPREME COURT

When A Line Becomes A Curve

Supreme Court Unravels The Copyright–Design Knot

Sheikh Rayees • April 16, 2025

PUBLISHED REPORT

In a long-awaited ruling, the Supreme Court has cracked open one of the thorniest debates in intellectual property law—where copyright ends and design law begins—especially under the shadowy corners of Section 15(2) of the Copyright Act. This section, little more than a footnote in many legal textbooks, has long stirred confusion: what happens when an "artistic work" is transformed into a mass-produced design? When does copyright protection bow out, and...

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