Antitrust Litigation Over da Vinci Instrument Repair: Status and Implications for Urology

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Background

Intuitive Surgical's da Vinci platform performs most robotic soft-tissue surgery in the United States, including most radical prostatectomies and partial nephrectomies. EndoWrist instruments carry a programmed use limit, and Intuitive's service contracts have barred third-party repair.

Since 2021, an independent servicer, a class of hospitals, and a second repair company have each sued, alleging that these practices violate federal antitrust law. Worldwide da Vinci procedure volume still grew 17% in 2024.

Objective

To summarize the status of the three EndoWrist antitrust cases as of October 2026 and consider what they mean for urologic practice.

Methods

We reviewed court opinions and dockets, Intuitive SEC filings through Q2 2026, and legal trade press. Information is current as of October 6, 2026.

Implications for Urology

- Hugo and Versius hold little market share, so Intuitive's instrument and service pricing passes directly into the cost of robotic prostatectomy and partial nephrectomy.
- A plaintiff win could open a lawful market for refurbished EndoWrists. A defense win would leave current pricing in place.
- The FTC's amicus brief places surgical robots in the broader right-to-repair debate.

Findings

In August 2026 the Ninth Circuit reversed a mid-trial judgment for Intuitive in the SIS case and sent it back for a new trial. The hospital class action is set for a jury trial in September 2027. Restore Robotics' suit over X/Xi instruments was dismissed in 2025 and is on appeal.

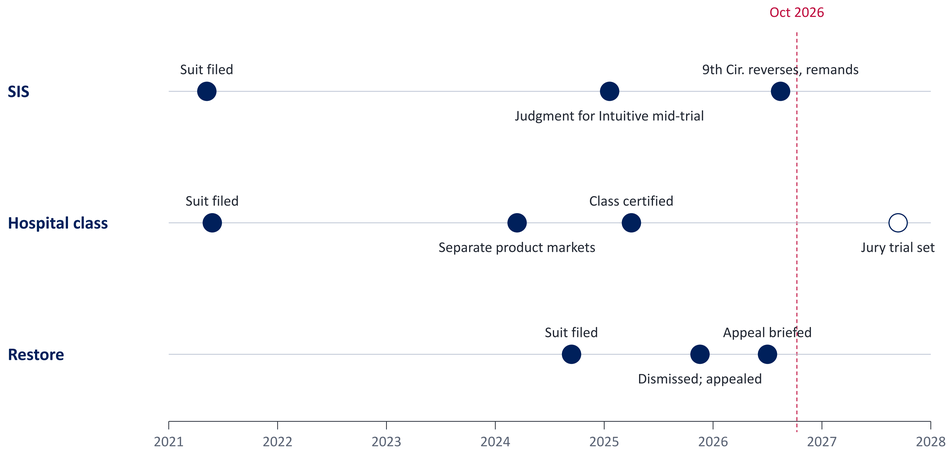

Figure 1. Key events in the three EndoWrist antitrust cases. Open circle, scheduled event; dashed line, October 2026.

Table 1. Case status as of October 2026.

Case	Plaintiff	Court	Status
SIS v. Intuitive	Independent servicer; sought $140M ($420M trebled)	N.D. Cal.; 9th Cir.	Reversed and remanded, Aug 13, 2026
In re Da Vinci Surgical Robot Antitrust Litig.	Hospitals that bought service or EndoWrists, 2017–2021	N.D. Cal.	Class certified Mar 2025; jury trial set Sep 14, 2027
Restore Robotics v. Intuitive	Repair company (X/Xi instruments)	N.D. Fla.; 11th Cir.	Dismissed Nov 2025; appeal fully briefed Jul 2026

Policy Recommendations

1. Support federal right-to-repair legislation that lets qualified third parties service robotic instruments under FDA oversight.
2. Ask FDA to clarify the pathway for remanufacturing instruments and resetting use limits.
3. Require disclosure of instrument use limits and service-contract terms to hospital purchasers.
4. Develop an AUA position on surgical device repair and instrument cost.

Open Questions

- On remand, can SIS prove an EndoWrist repair aftermarket to a jury?
- Will the Eleventh Circuit revive Restore's claims?
- If the hospital class settles, will instrument and service prices fall?

References

1. Surgical Instrument Service Co. v. Intuitive Surgical, No. 25-1372 (9th Cir. Aug 13, 2026).
2. In re Da Vinci Surgical Robot Antitrust Litigation (N.D. Cal.).
3. Restore Robotics Repairs v. Intuitive Surgical, No. 25-14202 (11th Cir.).
4. Intuitive Surgical, Inc. Form 10-Q, Q2 2026.