

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Matter of:)
)
Maureen L. Stretch,)
)
Respondent)
_____)

Proceeding No. D2013-03

FINAL ORDER PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 11.24

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.24, the suspension of Maureen L. Stretch (“Respondent”) is hereby ordered for violation of 37 C.F.R. §§ 10.23(a) and (b), via 37 CFR § 10.23(c)(5).¹

Background

On October 2, 2012, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts issued an Order of Term Suspension and Summary in *In re: Maureen Stretch* (No. BD-2012-091), suspending Respondent for six months from the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on ethical grounds.

On May 31, 2013, a “Notice and Order Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.24” (“Notice and Order”) mailed by certified mail (receipt no. 70113500000314482265) notified Respondent that the Deputy General Counsel for Enrollment and Discipline and Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline (“OED Director”) had filed an “Amended Complaint for Reciprocal Discipline Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.24” (“Complaint”) requesting that the Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO” or “Office”)

¹ The Agency has initiated disciplinary proceedings against Respondent for violating 10.23(a) and (b), via 37 CFR § 10.23(c)(5) when she was disciplined by a duly constituted authority of a State (here, Massachusetts). New disciplinary rules became effective May 3, 2013. However, since the alleged conduct occurred prior to May 3, 2013 the USPTO Code of Professional Responsibility in effect at that time is applicable. Thus, reciprocal discipline against Respondent is unaffected.

impose reciprocal discipline upon Respondent identical to the discipline imposed by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in *In re: Maureen Stretch* (No. BD-2012-091). The Notice and Order was delivered to Respondent on June 4, 2013.

The Notice and Order provided Respondent an opportunity to file, within forty (40) days, a response opposing, based on one or more of the reasons provided in 37 C.F.R. § 11.24(d)(1), the imposition of reciprocal discipline identical to that imposed by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. More than forty days have passed and Respondent has not filed a response to the Notice and Order.

Analysis

In light of Respondent's failure to file a response, it is hereby determined that there is no genuine issue of material fact under 37 C.F.R. § 11.24(d) and suspension of Respondent is the appropriate discipline.

ACCORDINGLY, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. Respondent be suspended from the practice of patent, trademark, and other non-patent law before the USPTO for six months starting on the effective date of this Final Order;
2. The OED Director publish the following Notice in the Official Gazette:

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION

This Notice concerns Maureen L. Stretch of Medway, Massachusetts, who is registered to practice before the USPTO (Registration No. 29,447). In a reciprocal disciplinary proceeding, the Acting Director of the USPTO has ordered that Ms. Stretch be suspended for six months from practice before the USPTO in patent, trademark, and other non-patent law matters for violating 37 CFR §§ 10.23(a) and (b), via 37 CFR § 10.23(c)(5), predicated upon being suspended for six months from the practice of law by a duly constituted authority of a State.

On October 2, 2012, the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in *In re: Maureen Stretch* (No. BD-2012-091), ordered that Respondent be suspended from the practice of law for six (6) months for: i) holding herself out orally, on letterhead, and in billings as an attorney with an office in Massachusetts without

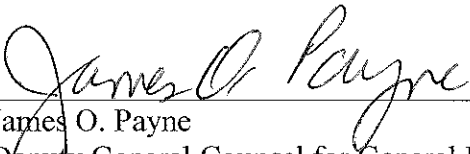
any limitation to the area of patent law and without any disclosure that she was not permitted to practice law in Massachusetts, after being administratively suspended, in violation of Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct 3.4 (c), 7.1, 7.5(a) and 8.4(c), (d), and (h); ii) failing to adequately respond to her client's inquiries and to keep her client reasonably informed about the status of her case, in violation of Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4; iii) misrepresenting to her client that she was licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and failing to inform her client that she was administratively suspended, in violation of Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4, 7.1, and 8.4(c) and (h); iv) failing to diligently monitor the status of her client's patent application, in violation of Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 and 1.3; v) informing her client that the USPTO had made a mistake in deeming the application abandoned, and failing to inform her client that Respondent had failed to pay the appropriate fee, in violation of Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4 and 8.4(c) and (h); and vi) failing to comply with her client's request to timely turn over the client's file and failing to take reasonable steps to protect her client's interests upon discharge, including the failure to cooperate with a request for the preparation of an affidavit, in violation of Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct 1.16(d) and (e) and 8.4(h).

This action is taken pursuant to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 32 and 37 C.F.R. § 11.24. Disciplinary decisions involving practitioners are posted for public reading at the Office of Enrollment and Discipline's Reading Room available at: <http://e-foia.uspto.gov/Foia/OEDReadingRoom.jsp>.

3. The OED Director give notice pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.59 of the public discipline and the reasons for the discipline to disciplinary enforcement agencies in the state(s) where Respondent is admitted to practice, to courts where Respondent is known to be admitted, and to the public;
4. The USPTO dissociate Respondent's name from any Customer Numbers and the public key infrastructure ("PKI") certificate associated with those Customer Numbers;
5. Respondent shall not apply for a USPTO Customer Number, shall not obtain a USPTO Customer Number, nor shall she have her name added to a USPTO Customer Number, unless and until she is reinstated to practice before the USPTO; and
6. Such other and further relief as the nature of this cause shall require be granted.

JUL 29 2013

Date


James O. Payne
Deputy General Counsel for General Law
United States Patent and Trademark Office

on behalf of

Teresa Stanek Rea
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for
Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the
United States Patent and Trademark Office