

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Steven S. Hanagami,)	
)	Proceeding No. D2015-17
Respondent)	
_____)	

FINAL ORDER PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 11.26

The Deputy General Counsel for Enrollment and Discipline and the Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline ("OED Director") for the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO" or "Office") and Steven S. Hanagami ("Respondent") have submitted a "Proposed Settlement of Disciplinary Matter Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.26" ("Agreement") to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and USPTO Director for approval.

The Agreement, which resolves all disciplinary action by the USPTO arising from the stipulated facts set forth below, is hereby approved. This Final Order sets forth the parties' stipulated facts, legal conclusions, and sanctions found in the Agreement.

Jurisdiction

At all times relevant hereto, Respondent of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, has been a registered practitioner (Registration No. 59,734) and subject to the USPTO Code of Professional Responsibility set forth at 37 C.F.R. § 10.20 *et seq.* and the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct set forth at 37 C.F.R. § 11.101 *et seq.*

The USPTO Director has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 2(b)(2)(D) and 32 and 37 C.F.R. § 11.19.

Stipulated Facts

1. Respondent of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, is a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 59,734). He was first registered as a patent attorney on December 4, 2006.
2. Respondent was admitted to the State Bar of California ("California bar") on June 16, 1993.
3. In order to remain an active member of the California bar, Respondent was required to complete a minimum of 25 hours of mandatory continuing legal education ("MCLE") during the period of February 1, 2009, through January 31, 2012 (the "compliance period").

4. Respondent did not practice law from August 1, 2009, to July 6, 2010.
5. On February 14, 2012, Respondent tardily reported to the California bar that he was in compliance with the MCLE requirements, and, in particular, that he had completed his MCLE during the compliance period.
6. Respondent affirmed to the California bar that he believed in good faith that he was required to meet only a proportional MCLE requirement of 9 hours because he had not practiced law for the portion of the compliance period that he was on inactive status. However, because Respondent did not enroll himself as “inactive” with the California bar, he remained obligated to complete the full 25 hours of MCLE.
7. When Respondent reported to the California bar that he was in compliance, he knew he had only completed 9 hours of MCLE within the compliance period. The California bar found that, by reporting to the State Bar that Respondent was in compliance with the MCLE requirements when he knew he was not, Respondent “committed an act involving moral turpitude, dishonesty or corruption in wilful violation of Business and Professions Code, section 6106.”
8. On or about September 25, 2013, the State Bar Court of California ordered that Respondent be suspended from the California bar for thirty (30) days. Respondent’s suspension was effective from April 23, 2014, through May 23, 2014.
9. Respondent was reinstated to active status in California on May 23, 2014, and Respondent is currently a member in good standing of the California bar.

Joint Legal Conclusion

10. Respondent acknowledges that, based on the information contained in the Stipulated Facts, above, Respondent’s acts and omissions violated the following provisions of the USPTO Code of Professional Responsibility: Respondent violated 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(h) by being publicly disciplined on ethical or professional misconduct grounds by the State Bar Court of California on or about September 25, 2013.

Sanctions

11. Respondent agreed, and it is ORDERED that:
 - a. Respondent shall be, and hereby is, suspended from practice before the Office in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters for thirty (30) days commencing on the date of this Final Order;
 - b. The USPTO shall promptly dissociate Respondent’s name from all USPTO Customer Numbers and Public Key Infrastructure (“PKI”) certificates;

- c. Respondent shall not apply for or obtain a USPTO Customer Number or a PKI certificate unless and until he is reinstated to practice before the USPTO;
- d. The OED Director shall comply with 37 C.F.R. § 11.59;
- e. The OED Director shall electronically publish the Final Order at the OED's electronic FOIA Reading Room, which is publicly accessible through the Office's website at: <http://e-foia.uspto.gov/Foia/OEDReadingRoom.jsp>;
- f. The OED Director shall publish a notice in the *Official Gazette* that is materially consistent with the following:

Notice of Suspension

This notice concerns Steven S. Hanagami of Rancho Santa Margarita, California, a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 59,734) who is currently admitted to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO" or "Office"). The USPTO Director has suspended Mr. Hanagami from practice before the Office in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters for thirty (30) days.

Mr. Hanagami violated 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(h) by being suspended between April 23, 2014 and May 23, 2014, from the practice of law in California on ethical grounds. Mr. Hanagami was reinstated to the practice of law in California on May 23, 2014.

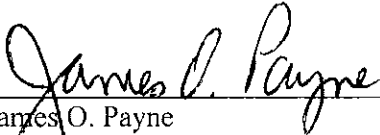
This action is the result of a settlement agreement between Mr. Hanagami and the OED Director pursuant to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 2(b)(2)(D) and 32 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.19, 11.26, and 11.59. Disciplinary decisions involving practitioners are posted at OED's electronic FOIA Reading Room, which is publicly accessible through the Office's website at: <http://e-foia.uspto.gov/Foia/OEDReadingRoom.jsp>.

- g. Nothing in this Agreement or the Final Order shall prevent the Office from considering the record of this disciplinary proceeding, including the Final Order: (1) when addressing any further complaint or evidence of the same or similar misconduct concerning Respondent brought to the attention of the Office; (2) in any future disciplinary proceeding against Respondent (i) as an aggravating factor to be taken into consideration in determining any discipline to be imposed, and/or (ii) to rebut any statement or representation by or on Respondent's behalf; and

- h. The OED Director and Respondent shall each bear their own costs incurred to date and in carrying out the terms of this Agreement and the Final Order.

MAR 17 2015

Date


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

on behalf of

Michelle K. Lee
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

cc:

OED Director

Mr. Paul J. Virgo
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