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

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In the Matter of

Michael A. Essien,

Respondent

Proceeding No. D2018-46

FINAL ORDER

The Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline ("OED Director") for the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO" or "Office") and Mr. Michael A. Essien ("Respondent") have submitted a Proposed Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("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' joint stipulated facts, joint legal conclusions, and agreed upon sanctions found in the Agreement.

Jurisdiction

1. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent of St. Paul, Minnesota, has been an attorney registered to practice before the USPTO and is subject to the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct, which are set forth at 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.101 et seq.

2. 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, 11.20, and 11.26.

Joint Stipulated Facts

3. Respondent of St. Paul, Minnesota, was registered by the USPTO as a patent agent on February 4, 2002, and registered by the USPTO as a patent attorney on July 12, 2002.

4. Respondent's registration number is 50,534.

5. Respondent is admitted to practice law in Minnesota.

6. Respondent was retained by a client to file a non-provisional patent application.

7. After the application was filed, the USPTO sent to Respondent a Notice to File Corrected Application Papers in the application, noting that the drawings were required to be free from alterations, overwriting, or other marks.

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8. Respondent filed corrected drawings and a fee worksheet reflecting a fee of \$750 for a five-month extension of the deadline to file corrected drawings.

9. The USPTO's records show that a few days after the corrected drawings and fee were filed, an electronic funds transfer was received in the amount of \$750 from a "Business Checking" account in the name of "Essien Law Office PLLC."

10. A few days after Respondent attempted to pay the \$750 extension fee in the application, the \$750 payment for the extension fee was rejected by the USPTO for insufficient funds.

11. At the time that Respondent submitted the \$750 extension fee in the application, Respondent knew, or should have known, that he did not have sufficient funds in his bank account to cover the amount of the extension fee in the application.

12. On the day that Respondent attempted to pay the \$750 extension fee in the application, Respondent only had \$215.61 in his bank account.

13. Accordingly, the USPTO sent a Notice of Incomplete Reply in the application to Respondent, in which the USPTO notified Respondent that the \$750 payment had been rejected for insufficient funds.

14. Respondent did not correct the insufficient funds payment in the application.

15. Because no complete and timely reply was received by the USPTO in response to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers in the application, *i.e.*, the \$750 extension fee was not paid in the application, the USPTO mailed a Notice of Abandonment in the application.

16. Respondent did not file a petition for revival of an abandoned application until approximately 11 months after the Notice of Abandonment was mailed therein.

17. Respondent acknowledges that the insufficient funds payment was his error. However, Respondent did not take steps to correct this error for over 11 months.

18. Respondent did not notify his client about the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers in the application until approximately 18 months after the Notice was sent in the application.

19. Respondent did not notify his client about the notice of insufficient funds in the application until approximately 11 months after the notice was issued in the application.

20. Respondent did not notify his client about the Notice of Incomplete Reply in the application until approximately 11 months after the Notice was sent in the application.

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21. Respondent did not notify his client about the Notice of Abandonment in the application until approximately 11 months after the Notice of Abandonment was sent in the application.

22. In the 11 months subsequent to the Notice of Abandonment in the application, Respondent did not advise or communicate with his client as to the status of the application, what had occurred in the application, or what actions should be taken to revive the abandoned application.

23. In the 11 months subsequent to the Notice of Abandonment in the application, Respondent did not take any action to file a petition for revival of an abandoned application in the application.

24. Approximately 11 months subsequent to the Notice of Abandonment, when Respondent did inform his client about the application, he merely stated that he had made a mistake in the application and that he would correct his error. However, he failed to inform the client about the exact nature of what had occurred in the application, including that an extension fee payment was returned for insufficient funds in his account and that the application had been abandoned for approximately 11 months.

25. In the 11 months subsequent to the Notice of Abandonment in the application and subsequent to filing the petition for revival of an abandoned application, Respondent did not advise his client as to the significance of the abandonment of an application, the standard for filing a petition for revival of an abandoned application, the significance of patent term adjustment, or how his actions and delay in the application may affect the application.

26. Respondent represents the following:

- a. Respondent now understands the seriousness of his actions and inactions.
- b. Respondent will take at least one continuing education class to ensure that he does not make similar mistakes again.

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- c. Respondent has since synchronized his docketing system with his USPTO Public Key Infrastructure ("PKI") certificate and customer number in order for pending applications and response dates to be entered in his docketing system.
- d. Respondent has consulted with his bank in an attempt to prevent future payments being returned for insufficient funds, to ensure payments are covered by his account in the event of future banking errors on his part, and to fully reconcile his bank account.
- e. Respondent has been a registered patent practitioner for 16 years and has not been the subject of professional discipline in that past.

- f. Respondent has taken responsibility for his actions and violations of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct.
- g. Respondent contends that the violations set forth herein were the result of an isolated instance of poor financial management and neglect.
- h. Respondent asserts that he had no intention to violate the rules of professional conduct.
- i. Respondent has expressed remorse for his mistakes.

Joint Legal Conclusions

27. Respondent admits that based on the above joint stipulated facts, he violated the following provisions of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct:

- a. 37 C.F.R. § 11.101 (failing to provide competent representation to a client) by, *inter alia*, failing to notify the client of the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers, the notice of insufficient funds, the Notice of Incomplete Reply, and Notice of Abandonment; failing to properly respond to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers; failing to respond to the notice of insufficient funds and Notice of Incomplete Reply; allowing the application to become abandoned without the client's consent; failing to take steps to revive the abandoned application; failing to explain to the client the significance of the abandoned application; failing to explain to the client the standard for filing a petition for revival of an abandoned application; failing to explain to the client the significance of the client the significance of patent term adjustment; and failing to explain to the client how his actions and delay in the application may affect the application;
- b. 37 C.F.R. § 11.103 (failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client) by, *inter alia*, failing to notify the client of the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers for approximately 18 months; failing to notify the client of the notice of insufficient funds for approximately 11 months; failing to notify the client of the Notice of Incomplete Reply for approximately 11 months; failing to notify the client of the Notice of Abandonment for approximately 11 months; failing to properly respond to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers; failing to respond to the notice of insufficient funds; failing to respond to the notice of approximately 11 months; failing to respond to the Notice of Incomplete Reply; allowing the application to become abandoned without the client's consent; and failing to take steps to revive the abandoned application for approximately 11 months after the abandonment thereof;
- c. 37 C.F.R. § 11.104 (failing to keep the client reasonably informed about the status of the client's matter) by, *inter alia*, failing to inform the client about the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers for approximately 18 months; failing to inform the client of the notice of insufficient funds for

approximately 11 months; failing to inform the client about the Notice of Incomplete Reply for approximately 11 months; failing to inform the client about the Notice of Abandonment for approximately 11 months; failing to inform the client of what actions had occurred in the application; and failing to inform the client of the correct status of the application for approximately 11 months, while allowing the client to believe that everything was okay with the application;

- d. 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(c) (engaging in conduct involving misrepresentation) by, *inter alia*, failing to inform the client about the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers for approximately 18 months; failing to notify the client of the notice of insufficient funds for approximately 11 months; failing to notify the client about the Notice of Incomplete Reply for approximately 11 months; failing to notify the client about the Notice of Abandonment for approximately 11 months; failing to inform the client of the correct status of the application for approximately 11 months while allowing the client to believe that everything was okay with the application, and even when he did inform his client about the application, failing to explain the exact nature of what had occurred in the application, including failing to explain that the extension fee payment was returned for insufficient funds in his account and that the application had been abandoned for approximately 11 months, and only stating to the client that he had made a mistake in the application and that he would correct his error; and/or
- e. 37 C.F.R. §11.804(d) (engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice) by, *inter alia*, submitting a \$750 extension fee payment to the USPTO in the application when Respondent knew, or should have known, that he did not have sufficient funds in his bank account at the time that he submitted the payment to the USPTO in the application.

Additional Considerations

28. Respondent has recently notified the client of the actions that occurred in the application and has taken corrective action regarding the abandoned application.

29. Respondent has not been previously disciplined in 16 years of practice.

30. Respondent has accepted responsibility for his actions.

31. Respondent recognizes the seriousness of his actions and has expressed remorse for it and for its possible detrimental effect on his client.

32. Respondent has provide full and fair disclosures to OED during OED's investigation into his conduct.

Agreed Upon Sanction

- 33. Respondent freely and voluntarily agrees, and it is hereby ORDERED that:
 - a. Respondent is suspended from practice before the Office in patent, trademark and other non-patent matters for thirty (30) days, which shall commence fourteen (14) days after the date that this Final Order is signed;
 - b. During his suspension, Respondent shall not engage in the practice of patent, trademark or other non-patent law as defined by 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.5(b)(1) and 11.5(b)(2);
 - c. Respondent shall serve an eighteen (18) month probationary period commencing on the date this Final Order is signed;
 - d. Respondent, during his probationary period, shall submit a written report to the OED Director every 6 months (*i.e.*, at 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months) commencing from the date this Final Order is signed, and the report shall provide the following information:
 - (1) the identity by application number of each U.S. patent application entrusted to Respondent to prosecute in which the Office notified Respondent that a payment he made in a U.S. patent application was not honored based on insufficient funds in his bank account, or where Respondent learned from any of his financial institutions or other sources that a payment he made in a U.S. patent application was not honored based on insufficient funds in his account;
 - (2) whether, how, and when Respondent reported the notice of insufficient funds to the client;
 - (3) documentary evidence corroborating that Respondent reported, in writing, the notice of insufficient funds payment to the client;
 - (4) the actions Respondent communicated to the client he would take to rectify the insufficient funds payment in the application and the actions Respondent took to rectify the insufficient funds payment in the application;
 - (5) documentary evidence corroborating the actions Respondent took to rectify the insufficient funds payment in the application;
 - (6) the identity by application number of each U.S. utility patent application entrusted to Respondent to prosecute in which the Office issued during the probationary period a Notice of Abandonment predicated on the failure to file a timely, complete, and/or proper response to any Office communication, including, but not limited to a non-final Office Action, a

final Office Action, an Office Advisory Action, and a Notice of Allowance;

- (7) whether, how, and when Respondent reported the Office communication to the client prior to the application becoming abandoned;
- (8) documentary evidence corroborating that Respondent reported the Office communication to the client prior to the application becoming abandoned (*e.g.*, copies of the correspondence to the client about the Office communication);
- (9) whether, how, and when Respondent reported the Notice of Abandonment to the client;
- (10) whether, how, and when Respondent counseled the client about the abandonment of the application, including whether he counseled the client in adequate time to take appropriate action to avoid abandonment;
- (11) documentary evidence corroborating that Respondent reported the Notice of Abandonment to the client and counseled the client about it (*e.g.*, copies of the correspondence to the client about the Notice of Abandonment);
- (12) for each application where Respondent did not counsel the client about an Office communication in adequate time to take appropriate action to avoid abandonment, the identity of each application by application number and each client by full name and address and a detailed explanation as to why Respondent did not counsel the client about the Office communication in adequate time to take appropriate action to avoid abandonment; and
- (13) if no applications are reported under paragraph numbers (1)-(12) above in any reporting period, a statement that there are no such applications to report in that period.
- e. (1) If the OED Director is of the opinion that Respondent, during Respondent's probationary period, failed to comply with any provision of the Agreement, the Final Order, or any provision of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct, the OED Director shall:
 - (A) issue to Respondent an Order to Show Cause why the USPTO Director should not enter an order immediately suspending the Respondent for up to an additional five (5) months for the violations set forth in the Joint Legal Conclusions, above;
 - (B) send the Order to Show Cause to Respondent at the last address of record Respondent furnished to the OED Director pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.11(a); and

(C) grant Respondent fifteen (15) days to respond to the Order to Show Cause;

and

(2) in the event that after the 15-day period for response and consideration of the response, if any, received from Respondent, the OED Director continues to be of the opinion that Respondent, during the probationary period, failed to comply with any provision of the Agreement, this Final Order, or any provision of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct, the OED Director shall:

- (A) deliver to the USPTO Director or his designee: (i) the Order to Show Cause; (ii) Respondent's response to the Order to Show Cause, if any; and (iii) argument and evidence supporting the OED Director's position; and
- (B) request that the USPTO Director enter an order immediately suspending Respondent from practice before the USPTO for up to an additional five (5) months for the violations set forth in the Joint Legal Conclusions, above;
- f. Nothing in the Agreement or this Final Order shall prevent the Office from seeking discipline against Respondent pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.19 through 11.57 for any misconduct engaged in by Respondent prior to, during, or after his probationary period including that which formed the basis for an Order to Show Cause issued pursuant to the preceding paragraph "e" above, or which led to the imposition of a suspension pursuant to paragraph "e" above;
- g. In the event the USPTO Director takes any such action against Respondent pursuant to paragraph "e" above, and Respondent seeks a review of any such action taken pursuant to paragraph "e" above, such review shall not operate to postpone or otherwise hold in abeyance such action;
- h. Respondent shall: (1) within six (6) months from the date of this Final Order, enroll, complete and receive Continuing Legal Education credit under the Rules of the Minnesota State Bar for at least one course where the primary subject matters are (i) communication with clients and (ii) trust accounts, managing clients' money, and/or ethics and bank accounts, and (2) within seven (7) months from the date of this Final Order, provide the OED Director corroborating proof of successful completion of such a course, including:
 a) documentary evidence of his attendance and completion of such a course, b) a description of the content of the course for which credit was received, and c) a copy of all written materials provided to the course participants or other corroborating proof acceptable to the OED Director;

i. Respondent shall comply with 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.58 and 11.60 except as expressly addressed by the Agreement and this Final Order;

Respondent's Duties and Responsibilities Under 37 C.F.R. § 11.58

- j. Respondent shall have the following duties and responsibilities as a consequence of being suspended:
 - Respondent shall provide notice of his suspension to all State and Federal jurisdictions and administrative agencies to which the practitioner is admitted to practice as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(1)(ii);
 - (2) Respondent shall provide notice of his suspension to all clients the practitioner represents having immediate or prospective business before the Office as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(1)(ii), and shall make appropriate arrangements for legal services to be rendered on behalf of his clients, as appropriate, during the period of his suspension;
 - (3) Respondent shall provide notice of his suspension to the practitioners for all opposing parties (or, to the parties in the absence of a practitioner representing the parties) in matters pending before the Office as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(1)(iii);
 - (4) Respondent shall not hold himself out as authorized to practice law before the Office as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(3) until he is reinstated to practice before the Office; and
 - (5) Respondent shall not render legal advice or services to any person having immediate or prospective business before the Office as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(5) until he is reinstated to practice before the Office;

Duties and Responsibilities Respondent Does Not Have Unless a Petition for Reinstatement of Respondent is Not Granted Within 90 Days of the Final Order

- k. Respondent shall not have the following duties and responsibilities as a consequence of being suspended, unless a petition for reinstatement of Respondent is not granted within 90 days of the Final Order:
 - (1) Respondent does not have to file a notice of withdrawal in each pending application as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(1)(i);
 - (2) Respondent does not have to deliver to all clients documents as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(1)(iv);

- (3) Respondent does not have to relinquish to the client, or other practitioner designated by the client, all funds for practice before the Office, including any legal fees paid in advance that have not been earned and any advanced costs not expended as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(1)(v);
- (4) Respondent does not have to remove any telephone, legal or other directory advertisement, statement or representation as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(1)(vi);
- (5) Respondent does not have to change any existing advertising regarding his availability or ability to perform or render legal services for any person having immediate or prospective business before the Office as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(4); and
- (6) Respondent does not have to take steps to change any sign identifying Respondent's or the Respondent's firm's office and Respondent's or Respondent's firm's stationery to delete therefrom any advertisement, statement, or representation which would reasonably suggest that the practitioner is authorized to practice law before the Office as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(6);

Affidavit of Compliance Under 37 C.F.R. § 11.58

- 1. Respondent shall provide an affidavit of compliance in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(2), certifying that he has complied with the provisions of the Agreement and this Final Order. Appended to the affidavit shall be:
 - (1) a copy of each form of notice, the names and addresses of the clients, practitioners, courts, and agencies to which notices were sent, and all return receipts or returned mail received up to the date of the affidavit as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(2)(i); and
 - (2) a list of all other State, Federal, and administrative jurisdictions to which the practitioner is admitted to practice as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(2)(v);
- m. Respondent's affidavit need not append the following:
 - a schedule showing the location, title and account number of every bank account designated as a client or trust account, deposit account in the Office, or other fiduciary account, and of every account in which Respondent holds or held as of the entry date of the order any client, trust, or fiduciary funds for practice before the Office as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(2)(ii);

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- (2) a schedule describing Respondent's disposition of all client and fiduciary funds for practice before the Office in Respondent's possession, custody or control as of the date of the order or thereafter as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(2)(iii);
- (3) proof of the proper distribution of funds and the closing of such accounts as has been requested by the OED Director, including copies of checks and other instruments as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(2)(iv); or
- (4) an affidavit describing the precise nature of the steps taken to remove from any telephone, legal, or other directory any advertisement, statement, or representation which would reasonably suggest that the practitioner is authorized to practice patent, trademark, or other nonpatent law before the Office as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(b)(2)(vi);

No Limited Recognition

n. Because Respondent's suspension shall commence fourteen (14) days after the date that the Final Order is signed, Respondent shall not be granted limited recognition under 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(c);

Petition For Reinstatement Under 37 C.F.R. § 11.60

- o. Respondent shall not resume practice of patent, trademark, or other non-patent law before the Office until reinstated by order of the OED Director or the USPTO Director as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.60(a);
- p. After the term of Respondent's suspension and compliance with the applicable provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 11.58 as set forth in this Final Order, Respondent may file a petition for reinstatement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.60(b);
- q. Any petition for reinstatement shall be filed with the OED Director and shall be accompanied by the required fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.60(c);
- r. Upon filing of a petition for reinstatement by Respondent, such petition shall comply with the applicable provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.60(c)(1)-(3), and shall attest to his compliance with the applicable provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 11.58 set forth in this Final Order, including a sworn declaration that he has complied with 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(a) affirming that he has not engaged in the practice of patent, trademark law or other non-patent matters before the Office during his suspension;
- s. The OED does not have to publish a notice of Respondent's petition for reinstatement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.60(g);

Other Considerations

- t. Nothing in the 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; and/or (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/or (3) in connection with any request for reconsideration submitted by Respondent pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.60;
- u. The OED Director shall electronically publish the Final Order at OED's electronic FOIA Reading Room, which is publicly accessible at: http://e-foia.uspto.gov/Foia/OEDReadingRoom.jsp;
- v. The OED Director publish a notice in the *Official Gazette* that is materially consistent with the following:

Notice of Suspension and Probation

This notice regards Michael A. Essien of St. Paul, Minnesota, who is a registered patent practitioner (Registration No. 50,534). In settlement of a disciplinary proceeding, the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO" or "Office") has suspended Mr. Essien from practice before the Office in patent, trademark and non-patent matters for thirty (30) days and placed him on probation for eighteen (18) months from the date of the Final Order for violating 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.101 (competence); 11.103 (diligence); 11.104 (communication); 11.804(c) (engaging in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation); and 11.804(d) (engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice).

Mr. Essien is also required to take and complete a Continuing Legal Education course which meets certain requirements.

The suspension and probation are predicated upon Mr. Essien's violations of provisions of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct in connection with his providing patent services for a client. After the patent application was filed, the USPTO sent to Mr. Essien a Notice to File Corrected Application Papers in the application requiring corrected drawings. Mr. Essien filed corrected drawings and a fee of \$750 for a five-month extension of the deadline to file corrected drawings. A few days after the corrected drawings and fee were filed, an electronic funds transfer was received by the USPTO in the amount of \$750 from Mr. Essien's account. A few days thereafter, the \$750 payment for the extension fee was rejected by the USPTO for insufficient funds in Mr. Essien's account. At the time that Mr. Essien submitted the \$750 extension fee in the application, Mr. Essien knew, or should have known, that he did not have sufficient funds in his bank account to cover the amount of the extension fee in the application. Accordingly, the USPTO

sent a Notice of Incomplete Reply to Mr. Essien in the application, in which the USPTO notified him that the \$750 payment had been rejected for insufficient funds. Mr. Essien did not correct the insufficient funds payment in the application. Because no complete and timely reply was received by the USPTO in response to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers in the application, *i.e.*, the \$750 extension fee was not paid in the application, the USPTO mailed to Mr. Essien a Notice of Abandonment of the application.

Mr. Essien did not adequately or timely communicate with the client about the status of the application.

In reaching this settlement, the OED Director considered the following: (1) Mr. Essien has accepted responsibility for his actions; (2) Mr. Essien has expressed contrition and understands the seriousness of his actions and how his actions violated the USPTO disciplinary rules; (3) Mr. Essien has not been previously disciplined in 16 years of practice; and (4) Mr. Essien has provided full and fair disclosures to the Office of Enrollment and Discipline during the investigation of this matter.

This action is the result of a settlement agreement between Mr. Essien 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, 11.20, and 11.26. Disciplinary decisions involving practitioners are posted for public reading at the OED Reading Room, available at: http://e-foia.uspto.gov/Foia/OEDReadingRoom.jsp.

- w. Respondent waives the opportunity: (i) to seek reconsideration of the Final Order under 37 C.F.R. § 11.56, (ii) to have the Final Order reviewed under 37 C.F.R. § 11.57, and (iii) otherwise to appeal or challenge the Final Order in any manner; and
- x. The OED Director and Respondent shall each bear their own costs incurred to date and in carrying out the terms of the Agreement and this Final Order.

10/2/18 Date

Sarah T. Harris General Counsel United States Patent and Trademark Office

on delegation by

Andrei Iancu Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office cc:

OED Director U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Mr. Michael A. Essien Essien Law Office, PLLC 2147 University Avenue West, Suite 109 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55114

Mr. Michael A. Essien Essien Law Office, PLLC 245 Ruth Street North, Suite 201 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55119