

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

In the Matter of)	
)	
Christopher C. Anderson,)	Proceeding No. D2019-29
)	
Respondent)	
_____)	

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 Christopher C. Anderson (“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’ stipulated facts, legal conclusion, and sanctions.

Jurisdiction

1. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent of Naperville, Illinois is a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 64,269). Respondent is 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, 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.

Stipulated Facts

3. Respondent of Naperville, Illinois, is a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 64,269).
4. OED received information that the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission (“ARDC”) filed a Petition to Impose Discipline on Consent of Respondent with the Supreme Court of Illinois.
5. Respondent formerly worked as an associate and then as a partner at two large law firms in Chicago. While at both of those firms, Respondent intentionally inflated the time he claimed to have spent on client matters, knowing that the time recorded would be billed to the clients and that they would be asked to pay for the time he had not actually spent on their behalf.

6. In 2018, Respondent reported his misconduct to one of the leaders of his practice group. Following an investigation, Respondent's relationship with the firm ended, and both firms have since reported making refunds to the affected clients. The investigation, conducted by outside law and forensics firms, indicated no discernable pattern of time inflation and that had Respondent's billing records been subject to an audit then his inflation of time would not have been discovered.

7. Respondent represented that he not been previously disciplined, and he admitted to, accepted responsibility for, and expressed regret for his misconduct.

Legal Conclusions

8. Respondent acknowledges that, based on the information contained in the joint stipulated facts, above, Respondent's acts and omissions violated the following provisions of the USPTO Code of Professional Responsibility: 37 C.F.R. §§ 10.23(b)(4) (misconduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation) and 10.36 (excessive fees for legal services).

9. Respondent acknowledges that, based on the information contained in the joint stipulated facts, above, that Respondent's acts and omissions violated the following provisions of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct: 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.105(a) (prohibiting unreasonable fees) and 11.804(c) (misconduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation).

Agreed Sanction

10. Respondent agrees, and it is hereby ORDERED that:

- a. Respondent is hereby suspended from practice before the USPTO in patent, trademark and other non-patent matters for twelve (12) months commencing on the date of this Final Order;
- b. Respondent shall remain suspended from practice before the Office in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters until the OED Director grants a petition reinstating Respondent pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.60;
- c. The Respondent shall comply with 37 C.F.R. § 11.58;
- d. The OED Director shall comply with 37 C.F.R. § 11.59;
- e. The Respondent shall not apply for or obtain a USPTO Customer Number or a USPTO verified Electronic system account unless and until he is reinstated to practice before the USPTO;
- f. 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: <https://foiadocuments.uspto.gov/oed/>;

- g. The OED Director publish a notice in the *Official Gazette* that is materially consistent with the following:

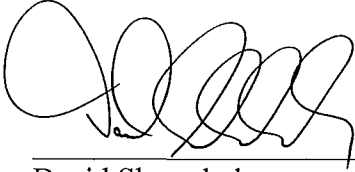
Notice of Suspension

This notice concerns Christopher C. Anderson of Naperville, Illinois, who is a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 64,269). The USPTO Director has suspended Mr. Anderson for one year for violating the following provisions of the USPTO Code of Professional Responsibility: 37 C.F.R. §§ 10.23(b)(4) (misconduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation) and 10.36 (excessive fees for legal services); and for violating the following provisions of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct: 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.105(a) (prohibiting unreasonable fees) and 11.804(c) (misconduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation). The violations are predicated on Mr. Anderson's practice at two large Chicago law firms where he inflated the time he claimed to spend on client matters over a period of several years.

This action is the result of a settlement agreement between Mr. Anderson 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 Office of Enrollment and Discipline Reading Room accessible at: <https://foiadocuments.uspto.gov/oed/>;

- h. Nothing in the Agreement or this 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 (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;
- i. The Respondent waives all rights to seek reconsideration of the Final Order under 37 C.F.R. § 11.56, waives the right to have the Final Order reviewed under 37 C.F.R. § 11.57, and waives the right otherwise to appeal or challenge the Final Order in any manner; and

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



David Shewchuk
Deputy General Counsel for General Law
United States Patent and Trademark Office

6 Jan 2020

Date

on delegated authority by

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

cc:

Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

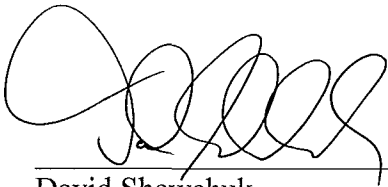
Christopher C. Anderson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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David Shewchuk
Deputy General Counsel for General Law
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Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
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