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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Mark Alan McCormick,	)	Proceeding No. D2026-32
	)	
Respondent	)	
	)	

FINAL ORDER

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.27(b), the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO" or "Office") received for review and approval from the Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline ("OED Director") an Affidavit of Resignation Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.27 executed by Mark Alan McCormick ("Respondent") on June 11, 2026. Respondent submitted the three-page Affidavit of Resignation to the USPTO for the purpose of being excluded on consent pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.27.

For the reasons set forth herein, Respondent's Affidavit of Resignation shall be approved, and Respondent shall be excluded on consent from practice before the Office in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters commencing on the date of this Final Order.

Jurisdiction

Respondent of Olney, Illinois, is a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 53,295). Respondent is subject to the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct, 37 C.F.R. § 11.101 *et seq.*

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 2(b)(2)(D) and 32 and 37 C.F.R. § 11.27, the USPTO Director has the authority to approve Respondent's Affidavit of Resignation and to exclude Respondent on consent from the practice of patent, trademark, and other non-patent law before the Office.

Respondent's Affidavit of Resignation

Respondent acknowledges in his June 11, 2026 Affidavit of Resignation that:

1. His consent is freely and voluntarily rendered, and he is not being subjected to coercion or duress.

2. He is aware that, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.22, the OED Director opened an investigation of allegations that he violated the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct. The investigation revealed information, *inter alia*, about:

   a. Respondent's contract with an entity named "Westin & Locke," pursuant to which Respondent drafted patent applications and Office action responses but was told to have no contact with the entity's clients.
   b. Respondent's contact at the entity was not a registered patent practitioner.
   c. Respondent's contact at the entity filed all patent applications and communicated with all applicants and inventors.
   d. Respondent's contact at the entity used Respondent's signature and registration number on all her filings at the USPTO in patent matters.
   e. When the Westin & Locke entity disappeared, Respondent was contacted by an entity named For Sale By Inventor ("FSBI") to continue handling the pending patent applications filed by Westin & Locke and/or his contact at Westin & Locke.
   f. FSBI provided Respondent with drafting work on responses to Office actions.
   g. In total, Respondent drafted documents for over 100 patent applicants who were customers of Westin & Locke or FSBI.

3. Respondent is aware that the OED Director is of the opinion, based on this investigation, that he violated at least the following provisions of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct: 37 C.F.R. § 11.104 (Communication with clients); 37 C.F.R. § 11.504 (Professional independence of a practitioner); and/or 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(i) (It is professional misconduct to engage in other conduct that adversely reflects on the practitioner's fitness to practice before the USPTO).

4. Without admitting to violating any of the disciplinary rules of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct investigated by the OED Director, Respondent acknowledges that, if and when he applies for reinstatement under 37 C.F.R. § 11.60 to practice before the USPTO in

patent, trademark, and/or other non-patent matters, the OED Director will conclusively presume, for the purpose of determining the application for reinstatement, that:

(a) the facts regarding him in the investigation are true, and

(b) he could not have successfully defended himself against the allegations that he violated 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.104, 11.504, and 11.804(i).

5. Respondent has fully read and understands 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.5(b), 11.27, 11.58, 11.59, and 11.60, and is fully aware of the legal and factual consequences of consenting to exclusion from practice before the USPTO in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters.

6. Respondent consents to being excluded from practice before the USPTO in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters.

Exclusion on Consent

Based on the foregoing, the USPTO Director has determined that Respondent's Affidavit of Resignation complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 11.27(a). Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's Affidavit of Resignation shall be, and hereby is, approved;

2. Respondent shall be, and hereby is, excluded on consent from practice before the Office in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters commencing on the date of this Final Order;

3. The OED Director shall electronically publish the Final Order at the Office of Enrollment and Discipline's electronic FOIA Reading Room, which is publicly accessible at https://foiadocuments.uspto.gov/oed/;

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

Notice of Exclusion on Consent

This notice concerns Mark Alan McCormick, a registered patent attorney (Registration No. 53,295). The Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO" or "Office") has accepted Mr. McCormick's affidavit of resignation and ordered his exclusion on consent from practice before the Office in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters.

Mr. McCormick voluntarily submitted his affidavit at a time when a disciplinary investigation was pending against him by the Office of Enrollment and Discipline. The investigation concerned allegations that Mr. McCormick assisted others in the unauthorized practice of patent law before the USPTO. Mr. McCormick contracted with an entity named "Westin & Locke" to draft patent applications and Office action responses but was told to have no contact with the patent applicants and inventors. Mr. McCormick's contact at Westin & Locke was not a registered patent practitioner but filed all patent applications and communicated with all applicants and inventors. The contact used Mr. McCormick's signature and registration number on all the patent filings. When the Westin & Locke entity ceased operations, Mr. McCormick was then contacted by an entity named For Sale By Inventor ("FSBI") to continue handling the pending patent applications filed by Westin & Locke. FSBI provided Mr. McCormick with drafting work on responses to Office actions. In total, he drafted documents for over 100 patent applicants who were customers of Westin & Locke or FSBI.

While Mr. McCormick did not admit to violating any of the disciplinary rules of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct raised in the pending investigation, he acknowledged that, if and when he applies for reinstatement, the OED Director will conclusively presume, for the limited purpose of determining the application for reinstatement, that (i) the allegations and facts set forth in the OED investigation against him are true, and (ii) he could not have successfully defended himself against the allegations embodied in the opinion of the OED Director that he violated 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.104, 11.504, and 11.804(i).

This action is taken pursuant to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §§ 2(b)(2)(D) and 32, and 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.27 and 11.59. Disciplinary decisions involving practitioners are posted for public reading at the Office of Enrollment and Discipline Reading Room, available at: https://foiadocuments.uspto.gov/oed/;

5. Respondent shall comply fully with 37 C.F.R. § 11.58;

6. Respondent shall be granted limited recognition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(f)

for a period of 30 days to conclude work on behalf of a client on any matters pending before the

USPTO, and, if such work cannot be concluded, Respondent shall so advise the client so that the client may make other arrangements;

7. Effective the date of the expiration of the 30-day period of limited recognition granted to Respondent, the USPTO is authorized to disable or suspend any USPTO.gov accounts registered to Respondent as of the date of the Final Order (including all accounts that Respondent has ever established, sponsored, used in connection with any patent or trademark matter);

8. Respondent shall not apply for a USPTO verified Electronic System account, shall not obtain a USPTO verified Electronic System account, shall not be associated with another person's USPTO verified Electronic System account, nor shall he have his name added to a USPTO verified Electronic System account, unless and until he is reinstated to practice before the USPTO;

9. Immediately upon expiration of the 30-day period of limited recognition granted to Respondent, Respondent is prohibited from using, assessing, or assisting others in using or accessing any USPTO.gov account(s) or other USPTO filing systems for preparing or filing documents with the USPTO;

10. Until a petition seeking Respondent's reinstatement to practice before the USPTO is granted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.60, Respondent shall be prohibited, and the USPTO is authorized to disallow Respondent, from the following: (1) opening or activating any USPTO.gov account(s) to be used for preparing or filing documents with the USPTO; (2) applying for, or attempting to apply for any USPTO.gov account(s) to be used for preparing or filing documents with the USPTO; (3) being associated with another person's USPTO.gov account; (4) verifying, or attempting to verify, any other person's credentials in connection with

USPTO.gov account(s) to be used for preparing or filing documents with the USPTO; and (5) sponsoring or attempting to sponsor USPTO.gov account(s) to be used for preparing or filing documents with the USPTO;

11. Nothing herein shall obligate the USPTO to take action, *sua sponte*, to re-activate any USPTO.gov account disabled or suspended pursuant to this order; rather, it is Respondent's sole responsibility to initiate any such re-activation of any such USPTO.gov account; and

12. Respondent shall comply fully with 37 C.F.R. § 11.60 upon any request for reinstatement.

TRICIA CHOE Digitally signed by TRICIA CHOE Date: 2026.07.07 07:59:49 -04'00'

Tricia Choe
Associate General Counsel for General Law
United States Patent and Trademark Office

Date

on delegated authority by

John A. Squires
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Final Order was sent, on this day, to the parties in the manner indicated below:

Via first-class certified mail, return receipt requested:

Mr. Mark Alan McCormick
225 E. Main St.
Olney, IL 62450
Respondent

Via email:

Sydney O. Johnson
Senior Counsel for Enrollment and Discipline Litigation
Office of the Solicitor
[redacted]

Paul Nguyen-Ba
Senior Counsel for Patent and Trademark Disciplinary Matters
Office of Enrollment and Discipline
paul.nguyen-ba@uspto.gov

7/7/2026
Date

Sasha L Nicholson
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450