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

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Joseph Anthony Paparella,	)	Proceeding No. D2026-19
	)	
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 Joseph Anthony Paparella ("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 conclusions, and sanctions

Jurisdiction

1. At all times relevant hereto, Respondent of Grand Rapids, Michigan has been a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 56,577).

2. Respondent is subject to the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct, 37 C.F.R. § 11.101 *et seq.*

3. 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

4. On December 4, 2002, the State of Michigan authorized Respondent to practice law under License # P64848.

5. On February 8, 2005, Respondent was registered to practice as a patent attorney before the USPTO under Registration Number 56,577.

6. Respondent has not engaged in practice before the USPTO as defined by 37 C.F.R. § 11.5(b) for at least five years.

7. On August 30, 2024, in *People of the State of Michigan, v. Joseph Anthony Paparella*, Case No. 23-03822-FH, Respondent was convicted in the 17th Circuit Court of Kent County, Michigan of assault, without intending to inflict great bodily harm, in violation of Michigan Consolidated Law ("MCL") § 750.82, and reckless driving in violation of MCL § 257.626.

8. On September 12, 2025, in *In re Joseph Anthony Paparella, P 64848* (Case Nos. 25-22-AI and 25-26-JC), Respondent was suspended, on consent, by the State of Michigan Attorney Discipline Board from the practice of law for thirty (30) days, effective August 30, 2024, based upon his agreement that his criminal convictions in Case No. 23-03822-FH constituted professional misconduct.

Additional Considerations

9. For approximately twenty (20) years since his registration as a patent attorney, Respondent has never been the subject of a prior disciplinary action before the USPTO.

10. Respondent admitted to the State Bar of Michigan that his convictions for violations of MCL §§ 750.82 and 257.626 constituted professional misconduct when he agreed to a consent suspension with the State Bar, and he offered to resolve the USPTO investigation in a similar manner.

Joint Legal Conclusion

11. Respondent has acknowledged that, based on the information contained in the joint stipulated facts, above, his acts and omissions violated 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(h)(1) (being publicly disciplined on ethical or professional misconduct grounds by any duly constituted authority of a State) by being suspended for thirty (30) days from the practice of law in the State of Michigan in *In re Joseph Anthony Paparella, P 64848* (Case Nos. 25-22-AI and 25-26-JC) based upon Respondent's agreement that his criminal convictions by the 17th Circuit Court of Kent County, Michigan (Case No. 23-03822-FH), for assault, without intending to inflict great bodily harm, under MCL § 750.82, and reckless driving, under MCL § 257.626, constituted professional misconduct.

Agreed-Upon Sanction

12. Respondent freely and voluntarily agreed, and it is hereby ORDERED that:

a. Respondent is suspended from practice before the USPTO for thirty (30) days commencing on the date of this Final Order;

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

c. Respondent is not afforded limited recognition pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.58(f);

d. The OED Director shall comply with 37 C.F.R. § 11.59;

e. Respondent shall remain suspended from practice before the Office in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters until the OED Director grants Respondent's petition for reinstatement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.60;

f. Respondent's name shall be dissociated from any Customer Number(s) and Respondent shall not apply for, obtain, nor have his name added to a USPTO Customer Number unless and until he is reinstated to practice before the USPTO;

g. Effective the date this Final Order, the USPTO is hereby authorized to disable or suspend any USPTO.gov accounts registered to Respondent as of the date of this Final Order approving the Agreement (including all accounts that Respondent has ever established, sponsored, used in connection with any trademark matter);

h. 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;

i. Respondent is prohibited from using, accessing, 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;

j. Until a petition seeking Respondent's reinstatement to practice before the USPTO is granted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.60, Respondent is 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;

k. 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;

l. The OED Director shall electronically publish this 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/;

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

Notice of Suspension

This notice concerns Joseph Anthony Paparella of Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 56,577) and an attorney licensed in Michigan (License # P64848). Mr. Paparella is hereby suspended from practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office for thirty (30) days for violating 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(h)(1) (becoming publicly disciplined on professional misconduct grounds by a State), predicated on the State of Michigan Attorney Discipline Board suspending him from the practice of law for a period of thirty (30) days on professional misconduct grounds.

On September 12, 2025, in *In re Joseph Anthony Paparella, P 64848* (Case Nos. 25-22-AI and 25-26-JC) the State of Michigan Attorney Discipline Board suspended Mr. Paparella from the practice of law, on consent, based upon his agreement that his criminal convictions, by the 17th Circuit Court of Kent County, Michigan (Case No. 23-03822-FH) on August 30, 2024, for assault, without intending to inflict great bodily harm, under Michigan Consolidated Law ("MCL") § 750.82, and reckless driving, under MCL § 257.626, constituted professional misconduct.

This action is the result of a settlement agreement between Joseph Anthony Paparella and the Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline 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/;

n. Nothing in the Agreement or this Final Order shall prevent the Office from considering the record of this disciplinary proceeding, including this 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;

o. Respondent waives all rights to seek reconsideration of this Final Order under 37 C.F.R. § 11.56, waives the right to have this Final Order reviewed under 37 C.F.R. § 11.57, and waives the right otherwise to appeal or challenge this Final Order in any manner; and

p. Each party shall each bear their own costs incurred to date and in carrying out the terms of the Agreement and this Final Order.

TRICIA CHOE Digitally signed by TRICIA CHOE Date: 2026.07.10 10:49:06 -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. Joseph A. Paparella
Paparella & Associates
3878 Cascade Road. S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Respondent

Via email:

John Ferman
Associate Solicitor
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

7/10/2026
Date

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