

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Matter of:)
)
Norbert Stahl,) Proceeding No. D2024-12
)
Respondent)
_____)

FINAL ORDER PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 11.24

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.24, Norbert Stahl (“Respondent”) is hereby excluded from the practice of patent, trademark, and other non-patent law before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO” or “Office”), for violation of 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(h).

Background

On August 14, 2024, a “Notice and Order Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.24” (“Notice and Order”) was sent by certified mail (receipt nos. 70220410000250017463 and 70220410000250017470) notifying Respondent that the Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline (“OED Director”) had filed a “Complaint for Reciprocal Discipline Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.24” (“Complaint”) requesting that the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office impose reciprocal discipline upon Respondent identical to the discipline imposed by the October 18, 2023 Order of the Supreme Court of California in *In re Norbert Stahl on Discipline* (No. SBC-21-O-30853) disbarring Respondent from the practice of law in that jurisdiction on ethical grounds, effective November 17, 2023. The Notice and Order provided Respondent an opportunity to file, within forty (40) days, a response opposing the imposition of reciprocal discipline identical to that imposed by the October 18, 2023 Order of the Supreme Court of California in *In re Norbert Stahl on Discipline* (No. SBC-21-O-30853), based on one or more of the reasons

provided in 37 C.F.R. § 11.24(d)(1).

The Notice and Order was delivered to the Respondent, who signed but did not date the return receipt. The undated, signed return receipt for the Notice and Order was received by the USPTO on August 30, 2024. Respondent has not filed a response to the Notice and Order.

Analysis

In light of Respondent's failure to file a response, it is hereby determined that there is no genuine issue of material fact under 37 C.F.R. § 11.24(d) and Respondent's exclusion from the practice of patent, trademark and other non-patent matters before the USPTO is the appropriate discipline.

ACCORDINGLY, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. Respondent is excluded from the practice of patent, trademark, and other non-patent law before the USPTO;
2. The OED Director shall electronically publish the Final Order at OED's electronic FOIA Reading Room, which is publicly accessible at: <http://foiadocuments.uspto.gov>;
3. The OED Director publish a notice in the *Official Gazette* materially consistent with the following:

Notice of Exclusion

This notice concerns Norbert Stahl of San Carlos, California, who is a registered patent attorney (Registration Number 44,350). In a reciprocal disciplinary proceeding, the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has ordered that Mr. Norbert Stahl be excluded from practice before the USPTO in patent, trademark, and other non-patent matters for violating 37 C.F.R. § 11.804(h) predicated upon being disbarred from the practice of law by a duly constituted authority of a State.

By Order dated October 18, 2023, the Supreme Court of California disbarred Mr. Stahl in view of the findings and recommendations of the State Bar Court and having denied Mr. Stahl's Petition for Review. In support of the recommendations made to the Supreme Court of California, the State Bar

Court found Mr. Stahl culpable of six counts of misconduct for failing to obey a court order and to maintain respect due to the courts, by failing to timely advance fees to court-appointed discovery referees and failing to timely pay two sanctions orders, in violation of California Business and Professions Code, §§ 6103 and 6068(b), respectively; failing to report a judgment against him in favor of his prior patent clients, dated May 8, 2015, for breach of fiduciary duty, in violation of Business and Professions Code, § 6068(o)(2); seeking to mislead a judge, thereby engaging in an act of moral turpitude by misrepresentation, by knowingly making a false and misleading statement to a court in claiming not to have been served with the prior sanctions order, in violation of Business and Professions Code, §§ 6068(d) and 6106, respectively; and failing to update his membership address, after moving his office, in violation of Business and Professions Code, § 6068(j).

The State Bar Court also found that Mr. Stahl's misconduct was intentional, in that he evaded the civil discovery process with purpose, in a course of "unacceptable gamesmanship," and lied to the superior court about not having been served with an order for sanctions; and in that he had failed to update his state bar membership address, obfuscating his location.

This action is taken pursuant to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 32 and 37 C.F.R. § 11.24. Disciplinary decisions are available for public review at the Office of Enrollment and Discipline's FOIA Reading Room, located at: <https://foiadocuments.uspto.gov/oed/>;

4. The OED Director give notice of the public discipline, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.59, and the reasons for the discipline to disciplinary enforcement agencies in the state(s) where Respondent is admitted to practice, to courts where Respondent is known to be admitted, and to the public;

5. Respondent shall comply with the duties enumerated in 37 C.F.R. § 11.58;

6. The USPTO is hereby authorized to disable or suspend any USPTO.gov accounts registered to Respondent as of the date of this Final Order (including, but not limited to, all accounts that Respondent has ever established, sponsored, or used in connection with any patent, trademark, or other matter before the USPTO);

7. Respondent shall not apply for a USPTO verified Electronic System account, shall not obtain a 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;

8. 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;

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

10. 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.

Users, Shewchuk, David
Digitally signed by Users, Shewchuk, David
Date: 2024.10.16 08:42:17
-04'00'

Date

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

on delegated authority by

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

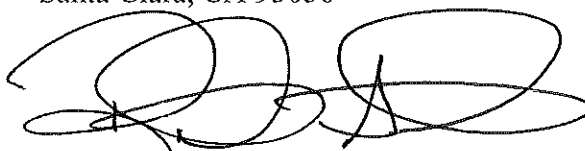
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Final Order pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.24 was mailed by first-class certified mail, return receipt requested, on this day to the Respondent at the most recent address provided to the OED Director pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.11(a):

Mr. Norbert Stahl
Stahl Law Firm
2 Meadowsweet Lane
San Carlos, CA 94070

and to where the OED Director reasonably believes Respondent receives mail:

Mr. Norbert Stahl
Stahl Law Firm
2010 El Camino Real 861
Santa Clara, CA 95050

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Norbert Stahl', written over a horizontal line.

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

10/18/2024
Date