

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

FIRST SOLAR, INC.

Petitioners, v.
ROVSHAN SADE,

Patent Owner.

Case IPR2023-00881
U.S. Patent No. 9,917,546 Title: Solar Tracker

**DECLARATION OF SUSAN FREYA OLIVE
IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION PRO HAC VICE
AS BACK-UP COUNSEL ON BEHALF OF PATENT OWNER**

Susan Freya Olive, being first warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both (18 U.S.C. 1001) and may jeopardize the validity of any application or patent issuing thereon, declares:

1. I am a member in good standing of the Bar of the State of North Carolina, with bar membership #7252, first admitted to practice in 1976 before the Supreme Court of North Carolina and all state courts within North Carolina.
2. Other courts before which I am admitted to practice include the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of North Carolina; the United States Courts of Appeal for the Federal Circuit and for the Fourth Circuit; and the United States Supreme Court. I have been involved in multiple lawsuits and/or appeals in each of those Courts.
3. I have practiced in the intellectual property law firm of Olive & Olive, P.A. (where lead counsel for Patent Owner is employed) on a fulltime basis since 1979, working on matters involving patents in a wide range of fields during that time. I have been the firm's managing attorney and have headed its litigation team for over two decades.
4. I have never been subject to discipline by any tribunal. Inter alia, I have never been suspended or disbarred from practice before any court or administrative body, and no sanctions or contempt citations have been imposed on me by any court or administrative body.

5. I have never been denied admission to practice before any court or administrative body.
6. I have read and will comply with the Office Patent Trial Practice Guide and the Board's Rules of Practice for Trials set forth in part 42 of 37 C.F.R..
7. I understand and agree that I will be subject to the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.101 et. seq. and disciplinary jurisdiction under 37 C.F.R. § 1.19(a). For the Board's information, I regularly appear before the Office's Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, and am also subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the Office as a result of that practice and of my other work before the United States Trademark Office.
8. I have not applied to appear pro hac vice in any other proceedings before the Office in the last three (3) years. I am, however, concurrently applying for admission pro hac vice in a co-pending Proceeding filed by the same Petitioner involving a related patent owned by the same Patent Owner: IPR2023-00827.
9. I am familiar with the subject matter at issue in the proceeding. With respect to the specific patents at issue, I currently represent the Patent Owner as lead counsel in each of seven lawsuits (five in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina and two in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina), each of which alleges infringement of the patent that is the subject of the instant petition. The defendants in those lawsuits are

represented by the same counsel who presently appear as counsel for Petitioner. In each of the pending lawsuits, the defendants have raised defenses of invalidity and in each of the lawsuits, the defendants have cited the instant Petition as support for their positions, although they are not the Petitioner. In at least five of the pending lawsuits, “First Solar, Inc.” is listed as a party having a financial interest in the outcome of the proceedings and undersigned counsel is informed by counsel for Petitioner that “First Solar, Inc.” is currently an indemnitor of each of the defendants in each of the lawsuits. (The seven defendants are identified in the Petition as “Real Parties in Interest,” and the seven lawsuits are identified as “Related Matters,” pursuant to the mandatory disclosures of 37 C.F.R. § 42.8.)

10. In addition to my familiarity with the patents at issue, I have over the past forty years been involved in multiple matters in the fields of engineering and solar technology. In particular, I have been involved in prior matters involving solar technology, power generation and power capture, and patents in those fields.
11. My educational background includes an undergraduate degree from Brown University in 1974 in an independent major titled “The Medical-Legal Interface” that combined science and technology courses (chemistry, biochemistry, calculus, computer programming, physiology, etc.) with a project in the biomedical engineering field that tested the safety and utility of tubing for

heart-lung machines, along with courses relating to the sociology of law and medicine taken at Brown and at Boston University School of Law. My law degree was obtained from the Duke University School of Law, with honors, in 1977.

12. I lecture and present papers on intellectual property law and related litigation issues nationwide, at continuing legal education programs, programs for the business and arts communities, and programs for medical and other professional organizations; and I also serve as a news media resource.
13. My law-related appointments, positions, and honors include the following:
 - Relevant to my background in patent litigation, I serve by court appointment on the local patent rules committee of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina (since 2006), and also on the local patent rules committee of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina (since 2019).
 - Relevant to my federal court litigation reputation in general, I am a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference. (Unlike many other judicial conferences, membership and attendance are by judicial invitation only and permanent membership comes only after repeated invitations and attendance.)
 - Relevant to my overall legal experience and reputation, I have served as:

- Member and Chair of the North Carolina Board of Law Examiners and am currently an Emeritus Member of that Board;
 - Member and President of the North Carolina Federal Bar Advisory Council;
 - Member of the National Conference of Bar Examiners Technology Committee;
 - Chair of the North Carolina Bar Association's Intellectual Property Law Committee;
 - Founding chair of the North Carolina Bar Association's Committee on Law and Technology;
 - Commissioner, North Carolina General Assembly's General Statutes Commission;
 - President, North Carolina Women Attorneys' Association;
 - President, 14th Judicial District and Durham County Bar Associations;
 - Member, Board of Governors, North Carolina Bar Association;
 - Member, Board of Governors, North Carolina Advocates for Justice.
- I also am a member of, and participate in or have chaired committees for, a range of other bar organizations including committees of the American Bar Association's Intellectual Property Law Section and the Carolinas Patent, Trademark, and Copyright Law Association.

- Relevant to additional peer recognition, I was selected by North Carolina lawyers as one of North Carolina's best intellectual property attorneys each year since *Business North Carolina* magazine's "Legal Elite" compilation began (the first woman so honored, and was ultimately top-ranked and elected as a permanent member of the "Legal Elite Hall of Fame"); have been selected as a North Carolina "*Super Lawyer*" from the inception of such rankings; and enjoy a Martindale-Hubbell AV rating.

14. All statements made of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on July 18, 2023.

/s/ Susan Freya Olive

Susan Freya Olive

N.C. State Bar No. 2752

OLIVE & OLIVE, P.A.

500 Memorial Street

P.O. Box 2049

Durham, NC 27702

Telephone: 919-683-5514

Facsimile: 919-688-3781

Email:

solive@oliveandolive.com

emailboxPatent@oliveandolive.com