

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

2985 LLC, D/B/A MOUNTAIN VOYAGE COMPANCY, LLC,
Petitioner

v.

THE RIDGE WALLET LLC
Patent Owner

Case IPR2024-00692
Patent 10,791,808

**PATENT OWNER'S MOTION FOR ADMISSION
PRO HAC VICE OF GINA A. JOHNSON**

Patent Owner The Ridge Wallet LLC (“Ridge” or “Patent Owner”) hereby requests that the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (“Board”) recognize Gina A. Johnson, Esq. as counsel *pro hac vice* in this proceeding. Petitioner has indicated that it does not oppose this motion. A Declaration of Gina A. Johnson (the “Johnson Decl.”) in support of this motion is provided herewith as Exhibit 2001. Because this motion meets all of the Board’s requirements for admission *pro hac vice*, Patent Owner requests that the Board grant this Motion.

I. TIME FOR FILING

This motion is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c) and the Notice of Filing Date Accorded to Petition and Time for Filing Patent Owner Preliminary Response entered on April 10, 2024 (Paper 5). This motion is being filed more than 21 days after the date of service of the Petition.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS SHOWING GOOD CAUSE

There is good cause for the Board to recognize Mrs. Johnson *pro hac vice*.

First, Patent Owner’s lead counsel, Benjamin E. Weed (Reg. No. 65,939) is a registered practitioner.

Second, Mrs. Johnson is the Chief Legal Officer of the Patent Owner and prior to joining Ridge in May of 2023, was a partner in the patent litigation group at the international law firm of K&L Gates LLP. Mrs. Johnson has over eight years of experience as a patent litigator in Federal District Courts across the country, before

the International Trade Commission, and at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. (Johnson Decl. at ¶¶ 2-3).

Third, Mrs. Johnson has established familiarity with the subject matter at issue in this proceeding. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 10-12). Patent Owner has asserted U.S. Patent No. 10,791,808 (the “’808 Patent”) against Petitioner, among other defendants, in litigation in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas (Case No. 2:23-cv-0392-JRG-RSP) as well as in the International Trade Commission (337-TA-1355). Mrs. Johnson has been actively involved in all aspects of the parallel litigation, including aspects concerning the validity of the ’808 Patent. (*Id.* at ¶ 12).

Fourth, Mrs. Johnson is a member in good standing of the Bar of Illinois and several federal courts. (*Id.* at ¶ 1). She has never been suspended or disbarred from practice before any court or administrative body. (*Id.* at ¶ 4). She has never had an application for admission to practice before any court or administrative body denied. (*Id.* at ¶ 5). She has never had sanctions or contempt citations imposed by any court or administrative body. (*Id.* at ¶ 6). She previously applied to appear *pro hac vice* before the Board one time, and her admission was granted in a proceeding regarding the same patent. (*Id.* at ¶ 9).

Fifth, she has 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. (*Id.* at ¶ 7). She also agrees to 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. §. 11.19(a). (*Id.* at ¶ 8).

Sixth, given Mrs. Johnson's experience with the '808 Patent, admission of Mrs. Johnson *pro hac vice* will enable Patent Owner to avoid unnecessary expense and duplication of work between this proceeding and the parallel litigation.

For at least these reasons, good cause exists to admit Mrs. Johnson *pro hac vice* in this proceeding.

III. DECLARATION

The required Declaration of Gina A. Johnson in support of this motion is provided herewith as Exhibit 2001.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Patent Owner submits that there is good cause for the Board to recognize Mrs. Johnson as counsel *pro hac vice* in this proceeding.

Date: July 9, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Benjamin E. Weed
Benjamin E. Weed
Reg. No. 65,939
104 Main Street, Suite 2C
Park Ridge, Illinois 60068
Telephone: (708) 303-8872
Email: ben@ridge.com
Counsel for Patent Owner
The Ridge Wallet LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 9, 2024, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing electronically on the following counsel of record for Petitioner at the following email addresses:

Jacob M. Busch (Reg. No. 70,830)
Mountain Voyage Co.
3513 Patterson Cir.
Richfield, OH 44286
(330) 241-1800

Igor D. Ozeruga (Reg. No. 72,399)
Vorys, Slater, Seymore and Pease LLP
50 S. Main St.
Akron, OH 44308
(330) 208-1012

jake@mountainvoyageco.com
idozeruga@vorys.com

/Benjamin E. Weed /
Benjamin E. Weed
Reg. No. 65,939
The Ridge Wallet LLC
104 Main St., Suite 2C
Park Ridge, IL 60068
ben@ridge.com