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571-272-7822

Paper 40
Date: July 15, 2025

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

WIZ, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

ORCA SECURITY LTD.,
Patent Owner.

IPR2024-00863 (Patent 11,663,031 B2)
IPR2024-00864 (Patent 11,663,032 B2)
IPR2024-00865 (Patent 11,693,685 B2)
IPR2024-01109 (Patent 11,726,809 B2)
IPR2024-01190 (Patent 11,740,926 B2)
IPR2024-01191 (Patent 11,775,326 B2)

Before MICHAEL R. ZECHER, GARTH D. BAER, and SCOTT RAEVSKY, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

PER CURIAM.

ORDER[1]
Granting Patent Owner's Motions for
Pro Hac Vice Admission of Nicole Elena Bruner
37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c)

[1] The combined caption is for administrative convenience only and does not indicate that IPR2024-00863, IPR2024-00864, IPR2024-00865, IPR2024-01109, IPR2024-01190, and IPR2024-01191 have been joined. The parties are not authorized to use this caption without express permission of the Board.

On July 3, 2025, Patent Owner filed motions requesting *pro hac vice* admission of Nicole Elena Bruner in each of the above-identified proceedings (collectively "Motions"). Paper 39.[2] Patent Owner also submitted Declarations from Ms. Bruner in support of the Motions (collectively "Declarations"). Ex. 2170.[3] Patent Owner attests that Petitioner does not oppose the Motions. Paper 39, 1. For the reasons provided below, Patent Owner's Motions are *granted*.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c)(1), the Board may recognize counsel *pro hac vice* during a proceeding upon a showing of good cause, subject to the condition that lead counsel be a registered practitioner. In authorizing a motion for *pro hac vice* admission, the Board requires the moving party to provide a statement of facts showing there is good cause for the Board to recognize counsel *pro hac vice* and an affidavit or declaration of the individual seeking to appear in the proceeding. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c)(1); *Unified Patents, Inc. v. Parallel Iron, LLC*, IPR2013-00639 (PTAB Oct. 15, 2013) (Paper 7) (representative "Order – Authorizing Motion for *Pro Hac Vice* Admission").

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[2] For purposes of expediency, we cite to Papers filed in IPR2024-00863. Patent Owner filed a similar Motion in IPR2024-00864 (Paper 40), IPR2024-00865 (Paper 39), IPR2024-01109 (Paper 36), IPR2024-01190 (Paper 34), and IPR2024-01191 (Paper 35).

[3] We cite to Exhibits filed in IPR2024-00863. Patent Owner filed a similar Declaration in IPR2024-00864 (Ex. 2170), IPR2024-00865 (Ex. 2170), IPR2024-01109 (Ex. 2170), IPR2024-01190 (Ex. 2170), and IPR2024-01191 (Ex. 2171).

Based on the facts set forth in the Motions and the accompanying Declarations, we conclude that Ms. Bruner has sufficient qualifications to represent Patent Owner in these proceedings, has demonstrated sufficient litigation experience and legal familiarity with the subject matter of these proceedings, and meets all other requirements for admission *pro hac vice*. *See* Ex. 2170.[4] Accordingly, Patent Owner has established good cause for *pro hac vice* admission of Ms. Bruner. Ms. Bruner will be permitted to serve as back-up counsel only. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c)(1).

We note that Patent Owner filed a Power of Attorney including Ms. Bruner in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(b). IPR2024-00863, Paper 12; IPR2024-00864, Paper 12; IPR2024-00865, Paper 12; IPR2024-01109, Paper 13; IPR2024-01190, Paper 12; and IPR2024-01191, Paper 13. Patent Owner has also filed Mandatory Notices identifying Ms. Bruner as back-up counsel in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.8(b)(3). IPR2024-00863, Paper 13, 2; IPR2024-00864, Paper 13, 2; IPR2024-00865, Paper 13, 2;

[4] In the Declaration, Ms. Bruner indicates that she is "concurrently applying to appear *pro hac vice* in the following proceedings before the USPTO: Case Nos. IPR2024-00864, IPR2024-00865, IPR2024-01109, IPR2024-01190, and IPR2024-01191." Ex. 2170 ¶ 10. In light of her representation that she has never been denied an application for admission to practice before an administrative body (Ex. 2170 ¶ 3), we will accept Ms. Bruner's declaration as representing that Ms. Bruner has not applied to appear *pro hac vice* in any proceedings before the Office in the three-year period before the Motions were filed. *Unified Patents*, Paper 7 at 3 (at 2.b.vii). If our understanding is incorrect, however, Patent Owner and Ms. Bruner should notify us promptly, identifying the proceedings before the Office in which Ms. Bruner filed an application for *pro hac vice* admission during that three-year period.

IPR2024-01109, Paper 5, 2; IPR2024-01190, Paper 5, 2; and IPR2024-01191, Paper 6, 2.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED that Patent Owner's Motions for *pro hac vice* admission of Nicole Elena Bruner are *granted*;

FURTHER ORDERED that Patent Owner is to continue to have a registered practitioner represent it as lead counsel for the above-identified proceedings;

FURTHER ORDERED that Ms. Bruner is authorized to represent Patent Owner as back-up counsel only in the above-identified proceedings;

FURTHER ORDERED that Ms. Bruner be familiar with the Patent Trial and Appeal Board Consolidated Trial Practice Guide[5] (84 Fed. Reg. 64,280 (Nov. 21, 2019)), and comply with the Board's Rules of Practice for Trials, as set forth in Part 42 of Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations; and

FURTHER ORDERED that Ms. Bruner is subject to the Office's disciplinary jurisdiction under 37 C.F.R. § 11.19(a), and the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.101 *et seq.*

[5] *Available at* https://www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated.

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