

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc.
Petitioner,

v.

Neapco Components, LLC,
Patent Owner

IPR2025-00091
U.S. Patent 11,598,376

**DECLARATION OF JACOB T. MICHALAKES IN SUPPORT OF
PATENT OWNER’S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR ADMISSION
PRO HAC VICE OF JACOB T. MICHALAKES**

I, Jacob T. Michalakes, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Illinois. I am an associate at the law firm of Steptoe LLP, counsel for Petitioner, American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc. (“American Axle”).
2. I have been practicing for 4 years. The majority of that time has been focused on the field of litigation, in particular, patent litigation.
3. I am a member of good standing of the Illinois Bar. I am also admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.
4. I am a member of good standing in all jurisdictions where I have been admitted to practice.
5. I have never been suspended or disbarred from practice before any court or administrative body.
6. I have never had an application denied for admission to practice before any court or administrative body.
7. I have never had any sanctions or contempt citations imposed against me by any court or administrative body.
8. I have not previously appeared before the Office, nor have I previously applied to appear *pro hac vice*.

9. I am familiar with the subject matter at issue in this proceeding. I have reviewed U.S. Patent No. 11,598,376 (the “’376 patent”), the prior art references, the Petition for *Inter Partes* Review of the ’376 patent, and other aspects of the record in this proceeding. I have acquired substantial understanding of the underlying legal and technological issues in this proceeding.
10. I have read and will comply with the Patent Trial Practice Guide and the Board’s Rules of Practice for Trials as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 42.
11. I agreed to be subject to the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.101 et seq. and disciplinary jurisdiction under 37 C.F.R. § 11.19(a).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements, and the like, so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

Dated: June 26, 2025

/ Jacob T. Michalakes/

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