

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

AMERICAN AXLE & MANUFACTURING, INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

NEAPCO COMPONENTS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2025-00090 (Patent 11,434,958 B2)
IPR2025-00091 (Patent 11,598,376 B2)¹

Before LINDA E. HORNER, GEORGE R. HOSKINS, and
FRANCES L. IPPOLITO, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

HOSKINS, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION
Granting Petitioner's Motions for
Pro Hac Vice Admission of Jacob T. Michalakes
37 C.F.R. § 42.10

¹ This Order addresses identical issues in each of the above-identified cases. Accordingly, we exercise our discretion to issue one Order to be filed in each case. The parties, however, are not authorized to use this style heading without prior authorization.

On June 26, 2025, Petitioner filed a Motion for Admission *Pro Hac Vice* of Jacob T. Michalakes in each of the above-identified proceedings (collectively, “Motions”). See Paper 15.² Petitioner also submitted declarations from Mr. Michalakes in support of the Motions (collectively, “Declarations”). See Ex. 1041. Petitioner attests that Patent Owner does not oppose the Motions. See Paper 15, 3. For the reasons provided below, Petitioner’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”).

Based on the facts set forth in the Motions and the accompanying Declarations, we conclude Mr. Michalakes has sufficient qualifications to represent Petitioner 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. 1041. Accordingly, Petitioner has established good cause for *pro*

² For expediency, we cite to materials filed in IPR2025-00090. Petitioner filed similar materials in IPR2025-00091.

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hac vice admission of Mr. Michalakes. Mr. Michalakes will be permitted to serve as back-up counsel only. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c)(1).

Petitioner has filed Updated Powers of Attorney including Mr. Michalakes in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(b). *See* Paper 17. Petitioner also has filed Updated Mandatory Notices identifying Mr. Michalakes as back-up counsel in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.8(b)(3). *See* Paper 16, 2.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED that Petitioner's Motions (IPR2025-00090, Paper 15; IPR2025-00091, Paper 14) for *pro hac vice* admission of Jacob T. Michalakes are *granted*;

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

FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Michalakes is authorized to represent Petitioner as back-up counsel only in the above-identified proceedings;

FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Michalakes be familiar with the Patent Trial and Appeal Board Consolidated Trial Practice Guide³ (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 Mr. Michalakes 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.*

³ Available at <https://www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated>.

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