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Paper 23
Date: February 10, 2026

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

STRAUMANN USA, LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

SMART DENTURE CONVERSIONS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2025-00956 (Patent 11,937,992 B1)
PGR2025-00054 (Patent 12,156,781 B1)[1]

Before MICHAEL J. FITZPATRICK, ERIC C. JESCHKE, and RYAN H. FLAX, *Administrative Patent Judges.*

FLAX, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

ORDER
Granting Patent Owner's Motions for Admission *Pro Hac Vice*
of John L. Gibbons
37 C.F.R. § 42.10

[1] This Order addresses overlapping issues in the cases listed above. Therefore, we issue one Order to be filed in each case. The parties, however, are not authorized to use this style of caption.

On February 5, 2026, Patent Owner filed Motions for admission *pro hac vice* of Mr. John L. Gibbons (Paper 22) in each of the above-identified proceedings (collectively "Motions").[2] Patent Owner also filed Declarations of Mr. Gibbons (Ex. 2021) in support of the Motions (collectively "Declarations"). Patent Owner indicates that Petitioner does not oppose the Motions. Mot. 1. For the reasons provided below, Patent Owner's Motions are *granted*.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c), 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 its notice authorizing motions for *pro hac vice* admission, the Board requires 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 this proceeding. *See* Paper 3, 2.

Based on the facts set forth in the Motions and the accompanying Declarations, we conclude that Mr. Gibbons has sufficient legal qualification to represent Patent Owner in the above-identified proceedings, that Mr. Gibbons has demonstrated sufficient familiarity with the subject matter of these proceedings, that Mr. Gibbons meets all other requirements for admission *pro hac vice*, and that Patent Owner's intent to be represented by counsel with litigation experience is warranted. Accordingly, Patent Owner has

[2] We cite to Papers filed in IPR2025-00956. Patent Owner filed a similar Motion and evidence in PGR2025-00054 (*see* Paper 25 and Ex. 2021 in that proceeding).

established good cause for *pro hac vice* admission of Mr. Gibbons. Mr. Gibbons will be permitted to serve as back-up counsel only. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c).

We note that Patent Owner has filed a Power of Attorney including Mr. Gibbons in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(b). Paper 21.[3] Patent Owner, however, has not filed Mandatory Notices identifying Mr. Gibbons as back-up counsel in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.8(b)(3). Patent Owner must do so immediately.

Accordingly, it is:

ORDERED that Patent Owner's Motions for *pro hac vice* admission of Mr. John L. Gibbons are *granted*;

FURTHER ORDERED that Patent Owner must file Updated Mandatory Notices identifying Mr. Gibbons as back-up counsel in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.8(b)(3);

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 Mr. Gibbons is authorized to represent Patent Owner as back-up counsel only in the above-identified proceedings;

FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Gibbons is to comply with the Consolidated Trial Practice Guide[4] (84 Fed. Reg. 64,280 (Nov. 21,

[3] *See also* PGR2025-00054, Paper 24.

[4] Available at www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated.

2019)), and 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. Gibbons shall be 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*.

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