

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

MPL BRANDS NV, INC.,
Petitioner

v.

BUZZBALLZ, LLC,
Patent Owner

PGR2024-00035
U.S. Patent 11,932,441

**DECLARATION OF ADAM ERICKSON IN SUPPORT
OF PATENT OWNER'S RESPONSE TO PETITIONER'S OBJECTIONS
TO EVIDENCE**

I, Adam Erickson, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an associate attorney employed by Haynes and Boone, LLP. I have appeared as an attorney of record in the above captioned case. BuzzBallz, LLC is a client of Haynes and Boone, LLP. I personally assisted in preparing the Patent Owner Response of BuzzBallz, LLC in the above captioned case. My compensation is in no way affected by the contents of this declaration or the outcome of the above captioned case.

2. In the course of preparing the Patent Owner Response in the above captioned case, and in consultation with Dr. Folker Rojas, I personally located three documents relevant to the facts of the case and that, according to Dr. Rojas, a POSITA would have recognized and relied on as relevant to the technological field at issue: Exhibits 2018, 2026, and 2027. I provide an explanation of how each of these exhibits was obtained below.

I. EXHIBIT 2018

3. Exhibit 2018 is an article titled “Conformational changes and molecular motion of poly(ethylene terephthalate) annealed above glass transition temperature,” by J.-M. Huang, P.P. Chu, and F.-C. Chang, published by Elsevier Science Ltd. in 1999.

4. On March 8, 2025, I located Exhibit 2018 by (1) entering the following search string in the search bar of Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>): “ "glass transition temperature" AND (PET OR "polyethylene terephthalate") ” and (2) filtering publication dates for documents published in or before 2011. Exhibit 2018 was the first returned result. I downloaded Exhibit 2018 from Google Scholar, which provided 7 different sources for the same article, including Eslevier.

II. EXHIBIT 2026

5. Exhibit 2026 is an article titled “Application of structure optimization technique to aluminum beverage bottle design,” by J. Han, R. Itoh, S. Nishiyama, and K. Yamazaki, published by Springer. In 2005.

6. On March 7, 2025, I located biographical information, including an abstract, of Exhibit 2026 by entering the following search string in the search string of Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>): “ aluminum beverage can bottom dome .” Exhibit 2026 appeared as the 6th result in the list. Because the excerpt provided by Google Scholar and the abstract seemed to indicate that Exhibit 2026 provided an explanation as to why a typical can includes a domed bottom shape, I requested that the Haynes and Boone Library purchase a copy of

Exhibit 2026 on March 10, 2025. *See* EX2030, Appendix A. The Library provided me a copy of Exhibit 2026 the same day. *See* EX2030, Appendix C.

III. EXHIBIT 2027

7. Exhibit 2027 is an article titled “Heat transfer analysis of canned food sterilization in a still retort,” by A. Kannan and P.Ch. Gourisankar Sandaka, published by Elsevier Science Ltd. in 2008.

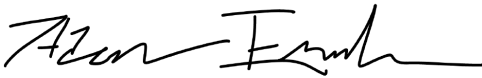
8. On March 11, 2025, I located Exhibit 2027 by (1) entering the following search string in the search bar of Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>): “ thermal sterilization of food after canning ” and (2) filtering publication dates for documents published in or before 2011. Exhibit 2027 was the 10th returned result. I downloaded Exhibit 2027 from Google Scholar, which provided 6 different sources for the same article, including Elsevier.

IV. CONCLUSION

9. This declaration is provided to the best of my knowledge and understanding, and based on my personal knowledge and recollection at the time of signing this declaration. I declare that all statements made herein on my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine

or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 or Title 18 of the United States
Code.

Date: March 31, 2025



Adam Erickson