

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

UATP IP, LLC,
Petitioner,

v .

SLICK SLIDE LLC,
Patent Owner.

Case PGR2024-00054
U.S. Patent No. 11,998,854

DECLARATION OF GARY SCHMIT

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I, Gary Schmit, hereby declare as follows:

I. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

1. I am a founder and am currently the Chief Executive Officer of Slick Slide LLC. In my current position, I am responsible for all day-to-day management decisions of the company with respect to operations, marketing, financing, human resources, sales, public relations, quality control, etc. I am also responsible for strategically implementing Slick Slide's long and short term goals. As a founder of Slick Slide and through my current position, I have detailed personal knowledge of Slick Slide's company history, the history of its products, product lines, market share position, advertising and financial activities.

2. I am a founder of Slick City Action Park ("Slick City"), and I am currently the owner of Slick City Franchise Group and several Slick City Action Park locations. In my current position as owner of Slick City Franchise Group, I am responsible for franchise arrangements associated with Slick Slide and Slick City, and their products and services. I am also responsible for strategically implementing Slick City Franchise Group's long and short term goals. As a founder and owner of Slick City Franchise Group, I have detailed personal knowledge of Slick City's company history, the history of its products, product lines, market share position, advertising and financial activities, including those of its Franchisee's.

3. I am being paid nothing for this declaration beyond my normal compensation and other benefits as CEO of Slick Slide.

II. SLICK SLIDE'S RECREATIONAL SLIDE SYSTEMS

4. I am the sole inventor listed on U.S. Patent No. 11,998,854 (the "'854 patent"). I developed Slick Slide's dry slide technology, which is claimed in the '854 patent, to create a dry recreational slide system capable of delivering the thrill and rider experience traditionally associated only with water slides.

5. I have been active in the family entertainment market for more than 8 years, and specifically in the recreational slide segment of the market for that period of time. After developing the dry slide technology, I sought patent protection, and the '854 patent issued with claims directed to the dry slide technology embodied in Slick Slide's recreational slide systems, including both the slide and the ride vehicle that Slick Slide sells and which are installed in Slick City locations.

6. Those in this industry and in the amusement and indoor family entertainment market have come to know my innovations claimed in the '854 patent as Slick Slide's "dry slide technology."

7. Figure 1 of the '854 patent shows one embodiment of Slick Slide's recreational slide system, depicting our flagship Launch Slide in combination with our ride vehicle.

8. Slick Slide's recreational slide system includes a slide, which may or may not include a low-friction coating on the slide surface, and the mesh-bottom ride vehicle.

The combination of the mesh-bottom ride vehicle and our slides are what make our recreational slide systems fast, thrilling, and desirable.

9. Over the course of several years, I invested at least \$1,000,000 in research, design, prototyping, and testing to develop Slick Slide's recreational slide system, including the slide and the ride vehicle, claimed in the '854 patent.

A. Market Entrance

10. Slick Slide pioneered an entirely new market for dry recreational slide systems, a category that has since experienced rapid and sustained growth.

11. Slick Slide's initial market offering included Slick Slide's flagship Launch Slide together with Slick Slide's ride vehicle.

12. Currently, each recreational slide system sold by Slick Slide includes one of Slick Slide's slide designs along with one or more of Slick Slide's ride vehicles.

13. Slick Slide's recreational slide systems were designed to offer a thrilling and repeatable experience.

14. Prior to the introduction of Slick Slide's recreational slide systems, slide attractions in family entertainment venues were considered secondary to attractions such as traditional ziplines, trampolines, and ropes courses commonly found in family entertainment venues, and were not regarded as revenue-driving features worth building a family entertainment venue around.

15. A higher coefficient of friction is a significant problem with respect to slides because it produces a slower ride or descent down the slide, which in turn reduces

both thrill and fun experienced by the rider. It can also result in the rider not having enough speed to reach the bottom of the slide, resulting in potential collision and injury.

B. Marketing and Advertising

16. Slick Slide does not primarily advertise its products directly to consumers. Instead, Slick Slide's advertising is limited to business-to-business channels and primarily includes attending industry trade shows such as the annual IAAPA (International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions). Businesses, including family entertainment venues, purchase Slick Slide's recreational slide systems directly from Slick Slide. Such businesses evaluate recreational slide systems, including Slick Slide's recreational slide systems, based on their performance, particularly in the market, and make their purchasing decisions accordingly.

17. Slick Slide's advertising spend is modest relative to its revenues. For example, in 2024, Slick Slide spent less than \$30,000 on advertising, while its revenues were at least \$12,000,000. This constitutes modest advertising expenditure for this industry.

C. Increased Sales and Market Share Growth

18. Since the launch of its first recreational slide system installations, Slick Slide has generated over \$40,000,000 million in sales of its recreational slide systems.

19. This rapid growth, occurring within only a few years of market entry, demonstrates undeniable commercial success.

20. Slick Slide's recreational slide systems comprise over 80% of its product offerings. Accordingly, Slick Slide's commercial success is attributed to the sale of its recreational slide systems, and in particular the innovative dry slide technology embodied in its recreational slide systems and claimed in the '854 patent.

21. Slick Slide dominates the market space for high-performance recreational slide systems suitable for use in indoor "slide park" family entertainment centers. As of 2025, Slick Slide holds approximately 70% share of the high-performance dry recreational slide system market.

III. COMMERCIAL SUCCESS OF SLICK CITY ACTION PARKS

22. Slick Slide's sister company, Slick City, operates indoor family entertainment venues that exclusively feature Slick Slide recreational slide systems, including a slide and/or ride vehicle as claimed in the '854 patent, as the central attractions at each location.

23. Before the '854 patent, conventional dry slides were considered markedly inferior to water slides in both speed and rider excitement. Prior to Slick Slide's innovative dry slide technology, no one in the amusement industry would have envisioned an entire indoor entertainment venue centered around dry recreational slide systems as the main attraction because the technology simply did not exist to make such a concept viable.

24. As a result of Slick Slide’s innovations, dry recreational slides were transformed from being an insignificant portion of the indoor family entertainment industry, largely dismissed as incapable of providing the speed and thrill necessary to support dedicated venues, into the centerpiece of an entirely new category of family entertainment—indoor slide parks. Slick Slide’s innovations overcame the limitations of traditional dry slides and enabled the “world’s first waterless indoor slide park,” fundamentally changing the family entertainment industry.

25. Family entertainment centers centered around indoor slides, and referred to as indoor slide parks, were only recognized as viable after Slick Slide’s innovations transformed the industry. By centering their attractions on Slick Slide’s innovations, Slick City has quickly emerged as a leading disruptor in the indoor family entertainment industry, drawing customers away from conventional venues built around ziplines, trampolines, and ropes courses.

26. Slick City has captured a large percentage of the indoor family entertainment market over the past several years, drawing customers away from entrenched attractions such as ziplines, trampolines, and ropes courses, and in doing so created an entirely new market segment, indoor “slide park” family entertainment centers.

A. Marketing and Advertising

27. Slick City’s advertising spend is modest relative to Slick City’s revenues. For example, in 2024, Slick City spent less than 5% on advertising, while its revenues were over \$16,000,000.

28. Slick City's advertising and marketing succeed only because consumers are drawn to the patented dry slide technology of the '854 patent, embodied in Slick Slide's recreational slide systems which are the standout attractions that define Slick City parks.

29. Slick City franchisees likewise make their decision to invest in a Slick City franchise based on the patented technology embodied in Slick Slide's recreational slide systems, and Slick City Franchise Group receives numerous inquiries about the features underlying the patented technology during the franchising process.

30. The reason Slick City works as a business is because of Slick Slide's patented dry slide technology. The mesh-bottom ride vehicle in addition to, in some cases, the low-friction slide surface, are what make the rides fast, thrilling, and desirable. This is what draws people to Slick City Action Parks.

31. When people talk about Slick City, they talk about the recreational slide systems. The recreational slide systems are what brings customers in the door and is what keeps customers coming back. Based on my personal involvement with franchisees, I understand that the patented recreational slide system is the engine that drives revenue, and it is also what makes other park operators envy Slick City Action Parks.

B. Increased Sales and Market Share Growth

32. Since its founding, Slick City has experienced rapid and sustained growth. In 2022, Slick City opened its first indoor "slide park" location. By 2025, Slick City

had expanded to 7 company-owned locations and 11 franchise locations across 10 states. During this same period, Slick City's annual revenues grew from approximately \$2,000,000 in [2022] to more than \$16,000,000 in 2024. As of 2025, Slick City has 18 total locations either operating or under franchise agreement, reflecting the strong and continuing market demand for indoor entertainment centers centered on Slick Slide's patented dry slide technology.

33. Before Slick Slide developed its dry slide technology that is the subject of the '854 patent, nobody thought you could build a slide park family entertainment venue around dry slides. Dry slides were considered a thing of the past, boring, and something that you would find on a playground for small children to enjoy. We have created high-performance recreational slide systems that are appealing not only to kids but also to adults.

34. More than 25% of revenue at Slick City parks is generated from passholders over the age of 18, demonstrating that Slick Slide's patented technology appeals to a wide demographic.

35. Slick City tickets and passes command a premium compared to competing indoor attractions such as trampoline parks, ziplines, and ropes courses. The fact that consumers are willing to pay a premium for access to Slick Slide's patented slide systems at Slick City Action Park venues underscores the market's recognition of the greater value provided by the patented dry slide technology.

C. Slick Slide's Recreational Slide Systems Have Been Commercially Successful

36. Slick Slide's sales data set forth above indicates that Slick Slide's recreational slide systems, which include Slick Slide's ride vehicle, have achieved clear and substantial commercial success. Since the launch of our first recreational slide system installations, Slick Slide has generated over \$40,000,000 million in sales of its recreational slide systems. This rapid growth, occurring within only a few years of market entry, demonstrates undeniable commercial success. Given that Slick Slide's recreational slide systems comprise over 80% of its product offerings, this commercial success can only be attributed to the innovative recreational slide systems claimed in the '854 patent.

37. Currently, Slick Slide dominates the market for high-performance recreational slide systems suitable for use in indoor "slide park" family entertainment centers, holding approximately 70% of the high-performance dry slide market. Slick Slide's patented recreational slide systems remain the defining feature of the world's first waterless indoor slide parks, embodied by Slick City. This overwhelming dominance confirms that Slick Slide's systems are not only a commercial success but also transformative within the indoor family entertainment industry.

38. The market impact of Slick Slide's patented recreational slide systems is also evident in their effect on the broader family entertainment industry. Prior to the introduction of the systems claimed in the '854 patent, dry recreational slides

represented only a negligible portion of the indoor family entertainment market and were dismissed as incapable of providing the speed and excitement necessary to support dedicated “slide park” centers. EX2045, 123 (“Forget about the hot metal sticky playground slides of yesteryear... Slick City’s smooth-as-ice indoor proprietary dry slides bend the laws of physics, with nearly frictionless surfaces.”). Indoor family entertainment centers built around indoor slides only became viable after Slick Slide’s innovations transformed the industry. By overcoming the long-standing performance limitations of dry slides, Slick Slide - through its sister company Slick City - has captured the indoor family entertainment market, drawing customers away from entrenched attractions such as ziplines, trampolines, and ropes courses, and in doing so created an entirely new market segment: indoor “slide park” family entertainment centers.

39. The high magnitude of sales revenue combined with the significant market share held by Slick Slide, and the significant market share displacement by Slick City in the family entertainment market strongly suggests that Slick Slide’s recreational slide systems, which integrate Slick Slide’s ride vehicle, have been commercially successful.

D. There is a Nexus Between the Claims of the ‘854 Patent and Slick Slide and Slick City’s Commercial Success

40. I believe there is a clear nexus between the commercial success of Slick Slide’s recreational slide systems and the inventions set forth in independent claims

1, 22, and 25 of the '854 patent. I understand that a presumption of nexus arises if the commercially successful products are “coextensive” with the patent claims. I believe that to be the case here.

41. Each of Slick Slide’s recreational slide systems include a slide with a non-wet lubricated slide surface and a ride vehicle with a mesh bottom layer. The slide bodies themselves are not unusual apart from their non-wet lubricated surfaces, and the distinguishing and inventive features reside in the integration of the ride vehicle’s mesh bottom with those slide surfaces to achieve the claimed low coefficients of friction.

42. To be clear, Slick Slide’s commercial embodiments not only embody the inventions described and claimed in the '854 patent, but are, in essence, the claimed inventions. Slick Slide’s recreational slide systems practice the claimed subject matter of the '854 patent. In fact, one of Slick Slide’s recreational slide systems, which includes Slick Slide’s flagship Launch slide, is precisely one of the embodiments of the recreational slide system illustrated in the patent figures.

43. The sales and market share data discussed above not only evidence the raw commercial success of Slick Slide’s recreational slide systems, but their context also demonstrates that this success derives from the patented features. Since the introduction of Slick Slide’s first installations, core inventive components of its recreational slide systems have remained the same: a non-wet lubricated slide

surface working in combination with a ride vehicle incorporating a woven mesh bottom surface.

44. As set forth below, Slick Slide's claimed features of its recreational slide system, including the slide, ride vehicle, and low coefficient of friction achieved by the combination, have been the subject of extraordinary industry praise, which strongly indicates that the products, which embody the claimed features, are the driver of Slick City's rapid growth and popularity.

45. A nexus is clearly also demonstrated by Slick Slide's advertising, which focuses on the patented features as the highlight of Slick Slide's recreational slide systems. The first page of Slick Slide's website mentions, "Slick Slide's patent pending 'dry slide' technology and innovative design is changing this recreational classic attraction for the better." EX2043. Slick City's "About" webpage similarly mentions, "Our Mission Combine proprietary, 'We've gotta do that!' attractions with an exceptional guest experience to inspire, engage and entertain thrill seekers of all ages," and "Our Story... We're dedicated to constant innovation – unveiling new slides frequently and focusing on in-house development processes. 55 patents have already been filed or granted for our proprietary slides and technology." EX2044.

46. The evidence also shows that the sales of Slick Slide's recreational slide systems, and by extension the success of Slick City, are driven by the patented features of the products rather than advertising. Slick Slide and Slick City's

advertising spend is modest relative to their revenues. In fact, Slick Slide has virtually no consumer-facing advertising; its limited advertising is directed to business-to-business channels, where companies evaluate the patented technology based on its proven performance in the market and make purchasing decisions accordingly.

47. Slick City's advertising, by contrast, is limited to modest online consumer outreach, targeted to families and individuals interested in visiting indoor entertainment venues. But even this spend succeeds only because consumers are drawn to the patented dry slide technology of the '854 patent as the standout attraction that defines Slick City parks. Slick City Franchisees likewise make their decision to invest in a Slick City Franchise based on the patented technology embodied in Slick Slide's recreational slide systems, and Slick City receives numerous inquiries about the patented features during the franchising process. The evidence shows that success of Slick Slide and Slick City stems from the patented features of Slick Slide's recreational slide systems set forth in independent claims 1, 22, and 25 of the '854 patent rather than from heavy advertising spend.

48. Finally, consumers demonstrate the value they place on these patented features by paying a premium for access to Slick City Action Parks. Compared to competing indoor attractions such as trampoline parks, ziplines, and ropes courses, Slick City tickets and passes are priced higher, yet consumers continue to choose them because of the unique, patented sliding experience.

49. The industry praise and recognition that Slick Slide and Slick City has received for its recreational slide systems show that the patented features were the reason for the above-described commercial success.

E. Slick Slide's Patented Recreational Slide Systems Have Received Industry Praise

50. Slick Slide's recreational slide systems – and in particular, aspects of claims 1, 22, and 25 – have received an exceptional amount of industry praise. A wide range of third-party reviews, trade publications, and media coverage collected in Exhibit 2045 confirm this. These sources consistently recognize Slick Slide's patented recreational slide system, and in particular its pioneering dry slide technology, implemented through its sister company Slick City, as a disruptive and transformative advancement in the family entertainment industry.

51. For example, the International Franchise Association reports: “strong sales performance, an adept team, and a focus on a frictionless franchisee experience are just the icing on the cake; the heart of Slick City is the core experience: its patented and proprietary dry-slide technology.” EX2045, 36.

52. Similarly, GlobeNewswire reports: “Slick City Action Park, the world's first indoor slide park featuring proprietary dry-slide technology, has disrupted the active Family Entertainment Center (FEC) space.” EX2045, 47.

53. GlobeNewswire further emphasizes that: “Slick City sets itself apart in the family entertainment sector through its patented and proprietary slide technology, designed to appeal to all ages.” *Id.*, 48.

54. And further explains: “At the heart of Slick City’s appeal lies its cutting-edge attraction research and development, spearheaded by co-founder Gary Schmit, who also established Slick Slide. This revolutionary attraction company, a vertically-integrated affiliate of Slick City Franchise Group, acts as the dedicated manufacturing and R&D arm of the business...Slick Slide pioneered the exhilarating attractions that define the parks, delivering unmatched sensations of speed and elevation, similar to a waterslide – but without the water – and unlike anything else on the market.” *Id.*, 49.

55. Amusement Today likewise underscores the innovation behind the Slick Slide’s products and Slick City’s success: “Slick City was born from an ‘aha’ moment. After integrating a prototype slide from Slick Slide into his trampoline park and watching it become a runaway hit, Bron knew he was onto something bigger. Alongside Gary Schmit, the patent-holding engineer behind the slides, Bron envisioned a new kind of indoor attraction — one focused purely on the exhilaration of sliding.” *Id.*, 22.

56. The publication continues: “For Bron Launsby, co-founder of Slick City, innovation is not just a strategy — it’s the lifeblood of the business. What started as

a singular attraction inside a trampoline park has now evolved into a groundbreaking indoor slide park concept that's taking the U.S. by storm.” *Id.*, 21-22.

57. And further: “And bold is exactly what Slick City is. With every thrilling ride down their patented slides and every seamless locker transaction, it's clear that Bron and his team are doing more than entertaining—they're transforming the guest experience one innovation at a time.” *Id.*, 23.

58. The Wolf of Franchises similarly characterizes Slick Slide's and Slick City's breakthrough: “Thrills, Profits, and Proprietary Tech: Meet Slick City,” and “Slick City Action Park: Redefining All-Ages Entertainment With Thrills, Profits, and Innovation,” describing Slick City as “a completely new concept built on proprietary technology.” *Id.*, 122.

59. The publication adds: “Slick City [is] establishing an entirely new frontier” and providing an “experience that far exceeds the formative years of its competitors.” *Id.*, 123.

60. And further: “Slick City's smooth-as-ice indoor proprietary dry slides bend the laws of physics, with nearly frictionless surfaces that are faster than water slides twice their size!” *Id.*

61. And further: “A patented pairing of a proprietary coating heat-sealed to every slide during the manufacturing process and a custom-designed riding mat layered with a specific blend of woven polymers.” *Id.*

62. And further: “The ‘all thrill, no skill’ appeal of the slides, and their comparative safety relative to other active entertainment and sports, gives them high appeal to parents.” *Id.*, 124.

63. And finally: “This blend of innovation and experience is what makes Slick City a standout in the franchise world.” *Id.*, 126.

64. Franchise Times reinforces this perspective: “The equipment, built by Slick Slide[], was a fast hit,” and that “The slides from Slick Slides are designed to be like water, and capture the experience of a water slide.” *Id.*, 7.

65. A Slick City franchisee similarly explains the performance of the ride vehicle: “These mats are kind of state-of-the-art...And you just fly down these slides.” *Id.*, 30.

66. The Dallas Observer highlights the technological uniqueness of the offering: “What makes this ‘waterless slide park’ unique is its proprietary technology that allows super slippery, non-friction slides. Guests use a special proprietary mat to slide through the different attractions.” *Id.*, 1-2.

67. RePlay Magazine characterizes the parks as: “a revolutionary indoor ‘slide park,’ delivering a one-of-a-kind experience.” *Id.*, 10.

68. And further: “In order to create the best sliding experience, both the slides and the mats have a special material to create a frictionless motion.” *Id.*

69. And further: “You can really catch some air and speed making it a really fun time.” *Id.*

70. Finally, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel confirms the disruptive innovation: “Slick City Action Park is the ‘world’s only waterless slide park,’ for both kids and adults.” *Id.*, 129.

71. And further: “The park allows visitors to experience the thrill of a waterslide while staying completely dry,” and explains that, “each slide is equipped with proprietary coating. Users ride on blended polymer mats, achieving ‘a low 0.07 coefficient of friction and quick acceleration.’” *Id.*, 130-131.

72. As the foregoing reviews and the additional industry coverage compiled in Exhibit 2045 demonstrate, the industry has consistently focused its praise on Slick Slide’s patented dry-slide technology—particularly the low-friction performance its slide systems, including the slide and the ride vehicle as recited in independent claims 1, 22, and 25. These features have been praised by media outlets and trade publications, which have recognized Slick Slide’s patented dry-slide technology as “revolutionary” and “a completely new concept built on proprietary technology,” lauded the ride vehicle as “state-of-the-art,” and emphasized the recreational slide systems as being “smooth-as-ice,” and providing for a “super slippery, non-friction” sliding experience that provide “unmatched sensations of speed and elevation, similar to a waterslide – but without the water.” Slid Slide’s recreational slide systems have been described as “like a waterpark without water but with twice the number of slides” and praised for their ability to achieve “a low 0.07 coefficient of friction and quick acceleration.” EX2045. This consistent, feature-specific industry

praise would not exist if the claimed innovations were truly obvious—let alone obvious for decades.

F. Copying by Others

73. Slick Slide’s patented recreational slide systems have been consistently recognized by industry observers and media outlets as a disruptive innovation that created a new category of dry recreational slides within the family entertainment industry. This recognition has focused on the specific patented features, including the low-friction slide surfaces and the ride vehicle, which have been described as “revolutionary,” “state-of-the-art,” and capable of delivering “smooth-as-ice” performance and sensations of speed and elevation comparable to water slides, but without the use of water. EX2045. Thus, it is no surprise that companies in the family entertainment market would seek to replicate Slick Slide and Slick City’s successes.

74. UATP IP, LLC, d/b/a Urban Air Adventure Park, is an operator of “adventure parks.” Adventure parks are a category of family entertainment center that typically includes indoor play facilities equipped with trampolines, ziplines, ropes courses, and other attractions.

75. Urban Air operates these adventure park facilities throughout the United States, primarily through franchisees. Urban Air’s adventure park facilities primarily feature attractions such as trampolines, ziplines, ropes courses, and climbing walls, for example.

76. Urban Air Adventure Parks and Slick City Action Parks compete directly in the indoor family entertainment market.

77. Not wanting to miss out on the growing demand for indoor slides in family entertainment centers, spurred by Slick Slide's innovative slide designs and dry slide technology, Urban Air announced earlier this year (2024) the introduction of "new indoor slides" in its facilities.

78. In fact, Urban Air boldly claims to have "created a brand new of world [sic] patent-pending exhilarating slides for kids to explore." EX2001, 1. However, this statement sharply contrasts with the reality: many of Urban Air's "new" slide designs closely resemble Slick Slide's flagship slide designs.

79. Even more telling, Urban Air's slides share identical or nearly identical names. For instance, four out of the five slides Urban Air claims to have designed are named: "Max Launch Slide," "Launch Slide," "Racer Slide," and "Scoop Slide"—names that have become well-known in the industry for slide designs that originate from Slick Slide. EX2001, 1.

80. Not only has Urban Air copied these names, but the slide designs themselves are strikingly similar to Slick Slide's. Further, as can be seen from the promotional video on Urban Air's webpage (EX2001), the recreational slide systems include a ride vehicle with prominent similarities to Slick Slide's ride vehicle.

81. Although the development costs of Urban Air's recreational slide systems are not publicly available, it is reasonable to assume that Urban Air committed

substantial resources to the creation and integration of these recreational slides into its adventure parks, as well as to marketing of the new recreational slides.

82. Thus, from an economic perspective, Urban Air’s decision to invest heavily in building and expanding its adventure parks to include recreational slide systems is consistent with a recognition that Slick Slide’s patented dry-slide systems have achieved marketplace success.

83. In sum, Slick Slide’s dry slide technology has been a commercial success, further rebutting any suggestion that the patented technology was obvious.

G. Long Felt but Unsolved Need and the Passage of Time

84. The record establishes that slide systems, including both slides and ride vehicles, have been used for more than a century. EX1003, ¶¶32–48.

85. As early as the 1930s, publications described recreational slides as “a common piece of amusement apparatus in children’s playgrounds.” EX1014, 1:16–17; EX1004, 1:34–35.

86. Despite these longstanding uses, dry slide systems failed to achieve a rider experience in order to become the foundation for family entertainment centers.

87. Slick Slide’s claimed dry slide technology that is the subject of the ‘854 patent changed that. The mesh-bottom ride vehicle of the ‘854 patent, paired with a non-wet lubricated slide surface, achieves low coefficients of friction and delivers the thrill and repeatability of water slides without water.

88. This breakthrough made dry slides commercially viable as the central attraction in an entertainment venue, as evidenced by Slick City's success.

89. Slick City Action Parks, the first indoor centers built entirely around dry slides, demonstrate that the patented technology finally satisfied this long-felt but unmet need.

90. Slick Slide's recreational slide systems finally satisfied the long-felt need for a dry recreational slide system that could deliver the thrill of a water slide without water. I personally was impressed that Slick Slide managed to achieve both the low coefficients of friction and the repeatability necessary to make dry slides the centerpiece of a family entertainment venue. The satisfaction of this long-felt need is validated by the considerable commercial success of Slick City Action Parks, as well as competitors such as Urban Air now copying these slide designs and ride vehicles in the market.

IV. CONCLUSION

91. I hereby declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct, and that all statements made of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. I understand that willful false statements are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 15, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Schmit', written over a horizontal line.

Gary Schmit