

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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TOYOTA MOTOR CORP.,  
Petitioner,

v.

AUTOCONNECT HOLDINGS LLC,  
Patent Owner.

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PGR2025-00041  
Patent 12,039,243 B2

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Before JUSTIN T. ARBES, MITCHELL G. WEATHERLY, and  
SCOTT B. HOWARD, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

ARBES, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

ORDER

Conditionally Granting Patent Owner's Motion for  
*Pro Hac Vice* Admission of William R. Woodford  
37 C.F.R. § 42.10

On November 17, 2025, Patent Owner filed a motion requesting *pro hac vice* admission of William R. Woodford. Paper 15 (“Motion” or “Mot.”). Patent Owner also submitted a Declaration from Mr. Woodford in support of the Motion. Ex. 2018 (“Declaration” or “Decl.”). Patent Owner attests that Petitioner does not oppose the Motion. Mot. 2.

For the reasons provided below, Patent Owner’s Motion is *conditionally 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) (“Order – Authorizing Motion for *Pro Hac Vice* Admission”).

Based on the facts set forth in the Motion and the accompanying Declaration, we conclude that Mr. Woodford has sufficient qualifications to represent Patent Owner in this proceeding, has demonstrated sufficient litigation experience and legal familiarity with the subject matter of this proceeding, and meets all other requirements for admission *pro hac vice*. *See* Ex. 2018. Accordingly, Patent Owner has established good cause for *pro hac vice* admission of Mr. Woodford. Mr. Woodford will be permitted to serve as back-up counsel only. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c)(1).

Patent Owner filed a power of attorney including Mr. Woodford in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(b). Paper 13. Patent Owner also filed mandatory notice information identifying Mr. Woodford as back-up counsel in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.8(b)(3). Paper 14.

Upon review of Mr. Woodford's Declaration, we observe that the Declaration has not been properly executed under either 37 C.F.R. § 1.68 or 28 U.S.C. § 1746.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, Patent Owner's Motion is *conditionally granted*, and is to be effective after Patent Owner files an updated, properly executed, declaration.

In consideration of the foregoing, it is hereby:

ORDERED that Patent Owner's Motion (Paper 15) for *pro hac vice* admission of William R. Woodford is *conditionally granted*, provided that within ten (10) business days of the date of this Order, Patent Owner submits an updated declaration from Mr. Woodford that is properly executed;

FURTHER ORDERED that Patent Owner is to continue to have a registered practitioner represent it as lead counsel for this proceeding;

FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Woodford is authorized to represent Patent Owner as back-up counsel only in this proceeding;

FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Woodford be familiar with the Patent Trial and Appeal Board Consolidated Trial Practice Guide<sup>2</sup> (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

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<sup>1</sup> The Declaration is missing an ending declaratory statement under either 37 C.F.R. § 1.68 or 28 U.S.C. § 1746 regarding the truthfulness of the declarant's earlier statements.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <https://www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated>.

FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Woodford 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.*

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