

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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HTC CORPORATION, HTC AMERICA, INC., and  
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA, INC.,  
Petitioner,

v.

UNILOC 2017 LLC,  
Patent Owner.

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IPR2018-01589<sup>1</sup>  
Patent 7,653,508 B1

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Before SALLY C. MEDLEY, JOHN F. HORVATH, and  
SEAN P. O'HANLON, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

O'HANLON, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

ORDER  
Granting Petitioner's Motion for Withdrawal of Counsel  
*37 C.F.R. § 42.10*

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<sup>1</sup> Samsung Electronics America, Inc., which filed a petition in IPR2019-00889, has been joined as a petitioner in this proceeding.

On December 10, 2019, Petitioner filed a Motion for Withdrawal of Counsel. Paper 22 (“Motion” or “Mot.”). Although Petitioner did not first seek authorization to file the Motion, we exercise our discretion to enter and consider the Motion. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.20(b) (“*Prior authorization. A motion will not be entered without Board authorization.*”).

In the Motion, “Petitioner requests that Mario A. Apreotesi be deemed withdrawn from the present proceeding” because “Mr. Apreotesi is leaving the firm of Vinson & Elkins LLP and will have no continuing involvement in this matter.” Mot. 1. We note that Mr. Apreotesi is back-up counsel for Petitioner. *See* Pet. 3. Petitioner asserts that “Todd E. Landis and Jeffrey R. Swigart, Lead Counsel and Back-up Counsel, respectively, will remain as counsel for Petitioner.” Mot. 1. This statement is consistent with the Updated Mandatory Notices that Petitioner filed along with the Motion. *See* Paper 21, 1. Petitioner indicates that Patent Owner does not oppose the withdrawal of Mr. Apreotesi. Mot. 1.

In light of the foregoing, it is:

ORDERED that pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(e), Mr. Apreotesi may withdraw from representing Petitioner in this proceeding; and

FURTHER ORDERED that, Petitioner’s Motion is *granted*, such that Mr. Landis is Petitioner’s lead counsel, and Mr. Swigart is Petitioner’s back-up counsel.

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