

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

EP FAMILY CORP.,
Petitioner,

v.

OFFICE KICK, INC.,
Patent Owner.

IPR2025-00471 (Patent 11,849,843 B1)
IPR2025-00497 (Patent 11,910,926 B1)¹

Before JAMES A. WORTH, KARA L. SZPONDOWSKI, and
BRENT M. DOUGAL, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

DOUGAL, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

ORDER

Granting Patent Owner's Motions for *Pro Hac Vice* Admission of
Benjamin T. Horton and Isaku M. Begert
37 C.F.R. § 42.10

¹ This Order addresses issues that are identical in each of the above-identified cases. Accordingly, we exercise our discretion to issue one order to be filed in each case. The parties, however, are not authorized to use this style heading in any subsequent papers without prior authorization.

IPR2025-00471 (Patent 11,849,843 B1)
IPR2025-00497 (Patent 11,910,926 B1)

On February 27, 2025, Office Kick, Inc. (“Patent Owner”) filed motions for *pro hac vice* admission of Benjamin T. Horton and Isaku M. Begert in each of the above-identified proceedings. IPR2025-00471, Papers 7 and 8 (collectively “Motions”).² The Motions in each case are supported by declarations from Mr. Horton and Mr. Begert. Exs. 2001 and 2002 (collectively “Declarations”). Petitioner has not opposed the Motions.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 42.10(c), we may recognize counsel *pro hac vice* during a proceeding upon a showing of good cause. 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 Unified Patents, Inc. v. Parallel Iron, LLC*, IPR2013-00639 (PTAB Oct. 15, 2013) (Paper 7) (representative “Order – Authorizing Motion for *Pro Hac Vice* Admission”).

Based on the facts set forth in the Motions and the accompanying Declarations, we conclude that Mr. Horton and Mr. Begert each have sufficient legal and technical qualifications to represent Patent Owner in these proceedings, that Mr. Horton and Mr. Begert each have demonstrated sufficient litigation experience and familiarity with the subject matter of these proceedings, and that Mr. Horton and Mr. Begert each meet all other requirements for admission *pro hac vice*. *See* Declarations ¶¶ 1–10. Accordingly, Patent Owner has established good cause for *pro hac vice* admission of Mr. Horton and Mr. Begert.

² For expediency, we refer to Paper and Exhibit numbers filed in IPR2025-00471. Similar Papers and Exhibits were filed in IPR2025-00497.

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It is, therefore,

ORDERED that Patent Owner's Motions (IPR2025-00471, Papers 7 and 8; IPR2025-00497, Papers 7 and 8) for *pro hac vice* admission of Benjamin T. Horton and Isaku M. Begert are *granted*;

FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Horton and Mr. Begert will be authorized to act only as back-up counsel in the above-identified proceedings;

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

FURTHER ORDERED that Mr. Horton and Mr. Begert shall comply with the Consolidated Trial Practice Guide³ (84 Fed. Reg. 64,280 (Nov. 21, 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. Horton and Mr. Begert 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.*⁴

³ Available at <https://www.uspto.gov/TrialPracticeGuideConsolidated>.

⁴ Mr. Horton and Mr. Begert declare that they will "be subject to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Rules of Professional Responsibility set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 11.101 *et seq.*," rather than the USPTO Rules of Professional *Conduct* set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.101 *et seq.* Ex. 2001 ¶ 8; Ex. 2002 ¶ 8. We deem this to be harmless error.

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FOR PETITIONER:

Kevin Terrazas

TERRAZAS, PLLC

kterrazas@terrazaspllc.com

FOR PATENT OWNER:

Ryan Phelan

Raymond Ricordati

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

rphelan@marshallip.com

rricordati@marshallip.com