

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

STRAUMANN USA, LLC,
Petitioner,

v.

SMART DENTURE CONVERSIONS, LLC,
Patent Owner.

PGR2025-00054
Patent 12,156,781

DECLARATION OF JOHN L. GIBBONS

February 5, 2026

I, John L. Gibbons, declare as follows:

1. This declaration is given in support of Patent Owner Smart Denture Conversions, LLC's Motion for Pro Hac Vice Admission of John L. Gibbons.
2. I am an associate at the law firm of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan LLP, where my practice includes patent, commercial, and appellate litigation.
3. If admitted pro hac vice in this matter, I will serve as back-up counsel to Kelsey I. Nix, also of the law firm of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan LLP. Mr. Nix is lead counsel and is a registered practitioner.
4. I am an active member in good standing of the North Carolina and District of Columbia bars, as well as an inactive member in good standing of the California bar. I have more than seven years' litigation experience in federal and state courts throughout the country.
5. I have never had any application for admission to practice denied, nor have I been sanctioned, cited for contempt, suspended, or disbarred from practice before any court or administrative body.
6. I have read and will comply with the Office Patent Trial Practice Guide and the Board's Rules of Practice for Trials set forth in 37 C.F.R. part 42.

7. I will comply with and be subject to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Rules of Professional Conduct set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.101 et seq. and disciplinary jurisdiction under 37 C.F.R. § 11.19(a).

8. I am familiar with the subject matter of this proceeding. I have reviewed the subject U.S. Patent No. 12,156,781 (“’781 patent”) (Ex. 1001), the relevant prosecution history (Ex. 1015), the Petition for Post-Grant Review (Paper 2), the prior-art references at issue (Exs. 1003–1006, 1008, 2012–2018), the Expert Declaration of John B. Brunski, Ph.D. (Ex. 1002), Patent Owner’s Request for Discretionary Denial (Paper 7), Petitioner’s Opposition Brief to Patent Owner’s Discretionary Denial Request (Paper 9), Patent Owner’s Preliminary Response (Paper 10), the Expert Declaration of Karl Leinsing (Ex. 2010), the Director’s Referral Decision (Paper 11), the Board’s Institution Decision (Paper 14), Petitioner’s Objections to Evidence (Paper 19), and Patent Owner’s Responses to Petitioner’s Objections to Evidence (Paper 20).

9. I have also appeared as counsel for Patent Owner in the parallel litigation in the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, in which Patent Owner alleges Petitioner infringed the ’781 patent. *See Smart Denture Conversions, LLC v. Straumann USA, LLC*, No. 1:24-cv-507-JCB (D. Del.).

10. I have also discussed the strategy, arguments, and evidence in this proceeding with Mr. Nix. I am very familiar with the legal theories at issue in this case.

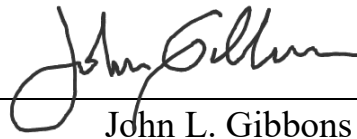
11. Simultaneously with this application in this proceeding, I have also applied for pro hac vice admission to appear in another proceeding by the same Petitioner against Patent Owner, IPR2025-00956, in which a trial has been instituted against claims of another patent in the same family as the '781 patent. I have discussed the strategy, arguments, and evidence in that related proceeding with Mr. Nix as well.

12. Apart from IPR2025-00956 and this proceeding, I have not applied to appear pro hac vice in any proceedings before the Patent Office in the last three years.

13. Given my familiarity with the subject matter of this proceeding, I have experience and expertise important to representing Patent Owner in this matter.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of 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 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

Dated: February 5, 2026



John L. Gibbons