

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

CORELOGIC, INC.
Petitioner,

v.

BOUNDARY SOLUTIONS, INC.,
Patent Owner.

Case CBM2016-00016
Patent 7,092,957 B2

Before LYNNE E. PETTIGREW, PETER P. CHEN, and
RICHARD H. MARSCHALL, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

CHEN, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

DECISION

Denying Institution of Covered Business Method Patent Review
37 C.F.R. § 42.208

I. INTRODUCTION

Petitioner CoreLogic, Inc. (“CoreLogic”) filed a Petition (Paper 2, “Pet.”) to institute a covered business method (“CBM”) patent review of claims 1–19 of U.S. Patent No. 7,092,957 B2 (Ex. 1001, “the ’957 patent”), owned by Boundary Solutions, Inc. (“BSI”). BSI filed a Preliminary

Response (Paper 7, “Prelim. Resp.”). BSI also filed a disclaimer of claims 13, 16, 17, and 18. Ex. 2003.

We have jurisdiction under 35 U.S.C. § 324. For the reasons that follow, the information presented in the Petition does not establish that the ’957 patent qualifies as a covered business method patent for purposes of § 18(d)(1) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (“AIA”), Pub. L. No. 112–29, 125 Stat. 284, 331 (2011). Accordingly, we decline to institute a covered business method patent review of claims 1–19 of the ’957 patent. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 324(a).

II. BACKGROUND

A. *Related Proceedings*

The parties state that BSI has asserted the ’957 patent against CoreLogic in *Boundary Solutions, Inc. v. CoreLogic, Inc.*, No. 5:14-cv-00761 (N.D. Cal.) (filed Feb. 19, 2014). Pet. 59; Paper 5 (Patent Owner’s Mandatory Notices). BSI also has asserted related U.S. Patent No. 7,499,946 (“the ’946 patent”) and U.S. Patent No. 8,065,352 (“the ’352 patent”) in that proceeding. Pet. 59; Paper 5. The ’946 patent and the ’352 patent are the subject of *inter partes* reviews in Cases IPR2015-00226, and in IPR2015-00219 and IPR2015-00228, respectively, based on petitions filed by CoreLogic. In Case IPR2015-00225, we did not institute an *inter partes* review because the information presented in the petition did not establish a reasonable likelihood that CoreLogic would prevail. *CoreLogic, Inc. v. Boundary Solutions, Inc.*, Case IPR2015-00225 (PTAB May 21,

2015) (Paper 7). We recently issued final decisions in Cases IPR2015-00219, IPR2015-00222, and IPR2015-00228.

B. The '957 Patent

The '957 patent relates generally to Geographic Information Systems (“GIS”) and, in particular, to a National Online Parcel-Level Map Data Portal (“NPDP”) that provides online delivery of parcel-level map data. Ex. 1001, Abstract, 1:17–26. The '957 patent describes the NPDP as an electronic repository for parcel-level maps and linked attribute data acquired from public and private entities. *Id.* at 2:32–44. Databases from different jurisdictions are assembled and stored in a standard format, with each jurisdictional database placed in an individual directory. *Id.* at 4:3–5, 7:21–30. The system normalizes information to a single universal spatial protocol. *Id.* at 3:16–19, 7:33–54. Parcel-level information includes parcel boundaries and geocodes linked using a parcel identifier to a non-graphic database containing property tax records. *Id.* at 1:49–53, 4:1–11, 8:13–24.

The '957 patent describes retrieving a parcel-level map based on the address of a parcel requested by an end user. *Id.* at 1:54–57, 4:47–51. The system searches a jurisdictional lookup table to identify the jurisdiction in which the requested parcel is located. *Id.* at 8:25–30. The system searches the non-graphic database for that jurisdiction for a record matching the address, and uses the parcel identifier for that record to access a graphic database containing the selected parcel. *Id.* at 3:41–58. The system can display the selected parcel and surrounding parcels, with the selected parcel

shown as a highlighted polygon. *Id.* at 4:56–58. The system can also display the parcel’s linked data (e.g., tax record). *Id.* at 4:58–59.

The ’957 patent describes a business revenue model that “begins with the establishment by the NPDP service provider of a publicized parcel-level map data web site with links to a tax record database.” *Id.* at 13:20–23. For example, the model contemplates generating revenue through various subscription agreements. *Id.* at 13:65–15:43. The ’957 patent also describes providing access to the database for free. *See id.* at 2:58, 14:11–15, 14:41–45, 16:8–12.

C. Illustrative Claim

Claims 1–19 are the subject of the Petition, and claims 13 and 16–18 have since been disclaimed by Patent Owner. Claim 1 is independent. Claim 1 is reproduced as follows.

1. An interactive computer implemented method for retrieving geographic parcel boundary polygon maps and associated parcel attribute data linked to a non-graphic database, wherein the data is acquired electronically, comprising:
 - a. activating a computer terminal connected to a computer network;
 - b. accessing an applications program for access to the data;
 - c. accessing a data entry screen and entering a parcel attribute to call up the parcel selected;
 - d. subsequently accessing a national parcel map database comprising multiple jurisdictional databases which have been normalized to a common data protocol;
 - e. searching a jurisdiction look up table associated with the national parcel map database, said look up table indexed for identification of the pertinent jurisdictional database, whereby a numerical jurisdictional identifier for the selected jurisdiction is

located, and the identified jurisdictional database thereafter accessed; and,

f. thereafter displaying on screen a parcel boundary polygon map, along with surrounding parcel boundary polygons, the default scale of the displayed map selected to fill the computer display screen with parcel boundaries within a selected distance around the subject parcel, the selected parcel boundary polygon highlighted, defining both the location and boundary of the parcel, and associated attribute data for the highlighted parcel displayed..

Ex. 1001, 16:14–42.

D. Asserted Grounds of Unpatentability

CoreLogic asserts that claims 1–19 of the '957 patent are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Pet. 33–59.

III. DISCUSSION

A threshold question is whether the '957 patent is a “covered business method patent,” as defined by the AIA. CoreLogic bears the burden of persuasion that the '957 patent is a covered business method patent. *See* 37 C.F.R. § 42.304(a). For the reasons discussed below, we determine CoreLogic has made an insufficient showing that the '957 patent is a “covered business method patent.”

The AIA defines “covered business method patent” as “a patent that claims a method or corresponding apparatus for performing data processing or other operations used in the practice, administration, or management of a financial product or service, except that the term does not include patents for technological inventions.” AIA § 18(d)(1); *see also* 37 C.F.R. § 42.301(a). The legislative history of the AIA “explains that the definition of covered business method patent was drafted to encompass patents ‘claiming activities that are financial in nature, incidental to a financial activity or

Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.