

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

UNIFIED PATENTS INC.,
Petitioner,

v.

PLANO ENCRYPTION TECHNOLOGIES, LLC,
Patent Owner.

IPR2016-01644
U.S. Patent 6,466,983 B1

Before MATTHEW R. CLEMENTS, JENNIFER MEYER CHAGNON, and
SHEILA F. McSHANE, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

McSHANE, *Administrative Patent Judge*.

SUMMARY OF JANUARY 18, 2017 CONFERENCE CALL
Conduct of the Proceeding
37 C.F.R. § 42.05

On January 18, 2017, at the request of the Board, a conference call was convened. P. Andrew Riley and Jonathan Stroud appeared for Petitioner and Steven P. Strazza appeared *pro se*.

During the conference call, Mr. Strazza was advised that he could seek legal representation, and was encouraged to do so. For the purposes of the call, Mr. Strazza opted to continue to represent himself *pro se*.

We explained that we had learned of an assignment of U.S. Patent 6,466,983 B1 (“the ’983 patent”) from Mr. Strazza to Plano Encryption Technologies LLC.¹ The assignment indicates that Mr. Strazza assigned all rights in the ’983 patent to Plano Encryption Technologies. Mr. Strazza confirmed that he has no ownership interest in the ’983 patent. Mr. Strazza also stated that he had contacted Mr. Bradley D. Liddle, of Plano Encryption Technologies, who did not object to Mr. Strazza’s participation, but declined to support that participation. Mr. Strazza represented that he has been participating in the proceeding only because he is the named inventor of the ’983 patent and, therefore, does not want to see claims held unpatentable.

We explained that our paralegals had invited Mr. Liddle to join this call, but he informed us by email (Ex. 3001, filed herewith) on January 18, 2017, that he could not participate in the call. His email also informed us that he had recorded, on January 17, 2017, an assignment (Ex. 3002, filed herewith) dated April 13, 2016, in which all rights to the ’983 patent are assigned from Plano Encryption Technologies to Cuica LLC.

¹ See Assignment Number 503296300, filed May 7, 2015, Reel 035583, Frame 0938.

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Counsel for Petitioner stated that because Patent Owner has not appeared in the proceeding, an adverse judgment would be appropriate. We explained that Petitioner's request was premature.

The Board will attempt to contact a representative of Cuica LLC and, if successful, will solicit dates and times at which counsel for Petitioner, Mr. Strazza, and a representative of Cuica LLC all can participate in a conference call.

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For PETITIONER:

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