Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association

June 2011 Issue 78 www.laipla.net

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Trademark Bootcamp October 18, 2011

President's Message

by Alexander R. Schlee

Welcome to the June issue of the LAIPLA Bulletin. For all of you who were there, we had a wonderful time at our joint LAIPLA/SDIPLA Spring Seminar from June 3-5 at the famous Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego. I let the facts speak for themselves:

- Thirty speakers, among these luminaries such as Former Chief Judge Paul Michel and USPTO Director David Kappos.
- Seventeen sponsors donating in total over \$30,000.
- Two cross-marketing sponsors: Los Angeles Women in Intellectual Property and the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA), the latter having announced our program per e-blast to their 17,000 members.
- Fourteen hours of MCLE-approved presentations to choose among dual tracks on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.
- Eight all-inclusive social events, the six major ones include one guest per attendee. Our social events included breakfasts on Saturday and Sunday, cocktails on the beach and subsequent Texas Hold 'Em tournament on Friday, lunch, cocktail reception, the dinner event and subsequent bonfire beach party on Saturday.

More details can be gathered below in our meeting summary. This newsletter gives me one more chance to rave about our Spring Seminar Committee: All four of them have really bent over backwards to make this a great Spring Seminar. Again, these are Committee Chair Phil Graves, and Committee members Mark Treitel, Sanjesh Sharma and Nikki Ma. All of them have baffled the LAIPLA board with their motivation and their professionalism with how they organized the event. They did not only do a lot of the hard ground work, but also added to the organization a number of creative ideas, some of which will probably last and enrich LAIPLA for the long future ahead of us. While this is a true team effort involving a much longer list of great players in addition to our Spring Seminar Committee, also from SDIPLA, Mark Treitel has my vote to receive the team ball for pulling off this event. The next Spring Meeting is already on its way for June 8-10 in 2012. Our incoming President Brian Arnold has picked the Torrey Pines Lodge and I am looking forward to it.

The remainder of my message I would like to dedicate to a short recap of this season and an outlook. Including our law school outreach program, we organized in total sixteen events: six monthly meetings, five annual events (Washington in the West program, Judges Night, Litigation Roundtable, Trademark Bootcamp, and Spring Seminar), and five very well attended panel presentations in various law schools as part of our law school outreach program. Apart from that, we took some initiative to lobby for a USPTO satellite office in California, and we were working on some Amicus Brief activities. Notably, we cooperated with a number of other organizations, including the Inns of Court, the Orange County Federal Bar Association, the San Diego Intellectual Property Law Association, the State Bar of California IP Section and the American Intellectual Property Law Association, just to name a few, on various levels of organizing and marketing our high profile meetings. Last but not least, we published the monthly LAIPLA Bulletin, with our special thanks to Oral Caglar, our longtime Bulletin Editor. It is overdue in my messages to mention him. He has turned the Bulletin over the years into a very regularly published newsletter of a quality that deserves the name publication, and he does this work almost every month.

President's Message

Continued from page 1

With all that, LAIPLA can claim to be one of the most active local bar associations in the field of Intellectual Property and has been very successful in reaching out to a number of other friendly organizations and universities.

In addition to our eleven LAIPLA board members, LAIPLA is run by over twenty active committee members, plus our professional administrators. A particularly good trend is that we moved over the last few years toward a broader active involvement in the organization from our membership. Remember, we are producing a live performance, not a movie theater, and therefore depend as an organization on a broad base of active involvement from our members. After all, it is a fine ensemble that gives a fine performance. This is where the purpose of organizations like LAIPLA has shifted to some extent in recent years: we do not serve the primary purpose of simply conveying information, and we are well aware that most of it can be pulled from the web. Instead, we offer active roles to our members want to play in the organization, LAIPLA can offer it and pay back by making active members a part of the show, giving our active members some new contacts and strengthening old contacts, and simply by giving the members a deserved perception of accomplishment. Becoming active in LAIPLA is an investment of your time and effort that pays back. New committee positions are to be filled soon for the next season, so please consider becoming active and let us know – we certainly need you!

Article: Uniloc USA, Inc. v. Microsoft Corp.: The Federal Circuit Rejects the 25% Rule

By: Sarah S. Brooks Zuber & Taillieu LLP

The view and opinions expressed in this article are those solely of the author(s) and are not of the Los Angeles Intellectual Property Law Association or its members.

The Federal Circuit recently rejected the 25 percent rule in calculating damages and assessing a reasonable royalty. In *Uniloc USA, Inc. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 632 F.3d 1292(Fed. Cir. 2011), the Federal Circuit found that the 25 percent rule of thumb was an arbitrary rule and was not tied to the particular facts of the case. Therefore, the Federal Circuit reaffirmed its reliance on the *Georgia-Pacific* factors and held that these factors "properly tie the reasonable royalty calculation to the facts of the hypothetical negotiation at issue."

At trial in the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island the jury awarded \$388 million to Plaintiff Uniloc in damages based on the testimony of Uniloc's expert.

Uniloc's expert largely relied on the so-called 25 percent rule in calculating damages and a reasonable royalty. The 25 percent rule has been used to approximate the reasonable royalty rate that a licensee would offer to pay during a hypothetical negotiation and "suggests that the licensee pay a royalty rate equivalent to 25 percent of its expected profits for the product that incorporates the IP at issue."

The Federal Circuit found that Microsoft is entitled to a new trial on damages. The Federal Circuit in *Uniloc*, held that as a matter of Federal Circuit law "the 25 percent rule of thumb is a fundamentally flawed tool for determining a baseline royalty rate in a hypothetical negotiation. The Federal Circuit came to this conclusion because such a "rule of thumb" failed to tie a reasonably royalty rate to the facts at issue in the case. In other words, such a rule of thumb did not take into account the unique facts of each case, the particular product industry at issue or other licenses in the same field of technology.

The Federal Circuit in *Uniloc* further emphasized that it is the patentee's burden to prove damages, and as such, the patentee must rely on license agreements that are similar or comparable to the patented product at issue. The Federal Circuit also reaffirmed its adoption of the so-called *Georgia-Pacific* factors as a guide to determining the reasonable royalty rate, which includes considering licenses granted for the particular patent at issue as well as licenses obtained by the accused infringer. The Federal Circuit held that the *Georgia-Pacific* factors "properly tie the reasonable royalty calculation to the facts of the hypothetical negotiation at issue" and that its rejection of the 25 percent rule is not meant to limit these factors in any way.

The *Uniloc* decision will have a significant effect on calculating damages and a reasonable royalty in patent cases. No longer can Plaintiffs or their experts rely on the 25 percent rule of thumb as a fall-back position. Instead, each Plaintiff and its expert must go through each of the fifteen *Georgia-Pacific* factors in order to calculate a reasonable royalty. This will make calculating a reasonably royalty rate more difficult if there are no prior licenses or examples of licenses in the industry to rely on. In addition, this case will impact early settlements because the 25 percent rule can no longer be relied upon. Instead, the parties may need expert analysis and discovery before they can reach a settlement and agree upon a reasonable royalty rate.

Event Summary: Spring Seminar 2011

By: Mark Treitel Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP

This year's Spring Seminar, June 3-5, 2011, was a smashing success, on the sandy beaches of San Diego at the world class Hotel Del Coronado. LAIPLA had the honor of co-sponsoring the event with our colleagues to the south, San Diego Intellectual Property Law Association (SDIPLA), who were responsible for providing our keynote presentation and our opening session with leaders in the Biotechnology field. With well over one hundred attendees, in-house attorneys mixed all weekend with patent and trademark litigators, patent and trademark prosecutors, and copyright attorneys.

If there was one theme of the weekend, it was the utmost importance of the patent system to the American economy. Both USPTO Director David Kappos and Judge Paul Michel repeatedly emphasized how over the last few years, the rest of the country realized what patent attorneys have always been aware of: the need for a robust patent system to generate new ideas and create jobs. Director Kappos addressed the changes he's made within the USPTO and took direct questions from the audience. Judge Michel, during his keynote address sponsored by LegalMetric, delivered candid remarks on why all conference attendees should contact their Congressman to fix the flaws in the current America Invents Act.

There were many educational highlights throughout the weekend, as leaders in their respective fields informed attendees on current trends and breaking law. As the Supreme Court handed down high profile patent decisions, presentations such as Inequitable Conduct and Hal Wegner's yearly Patent Year In Review, were literally up-to-the minute, reflecting the latest Supreme Court decisions. Attendees had the opportunity to hear real war stories from A-class patent litigators, as well as learn about how to start their own practices. Besides the concentration of high-quality patent seminars, there were specific sessions on cutting edge Trademark and Copyright issues. Lively debates could always be heard in the hallways, continuing what was discussed in the lectures.

Of course, the Spring Seminar wouldn't be an LAIPLA event without a lively social calendar. We had the pleasure of drinking cocktails on the beach at sunset, a very lively Poker tournament where numerous attendees won an iPad 2 and other great Apple products, and a couldn't miss bonfire on the beach. All attendees are looking forward to the next year's Spring Seminar on June 8-10 at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, CA. See you next year!



Hotel del Coronado, Est. 1888



Special Guest Speaker David Kappos



Alexander R. Schlee LAIPLA President 2010-2011



Patent Prosecutor Panel Harold McElhinny & Adrian Pruetz



Honorable Paul R. Michel and Spring Seminar guests



Saturday Night Reception

Employment Opportunities

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Department

Agents in the patent group work on a variety of projects, including: drafting and prosecuting patents, preparing invalidity and non-infringement opinions, analyzing patents in support of litigation and adversarial licensing, and performing due diligence for corporate transactions and technology transfers.

Qualifications

Morrison & Foerster LLP is seeking to hire an exceptional patent agent. This is an extraordinary opportunity to join one of the finest law firms representing companies involved in developing and commercializing highly-innovative technologies in the marketplace. Morrison & Foerster works closely with clients from the earliest stages of their technical development, offering valuable advice about how to protect their inventions and ideas in view of business strategies. The successful candidate must have a strong scientific background in electrical engineering with at a minimum of 1-4 years of work experience as a patent agent. Strong writing skills and admission to the USPTO is required.

Availability Available Immediately

How to Apply Apply online or through mail.

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ASSOCIATE POSITION FOR IP/PATENT ATTORNEY

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Employment Opportunities

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Intellectual Property Services



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Trade Secret Litigation and Protection in California

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LAIPLA Announces Sponsor Opportunities

Sponsorship: A Good Way To Support LAIPLA and Highlight Your Firm

We have several opportunities for firms or companies to publicize their organization by being a sponsor at one of our upcoming events. Sponsors are needed for our Monthly Meetings (one sponsor allowed each month), at the Washington in the West Program (4-5 sponsors needed), at our Annual Spring Seminar (7-8 sponsors needed), and at Judges Night. If you are interested in being a sponsor by contributing to the general budget, by contributing to a specific event, or by being a tabletop sponsor at the Washington in the West, Spring Seminar or Judges Night, please contact Scott Hansen at 310-824-5555 or shansen@fulpat.com. Show your support, and feature your firm or company at the same time.

Newsletter Submissions

Have a short article, news item, or announcement that you would like to share with the Association? Send your submissions to the Editor of the LAIPLA Bulletin: Oral Caglar, oral.caglar@yahoo.com. Please direct advertising inquiries to the Administrator, MCE International, at LAIPLAOffice@aol.com. LOS ANGELES INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW ASSOCIATION

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