# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No. 1:22-cv-22706-RNS

BELL NORTHERN RESEARCH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

HMD AMERICA, INC.; HMD GLOBAL OY; SHENZHEN CHINO-E COMMUNICATION CO., LTD.; HON HAI PRECISION INDUSTRY CO., LTD; TINNO MOBILE TECHNOLOGY CORP.; SHENZHEN TINNO MOBILE CO., LTD.; TINNO USA, INC.; UNISOC TECHNOLOGIES CO., LTD.; SPREADTRUM COMMUNICATIONS USA, INC.; WINGTECH TECHNOLOGY CO.; LTD.; WINGTECH INTERNATIONAL, INC.; BEST BUY CO., INC.; BEST BUY STORES L.P.; TARGET CORP.; WALMART INC.,

Defendant(s).

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PLAINTIFF BELL NORTHERN RESEARCH, LLC'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT HON HAI PRECISION INDUSTRY CO., LTD'S MOTION FOR EXCEPTIONAL CASE STATUS



### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	Π	NTRODUCTION	1
II.		FACTUAL BACKGROUND	2
		BNR's First Filed Case Against Hon Hai Resulted in Dismissal Without Prejudice as to Hai and All Defendants	2
I	3.	BNR's Second Filed Case Against Hon Hai Also Resulted in Dismissal Without Prejudio	
III.		LEGAL STANDARD	7
		Section 285 Attorneys' Fees Are Limited to Exceptional Cases and Only to a Prevailing ty	
I	3.	FRCP 54 Attorney Fee Motions Must Be Filed 14 Days After Entry of Judgement	8
(	<b>Z.</b>	Local Rule 7.3 Mandates Certain Requirements for Motions for Attorneys' Fees	9
IV.		ARGUMENT	9
A	١.	BNR's Case Against Hon Hai Is Not Exceptional	0
I	3.	BNR Has Been Reasonable Throughout the Litigation	2
		Hon Hai's Motion Does Not Meet the Standards of 35 U.S.C. § 285, FRCP 54, and Loca e 7.3	
V.	C	ONCLUSION	7



### TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Cases	
Beach Blitz Co. v. City of Miami Beach, No. 1:17-cv-23958-UU, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 165462 (S.D. Fla. Sept. 24, 2018)	, 15
Bivens v. Ball Healthcare Servs., No. 18-097-CG-M, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 10727 (S.D. Ala. Jan. 23, 2019)	, 1 <i>6</i>
CRST Van Expedited, Inc. v. E.E.O.C., 578 U.S. 419 (2016)	8
Ctr. Way Co. Ltd. v. Individuals, No. 22-61705-CIV-SINGHAL, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 52198 (S.D. Fla. Mar. 27, 2023)	, 13
Direct Fitness Solutions, LLC v. Direct Fitness Solutions, LLC, 281 F. Supp. 3d 697 (N.D. Ill 2017)	. 12
F&G Research, Inc. v. Google Inc., No. 06-cv-60905-CMA, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 70072 (S.D. Fla. Sep. 20, 2007)	. 12
Kearney v. Auto-Owners Ins. Co., 422 Fed.Appx. 812 (11th Cir. 2011)	. 16
Mixing & Mass Transfer Techs., LLC v. SPX Corp., No. 19-529 (MN), 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 206000 (D. Del. 2020)	, 13
NetSoc, LLC v. Chegg Inc., No. 18-cv-10262-RA, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 232321 (S.D.N.Y. Dec. 10, 2020)	. 13
O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. v. Timney Triggers, LLC, 955 F.3d 990 (Fed. Cir. 2020)	, 13
Octane Fitness, LLC v. ICON Health & Fitness, Inc., 572 U.S. 545 (2014)	8
Orlando Comme 'ns LLC v. LG Elecs., Inc., No. 6:14-cv-1017-Orl-22KRS, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 33845 (M.D. Fla. Mar. 16, 2015)	. 15
Semtek Int'l Inc. v. Lockheed Martin Corp., 531 U.S. 497 (2001)	. 15
Shipping & Transit, LLC v. 1A Auto, Inc., 283 F. Supp. 3d 1290 (S.D. Fla. 2017)	. 12
Traxcell Techs., LLC v. AT&T Corp., No. 2:17-cv-00718-RWS-RSP, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 237105 (F.D. Tex. Dec. 22, 2022)	12

WPEM, Inc. v. SOTI Inc., No. 2:18-cv-00156-JRG, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 17449 (E.D. Tex. Feb. 4, 2020)	13
ZT IP, LLC v. VMWare, Inc., No. 3:22-cv-0970-BS, 2023 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 19165 (N.D. Tex. Feb. 6, 2023)	13
Statutes	
35 U.S.C. § 285	2, 8
Rules	
Fed. R. Civ. P. 54	. passim
Local Rule 7.3	. passim

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1(c), Plaintiff Bell Northern Research, LLC ("BNR" or "Plaintiff") submits this opposing memorandum of law against Defendant Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd.'s ("Hon Hai" or "Defendant") Motion for Exceptional Case Status (the "motion"). (Dkt. 163¹.) For the reasons that follow, the motion should be denied.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Hon Hai's motion is wrong on the facts and wrong on the law. BNR had every right to sue Hon Hai, one of the world's largest consumer electronics manufacturers, for infringing its patents relating to mobile phones and tablets in this Court. Nothing in Hon Hai's motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction (Dkt. 78) or its motion for exceptional case status (Dkt. 163) establishes otherwise. Moreover, after BNR filed suit against Hon Hai, BNR reasonably engaged with Hon Hai throughout the litigation, and the record shows this. Contrary to the declarations filed by Hon Hai's counsel and the arguments in its motion, BNR did not refuse to consider any information or make frivolous allegations against Hon Hai.

Rather, BNR conducted a diligent pre-suit investigation before bringing suit against Hon Hai (Ex. 8 at ¶ 10), and BNR stands by the infringement and jurisdictional allegations in the Complaint against Hon Hai. Hon Hai's motion to dismiss was filed on December 19, 2022, and to avoid implicating jurisdiction in this Court under Rule 4(k)(2), Hon Hai acknowledged in that motion that it could be sued in California. (Dkt. 78 at 14–15.) Therefore, in an effort to streamline the litigation and avoid burdening the Court, BNR proposed dismissing Hon Hai without prejudice. Hon Hai agreed. Dismissal papers were filed and Hon Hai was out of this case shortly thereafter. As part of its overall litigation strategy, BNR may now sue Hon Hai in California. These facts do not warrant fees to Hon Hai.



# DOCKET

# 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.

