

Declaration of Dr. Thomas F. La Porta in Support of Petitioners' Reply
IPR 2016-01262
U.S. Patent No. 7,764,777

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Bright House Networks, LLC,
WideOpenWest Finance, LLC,
Knology of Florida, Inc.
Birch Communications, Inc.
Petitioners

v.

Focal IP, LLC,
Patent Owner

Case No. IPR2016-01262
U.S. Patent No. 7,764,777

**DECLARATION OF THOMAS F. LA PORTA IN SUPPORT OF
PETITIONERS' REPLY TO PATENT OWNER'S RESPONSE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS	1
A.	Engagement Overview	1
B.	Summary of Opinions	2
C.	Materials Considered.....	3
II.	LEGAL PRINCIPLES USED IN THE ANALYSIS	5
A.	Legal Standards for Obviousness.....	5
B.	Legal Standards for Claim Interpretation.....	9
III.	THE CHALLENGED CLAIMS ARE OBVIOUS OVER ARCHER IN VIEW OF CHANG AND THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL OF A POSA	11
A.	Archer Discloses a Gateway Interconnecting a “Controlling Device” on an IP Network to a Tandem Switch in the PSTN	11
B.	A POSA Understood that an IP Network Converging with the PSTN Could Be Connected to Either a PSTN Tandem Switch or PSTN Edge Switch and Without any Technical Differences	15
C.	Archer in view of Chang Discloses a Gateway Interconnecting a Controlling Device on an IP Network to a Tandem Switch in the PSTN	22
D.	Archer Discloses a Controlling Device Connecting First and Second Calls After the Second Call is Received by a Communication Device Associated with the Specified Recipient.....	25
E.	Conclusion - Archer in View of Chang and the Knowledge and Skill of a POSA Disclose All of the Limitations of the Challenged Claims Even Under Patent Owner’s Constructions.....	27
IV.	THE CHALLENGED CLAIMS ARE OBVIOUS OVER THE INSTITUTED GROUND UNDER THE BROADEST REASONABLE INTERPRETATION OF THE CLAIMS IN VIEW OF THE SPECIFICATION.....	28
A.	The Term “Switching Facility” Was Introduced for the First Time During Prosecution of the ‘777 Patent.....	29

B.	Mr. Bates’s Alleged Evidence of Disclaimer in the Specification Refers to “Preferred” Embodiments or Systems Rather Than “the Invention” or the “Present Invention”	29
C.	A POSA Would Understand that the Applicant Broadly Defined “Switching Facilities” During Prosecution and Explicitly Varied the Location and Function of “Switching Facilities” Between Different Claims	32
D.	The Broadest Reasonable Interpretation of “Switching Facility” is Not “PSTN Tandem Switch”	38
E.	The Broadest Reasonable Interpretation of “Coupled To”/“In Communication With” is Not “Connected to Without an Intervening Edge Switch”	38
F.	The Broadest Reasonable Interpretation of “Controlling Device” is Not “A Controller Connected to a PSTN Tandem Switch Without an Intervening Edge Switch”	39
V.	CONCLUSION.....	40

1. I, Thomas F. La Porta, declare as follows:

2. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration, and could and would testify to these facts under oath if called upon to do so.

I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

A. Engagement Overview

3. I have been retained by counsel for Bright House Networks, LLC, WideOpenWest Finance, LLC, Knology of Florida, Inc., and Birch Communications, Inc. (“Petitioners”) in this case as an expert in the relevant art. I previously provided a declaration in this case in support of the Petition setting forth my opinions regarding the state of the art and invalidity of the challenged claims. I am being compensated for my work at the rate of \$550 per hour. No part of my compensation is contingent upon the outcome of this petition.

4. I was asked to study the Patent Owner’s April 3, 2017 Response to Petitioners’ Petition for *Inter Partes* Review of U.S. Patent No. 7,764,777 (“the ‘777 patent”), and its exhibits including the declaration of Regis J. “Bud” Bates dated April 1, 2017 (Ex. 2022), and to render opinions based on the testimony of Mr. Bates contained in his declaration (*Id.*) and in the transcripts of Mr. Bates’s deposition taken on May 8-9, 2017 (Ex. 1059; Ex. 1060).

5. After studying the Response, its exhibits including the declaration of Mr. Bates (Ex. 2022), the transcripts of his deposition (Ex. 2059; Ex. 2060), the ‘777

patent (Ex. 1001), its file history (Ex. 1010), the prior art, and considering the subject matter of the claims of the ‘777 patent in light of the state of technical advancement in the area of telephony in circuit-switched and packet-switched networks in May 2000, I reached the conclusions discussed herein.

6. This declaration, and the conclusions and opinions herein, provide support for the Reply to Patent Owner’s Response filed by Petitioners in this case. I have reviewed the Reply in its entirety as well as its corresponding exhibits.

B. Summary of Opinions

7. As set forth in my June 24, 2016 Declaration in this case, it is my opinion that claims 18, 21, 23, 25, 26, 28-31, 37, 38, 41, 45, and 46 of the ‘777 patent are obvious over Archer (Ex. 1003) in view of Chang (Ex. 1004) and the knowledge and skill of a person of ordinary skill in the art (“POSA”)¹. My opinions are unchanged.

8. A POSA in May 2000 understood that an IP network converging with the PSTN could be connected to either a PSTN tandem switch or PSTN edge switch and without any technical differences and understood the advantages of connecting

¹ In my declaration, I collectively refer to the claims challenged in the Petition as the “Challenged Claims”.

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