

Declaration of Dr. Thomas F. La Porta in Support of Petitioners' Reply
IPR 2016-01263
U.S. Patent No. 8,155,298

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. IPR2016-01263
U.S. Patent No. 8,155,298

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

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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. 8,155,298 (“the ‘298 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 ‘298

patent (Ex. 1001), its file history (Ex. 1008), the file history of U.S. Patent No. 7,764,777 (“the ‘777 patent”) (Ex. 1010), the prior art, and considering the subject matter of the claims of the ‘298 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 23, 2016 Declaration in this case, it is my opinion that claim 1 of the ‘298 patent is 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 also refer to claim 1 of the ‘298 patent as the “Challenged Claim”.

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