UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

ALERE INC. Petitioner

v.

REMBRANDT DIAGNOSTICS, LP Patent Owner U.S. Patent No. 6,548,019

Case No. IPR2016-01502

PETITIONER'S REPLY TO PATENT OWNER'S RESPONSE TO PETITION



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I. INTRODUCTION

Underscoring the lack of novelty of its purported invention, Patent Owner disclaimed sole independent claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,548,019 ("the '019 patent") (Ex. 1001), along with six dependent claims (9, 11-15) after the Board instituted an *inter partes* review of these challenged claims. Only four dependent claims (2-5) remain at issue in this IPR.¹

Patent Owner's arguments hinge on challenging the Board's claim constructions. But under the broadest reasonable construction standard that must be applied in an IPR, the Board correctly found that the preamble term "a device for collecting and assaying a sample of biological fluid" is not limiting because the body of the claims recite structurally complete invention(s), and nothing in the specification or prosecution history requires a narrower construction. Patent Owner's preamble arguments rely exclusively on cases that apply a narrower district court claim construction standard that is inapplicable here.²

Patent Owner also challenges the Board's interpretation of the phrase

² If the preamble were nonetheless found limiting, the broadest reasonable construction of "a device" would be "one or more devices," consistent with Federal Circuit precedent.



¹ Claims 6 and 10, along with the claims from which they depend, are the subject of IPR2017-1130.

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