Case 2:18-cv-00321-JLR Document 117 Filed 10/11/18 Page 1 of 16 THE HONORABLE JAMES L. ROBART 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 8 AT SEATTLE 9 SRC LABS LLC and SAINT REGIS MOHAWK TRIBE, 10 Case No. 2:18-cv-00321-JLR Plaintiffs, 11 MICROSOFT CORPORATION'S MOTION TO STAY PENDING v. 12 INTER PARTES REVIEW MICROSOFT CORPORATION, 13 **NOTED FOR:** Defendant. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 LAW OFFICES CALFO EAKES & OSTROVSKY PLLC 1301 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 2800 SEATTLE, WA 98101 TEL (206) 407-2200 FAX (206) 407-2224 MICROSOFT CORP.'S MOTION TO STAY (2:18-cv-00321-JLR)



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I. INTRODUCTION

SRC Labs, LLC ("SRC") and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe ("SRMT") (collectively, "Plaintiffs") allege that Microsoft Corporation ("Microsoft") infringes six U.S. patents. Microsoft recently filed ten petitions for *inter partes* review ("IPR") to invalidate all asserted claims of all six patents. Based on the time of filing, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board ("PTAB") will decide whether to institute those IPRs in March and April of 2019, and for any IPRs instituted, final written decisions will follow within one year thereafter.

Microsoft's pending IPR petitions warrant a stay of this litigation until they are resolved. First, the PTAB's rulings on Microsoft's petitions are likely to simplify the issues in question and the trial of this case by invalidating some or all of the asserted claims. Even a partial reduction in the number of claims will significantly reduce the number of technical expert reports, scale back related *Daubert* and summary judgment briefing, and eliminate the need for trial on those claims. Second, this case is still in its early stages, with only written discovery and document production, and a single deposition calendared to take place this month. Third, a stay would not unduly prejudice Plaintiffs. Four of the six asserted patents have already expired. Neither SRC Labs, LLC (a Texas LLC run by an investment manager in Dallas) nor SRMT (a sovereign American Indian tribe located in upstate New York) is a competitor of Microsoft, and any delay resulting from a stay could be remedied by monetary damages (if any damages ultimately are due).

Plaintiffs' opposition to Microsoft's motion rests (at least in part) on the apparent transfer of the patents to SRMT: Plaintiffs theorize that the patents are immune from challenge in IPR proceedings based on SRMT's status as a sovereign tribe, such that Microsoft's petitions cannot succeed. But the Federal Circuit has already rejected that theory, as applied to SRMT itself. Although the Federal Circuit may yet hear that issue en banc, or SRMT may pursue it further in the Supreme Court, that only counsels in favor of a stay at least until that threshold issue is resolved.

Accordingly, Microsoft respectfully requests a stay of this case pending resolution of

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