UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS WACO DIVISION

Case No. 6:21-cv-01101-ADA
JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

AIRE TECHNOLOGY LTD.'S OPPOSITION TO APPLE INC.'S **MOTION TO MODIFY STAY ORDER**



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I. INTRODUCTION

In Apple's recent petition for mandamus, it requested that the Federal Circuit "grant mandamus to ensure that *transfer motions receive the priority they deserve.*" *In re Apple*, No. 22-162, at 4. Consequently, the Federal Circuit issued a mandate that the Court "postpone fact discovery and other substantive proceedings until after consideration of Apple's motion for transfer." Dkt. No. 70 at 6. The Court then issued an order that "the proceedings, including all deadlines in the above captioned matter are STAYED as of the date of this Order, <u>pending resolution of the Motion to Transfer at ECF No. 24</u>." Dkt. No. 71. To that end, the instant stay is in place precisely for the purpose of affording the Court the ability to rule on Apple's pending Motion to Transfer.

Apple's rigorous attempts to transfer out of this Court cannot be reconciled with its current request that this Court provide it with an indefinite stay of proceedings *in this District*. Rather than prioritize its Motion to Transfer to the Northern District of California, Apple now wants this Court to lift the very stay it perpetuated through its Appeal and grant it relief for an indefinite stay of proceedings in the very District it has fought to escape. Either the parties are litigating in this Court (as Aire maintains), or the parties are litigating in the Northern District of California (as Apple urges). Depending on the Court's determination of the appropriate venue, Apple can then raise its arguments concerning its petitions for *inter partes* review. But Apple's pending Motion to Transfer should be decided first. Accordingly, Apple's motion to modify the November 8, 2022 Stay Order (Dkt. No. 73, "Mot.") should be denied.

¹ All emphasis added unless stated otherwise.



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II. LEGAL STANDARD

District courts possess an inherent power to manage their own docket, including the power to stay proceedings. *Clinton v. Jones*, 520 U.S. 681, 706 (1997). "[T]he Court also has the discretion to lift a stay when circumstances have changed such that the Court's reasons for imposing the stay no longer exist or are inappropriate." *Cheetah Omni, LLC v. Level 3 Commc'ns, Inc.*, No. 5:06-CV-101, 2011 WL 13244215, at *1 (E.D. Tex. May 12, 2011).

III. ARGUMENT

A. The Court should resolve Apple's transfer motion prior to considering a motion to stay pending resolution of Apple's IPRs

The institution of Apple's petitions for *inter partes* review does not bear on the purpose of the current stay—for the Court to rule on Apple's Motion to Transfer. Apple argues that the institution of its petitions for *inter partes* review is important to the Court "for purposes of managing its own workload and in determining the future schedule of this case." Mot. at 1-2. But Apple seeks to have this case transferred to the Northern District of California, which undoubtedly impacts the Court's "workload" and "future schedule of this case." Given Apple's repeated insistence that its Motion to Transfer be decided before any further action in this case, the Court should first determine whether to grant Apple's request to transfer to the Northern District of California (it should not). Depending on that ruling, either this Court or the transferee court may then address Apple's request to indefinitely stay these proceedings pending complete resolution of all three petitions for *inter partes* review.

B. The Court should provide Aire with the opportunity to provide a full response to Apple's stay motion

Apple requests that Aire be afforded an opportunity to formally respond to Apple's IPR Stay Motion after the Court rules on its motion to lift the stay. Mot. at 3. Aire agrees. Should the



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