Document 277

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true, as Jacobsen says, that the Patent Office "charged" Kevin Russell with inequitable conduct. Rather, it was Jacobsen's attorney who made such a charge, in the letter which is the only "evidence" submitted in support of Jacobsen's sur-reply. That letter is inadmissible hearsay and is irrelevant to any issue on KAMIND's motion to dismiss. Disciplinary complaints are normally kept confidential, and Jacobsen's use of his own letter to smear and defame a respected attorney tactics is an abuse of the judicial process. *Younger v. Solomon*, 38 Cal. App. 3d 289, 295-302 (1977).

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Jacobsen's original complaint claimed Kevin Russell committed libel by filing a FOIA request with the Department of Energy which falsely accused Jacobsen of infringing the '329 patent. Document 1, pp. 33-36. The Court granted defendants' motions to strike and for attorney fees because (1) the FOIA request was petitioning activity protected by the Constitution and California Civil Procedure Code § 425.16, and (2) in fact, the FOIA request did *not* accuse Jacobsen of patent infringement. Document 111, pp. 6 and 11-12. Defendant KAMIND later disclaimed the '329 patent and moved to dismiss Jacobsen's declaratory relief claims as moot.

Before KAMIND's motion could be heard, Jacobsen filed two sur-replies opposing it. The second sur-reply includes personal attacks on Russell and Katzer, stating that the Court's October 20, 2006 order granting motions to strike were based on their allegedly false statements that they believed in good faith the '329 patent was valid. Document 226-2. The Court expressly authorized Russell to oppose that second surreply. Document 235, p. 10. Jacobsen then withdrew the second sur-reply and incorporated the same personal attacks in a re-drafted opposition to the motion. It alleges the Court "relied" on Russell's statements in granting attorney fees, and asserts that fees paid pursuant to the Court's order amount to "damages" and give Jacobsen standing to litigate his otherwise moot declaratory relief claims. Document 243, pp. 2, 6-7.

Because these personal attacks on Russell were made in an "opposition," and because the Court expressly authorized Russell to answer them, Russell filed a reply 1

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pointing out some of the deficiencies in Jacobsen's argument. Among other things, it states that KAMIND disclaimed the '329 patent for purely economic reasons and not because of any disbelief in its validity. Document 253.

Jacobsen seeks to justify this third sur-reply by claiming he has discovered a "new fact," stating:

That new fact is this: Kevin Russell has been charged with inequitable conduct by the Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED), bar counsel for the PTO. OED held off investigation, pending the outcome of this case. In order to put an end to the investigation. Russell and Katzer disclaimed the entire '329 patent and then had Defendants move to dismiss for mootness.

Document 274, 7:16-20. The basis for this accusation is a letter *written by Jacobsen's attorney* and attached to her declaration, which alleges Russell committed inequitable conduct in applying for patents—not including the '329 patent at issue in this lawsuit. Document 276-2.

## **ARGUMENT**

For each of the following reasons, Jacobsen's motion for leave to file a third, 20-page sur-reply should be denied.

- Neither the Federal Rules nor the Local Rules of the Northern District of California authorize sur-replies. This is Jacobsen's third sur-reply in connection with a single motion. He has no special right to the last word.
- Jacobsen's "new fact" is not a fact. It is a baseless personal slur against a respected attorney. There is no evidence that any person, other than Jacobsen's lawyer, ever "charged" Russell with inequitable conduct.
- Assuming Russell was "charged" with inequitable conduct, and KAMIND was motivated by the "charge" to disclaim the '329 patent, it would not be relevant, because regardless of their alleged motive, Jacobsen's declaratory relief claim would still be moot. *Benitek Australia, Ltd. v. Nucleonics, Inc.*, 495 F.3d 1340, 1343-47 (Fed. Cir. 2007).
- Jacobsen's insertion of Ms. Hall's letter into the public record is an inexcusable personal attack having nothing to do with the issues of the case. The document is self-serving hearsay and inadmissible to prove anything. It serves no purpose other than

1	furthering a personal vendetta. Disciplinary complaints are normally held confidential,
2	and an attorney who files a disciplinary complaint against another attorney and then
3	attempts to insert it into a lawsuit for the purpose of harming the reputation of an
4	opposing lawyer abuses the process of the court. Younger v. Solomon, 38 Cal. App. 3d
5	289, 295-302.
6	For these reasons, the motion for leave to file sur-reply should be denied, and Ms.
7	Hall's defamatory letter should be expunged from the record. Indeed, pursuant to Federal
8	Rule 11 and its inherent powers, the Court should seriously consider the imposition of
9	sanctions against Jacobsen and his counsel for this misconduct, which also violates the
10	letter and spirit of California Rule of Professional Conduct 5-100, to wit:
11	Rule 5-100. Threatening Criminal, Administrative, or Disciplinary Charges
12	(A) A member shall not threaten to present criminal, administrative, or disciplinary charges to obtain an advantage in a civil dispute. (emphasis added).
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14	(B) As used in paragraph (A) of this rule, the term "administrative charges" means the filing or lodging of a complaint with a federal, state, or local
15	governmental entity which may order or recommend the loss or suspension of a license, or may impose or recommend the imposition of a fine,
16	pecuniary sanction, or other sanction of a quasi-criminal nature but does not include filing charges with an administrative entity required by law as a
17	condition precedent to maintaining a civil action.
18	(C) As used in paragraph (A) of this rule, the term "civil dispute" means a controversy or potential controversy over the rights and duties of two or
19	more parties under civil law, whether or not an action has been commenced, and includes an administrative proceeding of a quasi-civil nature pending
20	before a federal, state, or local governmental entity.
21	Respectfully submitted.
22	Dated: December 11, 2008 Law Offices of David M. Zeff
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24	By /s/ David M. Zeff, Attorneys For
25	Defendant Kevin Russell
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