

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION

DIGIMEDIA TECH, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

MERCEDES-BENZ AG and MERCEDES-BENZ
FINANCIAL SERVICES USA LLC,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 2:24-cv-531

Jury Trial Demanded

COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff DigiMedia Tech, LLC (“Plaintiff”) files this Complaint for Patent Infringement and states as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, having its principal office at 44 Milton Ave., Suite 254, Alpharetta, GA 30009.

2. On information and belief, Defendant Mercedes-Benz AG (“Mercedes”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Germany, with a principal office at Epplestraße 225, 70567, Stuttgart-Möhringen, Germany. Upon information and belief, Defendant does business in Texas and in this Judicial District, directly or through intermediaries.

3. On information and belief, Defendant Mercedes-Benz Financial Services USA LLC (“MBFS”) is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Delaware. On information and belief, MBFS has a regular and established place of business in this Judicial District at 14372 Heritage Pkwy, Fort Worth, Texas 76177, which is located in Denton County.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has exclusive subject matter jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) on the grounds that this action arises under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 et seq., including, without limitation, 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281, 284, and 285.

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants consistent with the requirements of the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution and the laws of this State. On information and belief, Defendants have, directly or through subsidiaries or intermediaries, committed acts of patent infringement in this State and in this Judicial District as alleged in this Complaint. Moreover, on information and belief, Defendants have purposefully and voluntarily placed their products into the stream of commerce with the expectation that they will be purchased and/or used by customers located in this State. On information and belief, Defendants' customers in this State used Defendants' infringing products. MBFS is also registered to do business in this State.

6. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c) with respect to Mercedes-Benz AG because it is a foreign corporation. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b) with respect to MBFS because, on information and belief, it has a regular and established place of business and has committed acts of infringement in this Judicial District.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The '086 Patent

7. Plaintiff is the owner by assignment of all right, title, and interest in and to United States Patent No. 6,567,086 entitled "Immersive Video System Using Multiple Video Streams" ("the '086 patent"), including the right to sue for all past, present, and future infringement, which assignment was duly recorded in the USPTO.

8. A true and correct copy of the '086 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The '086 patent is incorporated herein by reference.

9. The application that became the '086 patent was filed on July 25, 2000.

10. The '086 patent issued on May 20, 2003, after a full and fair examination by the USPTO.

11. The '086 patent is and is legally presumed to be valid, enforceable, and directed to patent-eligible subject matter.

12. The elements recited in the claims of the '086 patent were not well-understood, routine, or conventional when the application that became the '086 patent was filed.

13. The '086 patent identifies technological shortcomings existing in the art prior to the '086 patent. *See, e.g.*, '086 patent at 2:48-67; 4:7-12. As expressed in the '086 patent, the inventions disclosed and claimed in the '086 patent overcome such technological shortcomings. *Id.* at 3:1-22; 4:12-17; 9:36-44. The Detailed Description of the '086 patent contains additional detail that would assist a person of ordinary skill in the art in understanding the scope of the claimed invention and to implement them without undue experimentation. *Id.* at 4:17-9:34.

14. The claims of the '086 patent are directed to technical solutions to the technical problem of how to increase the resolution and quality of immersive video for environment display systems that use multiple video streams and conventional video components. One of the reasons this is important is that, for camera systems with 360 degrees of view, users may prefer to view video at different angles with higher resolution. The video display system may not “know” or be set to a preferred angle for the users when the camera system starts processing video.

15. Supporting higher resolution views for user selectable angles from a camera system with a 360-degree field of view calls for technical solutions. The '086 patent discloses and claims such technical solutions. For example, an immersive video system can produce a plurality of video streams using associated environment data, and a user can select a preferred video stream. First environment data, such as camera settings, can be shared between the plurality of video streams to reduce data processing or data storage requirements. Second environment data, can be for a first video stream, where the second environment data does not overlap another video stream. This approach overcomes a problem in which using the same environment data for all views results in lower quality. Consequently, the technology in the '086 patent enables both efficient operation while also supporting preferred user features, such as selecting a view angle with higher resolution from the 360-degree field of view.

16. The steps set forth in the claims of the '086 patent provide a technical solution to the technical problem of supporting high quality views for user selectable angles from a camera system with a 360-degree field of view.

17. For example, claim 24 of the '086 patent recites the following:

24. A method of displaying a view window of an environment from a plurality of video streams, wherein each video stream includes environment data for recreating different viewable ranges of the environment, the method comprising:

selecting an active video stream from the plurality of video streams;

decoding the active video stream; and

generating an image for the view window using the active video stream.

18. The claimed set of steps set forth in the claims of the '086 patent constitutes patent-eligible subject matter, is not directed to an abstract idea, law of nature, or natural phenomenon, and contains one or more inventive concepts for accomplishing the goal of accurate and automated information exchange.

19. This claimed set of steps was not well-understood, routine, or conventional at the time of the invention. This is evidenced, for example, by the '086 patent's assertions, including those referenced herein, that the disclosed and claimed inventions improved upon technological shortcomings in the existing art.

20. That the claimed set of steps was not well-understood, routine, or conventional at the time of the invention is further evidenced by the fact that the inventor of the '086 patent submitted a sworn declaration, subject to penalty for willful false statements, that "I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor . . . of subject matter . . . that is disclosed and/or claimed and for which a patent is solicited by way of the application entitled 'Video System Using Multiple Video Streams.'"

21. That the claimed set of steps was not well-understood, routine, or conventional at the time of the invention is further evidenced by the prosecution history of the '086 patent. The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has stated that the duties of a Patent Examiner include the following:

- Reads and understands the invention set forth in the specification
- Determines whether the application is adequate to define the metes and bounds of the claimed invention
- Determines the scope of the claims
- Searches existing technology for claimed invention
- Determines patentability of the claimed invention

Exhibit G at 11, *The Role of the Patent Examiner*, Sue A. Purvis, Innovation and Outreach Coordinator, USPTO, available at

https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/about/offices/ous/04082013_StonyBrookU.pdf.

22. Thus, the Examiner who examined the '086 patent, in accordance with his duties, (1) read and understood the invention set forth in the specification; (2) determined whether the application was adequate to define the metes and bounds of the claimed invention; (3)

determined the scope of the claims; (4) searched existing technology for the inventions recited in the claims of the application; and (5) determined the patentability of the claims.

23. The Examiner performed these duties in his role as “advocate/protector of [the] public interest with respect to intellectual property,” which involves a “cooperative investigation between the Examiner and the Applicant, which ensures an Applicant receives a patent only for that which they are entitled to in accordance with Patent laws.” *Id.* at 8-9.

24. After conducting an examination of the claims of the application underlying the ’086 patent, the Examiner determined that the claims of the ’086 patent were allowable over the art of record, including, for example, U.S. Patent No. 6,360,000. As set forth above, the ’086 patent identifies shortcomings in the prior art. Had the Examiner determined that the claims of the ’086 patent merely recited well-understood, routine, or conventional components, he would not have allowed the claims over the art of record, including the art discussed in the ’086 patent’s specification and the art reviewed by the Examiner during prosecution. The fact that the Examiner did allow the claims shows that he did not determine that the claims of the ’086 patent merely recited well-understood, routine, or conventional components.

25. The significance of the inventiveness of the ’086 patent is illustrated by the fact that it has been cited in 27 other patent applications, including the following patents and published patent applications: US20030016228A1; US6654019B2; US6747647B2; US20040169663A1; US20060248570A1; US20060268102A1; US20070126932A1; US20070126864A1; US20070126938A1; US20070141545A1; US20070174010A1; US20080018792A1; US20080288876A1; US20090067813A1; US20090184981A1; US20100017047A1; US20140229609A1; CN104244019A; US9183560B2; US20160156705A1;

US20170084073A1; US20170084086A1; WO2018046705A3; WO2018223241A1;
EP3440843A4; US10616551B2; and US10628019B2.

The '250 Patent

26. Plaintiff is the owner by assignment of all right, title, and interest in and to United States Patent No. 6,741,250 entitled “Method and System for Generation of Multiple Viewpoints into a Scene Viewed by Motionless Cameras and for Presentation of a View Path” (“the '250 patent”), including the right to sue for all past, present, and future infringement, which assignment was duly recorded in the USPTO.

27. A true and correct copy of the '250 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit B. The '250 patent is incorporated herein by reference.

28. The application that became the '250 patent was filed on October 17, 2001.

29. The '250 patent issued on May 25, 2004, after a full and fair examination by the USPTO.

30. The '250 patent is and is legally presumed to be valid, enforceable, and directed to patent-eligible subject matter.

31. The elements recited in the claims of the '250 patent were not well-understood, routine, or conventional when the application that became the '250 patent was filed.

32. The '250 patent identifies shortcomings in the art as it existed before the '250 patent. *See, e.g.*, '250 patent at 2:20-37; 2:45-58. The '250 patent also identifies desirable improvements to the existing art. *Id.* at 2:38-44; 2:59-62. The '250 patent improves upon these shortcomings in the art as it existed prior to the invention of the technical solutions disclosed and claimed in the '250 patent.

33. The claims of the '250 patent are directed to technical solutions to the technical problem of using a camera system to provide a view path through one or more video segments to determine which video frames in the video segments are used to generate a view. One of the reasons this is important is that users of camera systems with a wide field of view may prefer to select and view (or have selected for them) only portions of the supported wide field of view. The field of view may be sufficiently wide to create distorted images. Users may prefer portions with reduced distortion, which calls for technical solutions. The '250 patent discloses and claims such technical solutions. The camera system can record a video stream over a wide field of view. The camera system and/or a user can designate a portion of the video stream to be a video segment and subsequently designate a view path through the video segment. Consequently, the technology in the '250 patent enables the view of portions of the camera system's wide field of view with reduced distortion.

34. For example, claim 1 of the '250 patent claims:

1. A method of:

recording a video stream comprising a plurality of frames, wherein said plurality of frames define a plurality of distorted images;

designating a portion of said video stream to be a video segment; and

specifying a view path through said video segment.

35. The set of steps set forth in claim 1 of the '250 patent provides a technical solution to the technical problem of providing view paths without distortion.

36. The claimed set of steps set forth in the '250 patent constitutes patent-eligible subject matter, is not directed to an abstract idea, law of nature, or natural phenomenon, and contains one or more inventive concepts for providing view paths without distortion.

37. This claimed set of steps was not well-understood, routine, or conventional at the time of the invention. This is evidenced, for example, by the '250 patent's assertions, including those referenced herein, that the disclosed and claimed inventions improved upon technological shortcomings in the existing art.

38. That the claimed set of steps was not well-understood, routine, or conventional at the time of the invention is further evidenced by the fact that the inventors of the '250 patent submitted sworn declarations, subject to penalty for willful false statements, that "I/we believe that I/we am/are the original and first inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought."

39. That the claimed set of steps was not well-understood, routine, or conventional at the time of the invention is further evidenced by the prosecution history of the '250 patent. The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office has stated that the duties of a Patent Examiner include the following:

- Reads and understands the invention set forth in the specification
- Determines whether the application is adequate to define the metes and bounds of the claimed invention
- Determines the scope of the claims
- Searches existing technology for claimed invention
- Determines patentability of the claimed invention

Exhibit G at 11, *The Role of the Patent Examiner*, Sue A. Purvis, Innovation and Outreach Coordinator, USPTO, available at

https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/about/offices/ous/04082013_StonyBrookU.pdf.

40. Thus, the Examiner who examined the '250 patent, in accordance with his duties, (1) read and understood the invention set forth in the specification; (2) determined whether the application was adequate to define the metes and bounds of the claimed invention; (3)

determined the scope of the claims; (4) searched existing technology for the inventions recited in the claims of the application; and (5) determined the patentability of the claims.

41. The Examiner performed these duties in his role as “advocate/protector of [the] public interest with respect to intellectual property,” which involves a “cooperative investigation between the Examiner and the Applicant, which ensures an Applicant receives a patent only for that which they are entitled to in accordance with Patent laws.” *Id.* at 8-9.

42. After conducting an examination of the claims of the application underlying the ’250 patent, the Examiner determined that the claims of the ’250 patent were allowable over the art of record. As set forth above, the ’250 patent identifies shortcomings in the prior art. Had the Examiner determined that the claims of the ’250 patent merely recited well-understood, routine, or conventional components, he would not have allowed the claims over the art of record, including the art discussed in the ’250 patent’s specification and the art reviewed by the Examiner during prosecution. The fact that the Examiner did allow the claims shows that he did not determine that the claims of the ’250 patent merely recited well-understood, routine, or conventional components.

43. The significance of the inventiveness of the ’250 patent is illustrated by the fact that it has been cited in 153 other patent applications, including the following patents and published patent applications: US20020196327A1; US20030193562A1; US20030234866A1; US20040001137A1; US20040233222A1; US20040263636A1; US20040263611A1; US20040263646A1; US20040267521A1; US20050018687A1; US20050046626A1; US20050046703A1; US20050117034A1; US20050117015A1; US20050122393A1; US20050151837A1; US20050180656A1; US20050190768A1; US20050206659A1; US20050243167A1; US20050243168A1; US20050243166A1; US20050280700A1;

US20050285943A1; US20060023075A1; US20060022962A1; US20060092269A1;
US7108378B1; US20060268102A1; US20070022379A1; US20070058879A1;
US20070124783A1; US20070156924A1; US20070165007A1; US7260257B2;
US20070299912A1; US20070299710A1; US20070300165A1; US20080008458A1;
US20080049123A1; US20080068352A1; US20080117296A1; US20080129700A1;
US20080291279A1; US20080317451A1; US20090079740A1; US20090160801A1;
US7593057B2; US20090305803A1; US7643006B2; US20100110005A1; US20100254670A1;
WO2010127418A1; US20110043628A1; US20110095977A1; US20110128387A1;
USRE42794E1; US8055022B2; US20110298917A1; US8089462B2; USRE43084E1;
US8094137B2; US8115753B2; US8120596B2; US8149221B2; US8274496B2; US8289299B2;
US8384693B2; US20130063427A1; US8405636B2; US8432377B2; US8456447B2;
US8456418B2; US8508508B2; US8692768B2; US8902193B2; US20150042815A1;
US9294757B1; US9591272B2; US9646444B2; US9674181B2; US20170214889A1;
US9942520B2; US10129569B2; US10156706B2; WO2019017695A1; US10225479B2;
US10230898B2; US10250889B1; US10250797B2; US10281979B2; US10284780B2;
US10288840B2; US10288897B2; US10288896B2; US10291845B2; US10371928B2;
US10379371B2; US10488631B2; US10534153B2; US10578948B2; US10615513B2;
US10616484B2; US10635931B2; US10645286B2; US10694168B2; US10706518B2;
US10845565B2; US10871561B2; US10884321B2; US10904512B2; USRE48444E1;
US10951834B2; US10951859B2; US10955546B2; US10976567B2; US11037364B2;
US11272154B2; US11268829B2; US11277596B2; US11287081B2; US11315276B2;
US11333955B2; US11363180B2; US11368631B1; US11378682B2; US11506778B2;
US11525910B2; US11531209B2; US11635596B2; US11637977B2; US11640047B2;

US11659135B2; US11693064B2; US11770618B2; US11770609B2; US11832018B2;
US11900966B2; US11910089B2; US11949976B2; US11946775B2; and US11962901B2.

The '220 Patent

44. Plaintiff is the owner by assignment of all right, title, and interest in and to United States Patent No. 6,684,220 entitled “Method and System for Automatic Information Exchange” (“the '220 patent”), including the right to sue for all past, present, and future infringement, which assignment was duly recorded in the USPTO.

45. A true and correct copy of the '220 patent is attached hereto as Exhibit C. The '220 patent is incorporated herein by reference.

46. The application that became the '220 patent was filed on September 20, 2000.

47. The '220 patent issued on January 27, 2004, after a full and fair examination by the USPTO.

48. The '220 patent is and is legally presumed to be valid, enforceable and directed to patent eligible subject matter.

49. The elements recited in the claims of the '220 patent were not well-understood, routine, or conventional when the application that became the '220 patent was filed. This is demonstrated, for example, by the decision of the Patent Examiner to allow the claims of the '220 patent over the art of record.

50. The claims of the '220 patent are directed to technical solutions to the technical problem of a server system conducting automated information exchanges. One of the reasons this is important is to support automated and accurate server-generated responses to customer inquiries in online chat systems. With accurate and automated information exchange, routine customer inquiries can be answered directly by a server system. The '220 patent discloses and

claims such technical solutions for automated information exchange. For example, the '220 patent couples an information source to a processor that stores a data model. The '220 patent discloses a loading engine for automatically creating object links between input variables and output variables for the data objects in the data model. Consequently, the technology in the '220 patent enables automated and accurate online responses from a server system to customer support inquiries without requiring answers from customer support representatives.

51. For example, claim 10 of the '220 patent claims:

10. A method for automatic information exchange, comprising:

retrieving a model from an information source, the model having a plurality of objects, each of the plurality of objects having an input variable and an output variable;

automatically identifying the input variables and the output variables of each of the plurality of objects; and

automatically creating object links between the corresponding input variables and output variables of each of the plurality of objects.

52. The set of steps set forth in claim 10 of the '220 patent provides a technical solution to the technical problem of a server system conducting automated information.

53. The claimed set of steps set forth in the '220 patent constitutes patent-eligible subject matter, is not directed to an abstract idea, law of nature, or natural phenomenon, and contains one or more inventive concepts for accomplishing the goal of accurate and automated information exchange.

54. The significance of the inventiveness of the '220 patent is illustrated by the fact that it has been cited in at least six other patent applications, including the following U.S. patents and published patent applications: US20060010423A1, US20060010419A1, US20060136497A1, EP1674953A1, and US20140373034A1. These public documents and their related prosecution histories are incorporated herein by reference and provide concrete proof that

the inventions claimed and disclosed in the '220 patent were not well-understood, routine, or conventional at the time of the invention.

COUNT I – INFRINGEMENT OF THE '086 PATENT BY MERCEDES

55. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above, as if set forth verbatim herein.

56. Mercedes has directly infringed one or more claims of the '086 patent. For example, Mercedes has infringed at least claim 24 of the '086 patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, in connection with Mercedes vehicles with a surround-view camera system, as detailed in the preliminary claim chart attached hereto as Exhibit D and incorporated herein by reference.

57. Mercedes has made, used, sold, offered for sale, and/or imported products that incorporate one or more of the inventions claimed in the '086 patent. On information and belief, Mercedes has performed all steps of this claim or, alternatively, to the extent a user performed any step, Mercedes conditioned the user's use of the functionality of Mercedes's accused instrumentalities (e.g., Mercedes vehicles with a surround-view camera system) described herein on the performance of that step as disclosed in Exhibit D. The accused functionality relates to the accused products' video processing functionality, as set forth in Exhibit D. On information and belief, a user of the accused instrumentalities could not use the functionality described in Exhibit D without performance of the steps recited in claim 24 of the '086 patent. Mercedes also controlled the manner and/or timing of the functionality described in Exhibit D. In other words, for a user to utilize the video processing functionality described in Exhibit D, the steps of claim 24 of the '086 patent had to be performed in the manner described in Exhibit D. Otherwise, the video processing functionality of the accused instrumentalities, and the corresponding benefit, would not have been available to users of the accused instrumentalities.

58. Mercedes's infringing activities have been without authority or license under the '086 patent.

59. Because the asserted claim of the '086 patent is a method claim, the marking requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 287 does not apply. Therefore, Plaintiff has complied with all applicable requirements of § 287 such that it is entitled to past damages for infringement.

60. Plaintiff has been damaged by Mercedes's infringement of the '086 patent, and Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages for Mercedes's infringement, which damages cannot be less than a reasonable royalty.

COUNT II – INFRINGEMENT OF THE '250 PATENT BY MERCEDES

61. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above, as if set forth verbatim herein.

62. Mercedes has directly infringed one or more claims of the '250 patent. For example, Mercedes has infringed at least claim 1 of the '250 patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, in connection with Mercedes vehicles with a surround-view camera system, as detailed in the preliminary claim chart attached hereto as Exhibit E and incorporated herein by reference.

63. Mercedes has made, used, sold, offered for sale, and/or imported products that incorporate one or more of the inventions claimed in the '250 patent. On information and belief, Mercedes has performed all steps of this claim or, alternatively, to the extent a user performed any step, Mercedes conditioned the user's use of the functionality of Mercedes's accused instrumentalities (e.g., vehicles with a surround-view camera system) described herein on the performance of that step as disclosed in Exhibit E. The accused functionality relates to the accused products' video processing functionality, as set forth in Exhibit E. On information and belief, a user of the accused instrumentalities could not use the functionality described in Exhibit

E without performance of the steps recited in claim 1 of the '250 patent. Mercedes also controlled the manner and/or timing of the functionality described in Exhibit E. In other words, for a user to utilize the video processing functionality described in Exhibit E, the steps of claim 1 of the '250 patent had to be performed in the manner described in Exhibit E. Otherwise, the video processing functionality of the accused instrumentalities, and the corresponding benefit, would not have been available to users of the accused instrumentalities.

64. Mercedes's infringing activities have been without authority or license under the '250 patent.

65. Because the asserted claim of the '250 patent is a method claim, the marking requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 287 does not apply. Therefore, Plaintiff has complied with all applicable requirements of § 287 such that it is entitled to past damages for infringement.

66. Plaintiff has been damaged by Mercedes's infringement of the '250 patent, and Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages for Mercedes's infringement, which damages cannot be less than a reasonable royalty.

COUNT III – INFRINGEMENT OF THE '220 PATENT BY MBFS

67. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above, as if set forth verbatim herein.

68. MBFS has directly infringed one or more claims of the '220 patent. MBFS has made, used, sold, offered for sale, and/or imported products that incorporate one or more of the inventions claimed in the '220 patent.

69. For example, MBFS has infringed at least claim 10 of the '220 patent, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, by performing all recited steps in connection with at least its virtual assistant, as detailed in the preliminary claim chart attached hereto as Exhibit F and incorporated herein by reference.

70. Because the asserted claims of the '220 patent are method claims, the marking requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 287 does not apply to them. Therefore, Plaintiff has complied with all applicable requirements of § 287 such that it is entitled to past damages for infringement.

71. MBFS's infringing activities have been without authority or license under the '220 patent.

72. Plaintiff has been damaged by MBFS's infringement of the '220 patent, and Plaintiff is entitled to recover damages for MBFS's infringement, which damages cannot be less than a reasonable royalty.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court find in its favor and against Defendants, and that the Court grant Plaintiff the following relief:

- A. Entry of judgment that Mercedes has infringed one or more claims of the '086 patent,
- B. Entry of judgment that Mercedes has infringed one or more claims of the '250 patent,
- C. Entry of judgment that MBFS has infringed one or more claims of the '220 patent,
- D. Damages in an amount to be determined at trial for Defendants' infringement, which amount cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, and an accounting of all infringing acts, including but not limited to those acts not presented at trial,
- E. A determination that this case is exceptional, and an award of attorney's fees,
- F. All costs of this action,

- G. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on the damages assessed, and
- H. Such other and further relief, both at law and in equity, to which Plaintiff may be entitled and which the Court deems just and proper.

This 12th day of July, 2024.

/s/ Courtney S. Alexander
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