

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Matter of)
)
Curtis A. Bell,)
)
Respondent.)
)
)
)
_____)

Proceeding No.: D02-13

FINAL ORDER

The Director of Enrollment and Discipline (Director of OED) and Curtis A. Bell, Respondent, having submitted a settlement agreement in the above proceeding that meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 10.133(g), it is:

ORDERED that Respondent of West Des Moines, Iowa, Registration Number 36,742, be excluded from practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office for five years commencing from the date of this FINAL ORDER.

ORDERED that the following Notice shall be published in the Official Gazette:

Notice of Exclusion

Curtis Andrew Bell of West Des Moines, Iowa, a patent attorney, Registration No. 36,742. In settlement of a reciprocal matter from Iowa, the Director excluded Mr. Bell for five years from practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office in patent, trademark, and other non-patent law cases. The Iowa court disbarred Bell for engaging in illegal conduct involving moral turpitude arising from Bell's conversion of \$11,000 of a law association's funds, conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation, and conduct reflecting adversely on his fitness to practice law. The Iowa court ruled that although the proceeding involved a first ethical violation, disbarment was warranted in view of Bell's willful and knowing misappropriation of funds for personal use, and aggravating circumstances, including a lack of urgency to rectify the matter, and an inadequate understanding of the nature and extent of his ethical responsibilities. This action is taken pursuant to the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 32, and 37 C.F.R. § 10.133(g).

ORDERED that after being excluded for five years in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 10.158, Respondent may petition for reinstatement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 10.160.

ORDERED that if and when Respondent applies for reinstatement under 37 C.F.R. § 10.160, the Director of OED will conclusively presume, for the limited purpose of determining the application for reinstatement, that the stipulated facts are true, and that Respondent could not have successfully defended himself against the legal conclusions stemming from the stipulated facts.

On behalf of James E. Rogan,
Under Secretary of Commerce For Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

October 7, 2002

Date

James A. Toupin

JAMES A. TOUPIN

General Counsel

United States Patent and Trademark Office

cc: Harry I. Moatz
Office of Enrollment and Discipline

Curtis A. Bell

West Des Moines, Iowa 50265