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2021 TOP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWYERS

Steven D. Moore



Moore focuses his practice on patent infringement and complex commercial litigation matters. His clients include the Japanese mobile video games maker Gree Inc., the French aircraft systems and equipment supplier Zodiac Aerospace, the Q&A website Quora Inc.

He's a team leader of the IP patent litigation practice area at his firm.

"We've expanded despite Covid by adding two recruits in San Francisco since last summer," he said, naming patent litigation partners April Abele Isaacson and Wesley E. Overson Jr. "I'm excited to have them with us as we look forward to fresh opportunities to grow."

In December, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit affirmed Moore's defense win for Quora on patent infringement claims in a suit Moore successfully transferred from the Southern District of New York to the client's home base in the Northern District of California.

At the district court, the plaintiff claimed it originally patented "a system and method for establishing and using a social network to facilitate people in life issues."

Moore, arguing for Quora, contended the patent was an abstract idea that constituted patent-ineligible subject matter under section 101 of the U.S. Patent Act. NetSoc LLC v. Quora Inc., 19-CV06518 (N.D. Cal., filed Oct. 11, 2019).

U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria of San Francisco's finding of invalidity was the right call, Federal Circuit Judge Kara F. Stoll wrote.

The plaintiff's claims of novel social network development "are directed to automating a longstanding, well-known method of organizing human activity, similar to concepts previously found to be abstract," Stoll wrote. NetSoc LLC v. Quora Inc., 2020-1430 (Fed. Circ., filed Dec. 31, 2020).

Moore said his client was thrilled with the win, which got sweeter when he obtained fees based on the plaintiff's having initially asserted the wrong patent and caused a complete round of briefing before correcting the record.

For Gree, Moore is in the thick of a large-scale patent battle with Finnish mobile game development company Supercell over systems and methods for managing client-server based mobile gaming applications.

The litigation includes a complex series of cases in district courts in Texas and California, as well as dozens of proceedings so far at the U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board and Federal Circuit appeals.

In late 2020, Moore and his team obtained a jury verdict of willful infringement by Supercell of five patents, with damages of at least $8.5 million. Gree Inc. v. Supercell Oy, 19-CV00237 (E.D. Tx., filed June 24, 2020).

"We have moved to enhance the damages based on the willful finding, and we are seeking pre-trial interest," Moore said. Another trial in the case is set for late spring.

— John Roemer

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Patent Litigation

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