The Local Patent Rules for the District of New Jersey:

"The Rules"



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Preliminary Matters

Rule 3.1 - 3.4 - Infringement/Invalidity Contentions

Rule 3.5 - DJ Cases

Rule 3.6 - Hatch – Waxman Cases

Rule 3.7 - Amendments to Disclosures

Rule 3.8 - Advice of Counsel

Rule 4 - Claim Construction Procedures

History and Background

- 1. Enacted as Local Civ. R. 9.3
- 2. Scope and modification of the rules (Rules 1.1-1.4)
 - a) Effective as of January 1, 2009
 - b) Applies to all patent cases
 - c) Flexible court may modify

History and Background

Structure of the Local Patent Rules

- General provisions (Rules 2.1 2.4)
- Patent disclosures (Rules 3.1 3.5)
 - Plaintiff/Patentee (Infringement Contentions)
 - Defendant (Invalidity Contentions)
- Advice of Counsel (Rule 3.6)
- Claim construction Issues (Rules 4.1 4.6)

Preliminary Matters

- Initial Scheduling conference (Rule 2.1)
- Confidentiality (Rule 2.2)
- Relationship to Federal Rules

<u>O2 Micro v. Monolithic</u>, 467 F.3d 1355 (Fed. Cir. 2006).

• Expert Witness Issues

Initial Scheduling Conference

Scheduling conference (Rule 2.1)

- a) Propose modifications to Local Patent Rules
- b) Discuss claim construction timing
- c) Address format for claim construction hearing
- d) How parties will educate the court on the patent(s)
- e) Need for a Confidentiality Order

Confidentiality Issues

Confidentiality (Rule 2.2)

- a) Within 30 days of Scheduling Conference
- b) Pending entry of Confidentiality Order produce documents as "outside counsel's eyes only"
- c) Documents under seal Local Civil Rule 5.3
- d) Appendix S District's approved Discovery Confidentiality Order

Relationship to Federal Rule – Rule 2.3

- Cannot object to discovery requests or decline to provide 26(a)(1) disclosures, as premature.
- 2. Exceptions:
 - 1. Seeking claim construction positions
 - 2. Comparison of patent to accused device
 - 3. Comparison of asserted claims to prior art
 - 4. Advice from counsel (opinions)
- 3. If a party objects as untimely provide information when timely

Expert Witnesses – Rule 2.4

- 1. Claim construction experts governed under L. Pat. R. 4.1
- 2. Expert reports other than claim construction generally will be delayed until after claim construction ruling
 - 1. Avoids parties doing expert reports in the alternative
 - 2. Still allows expert reports during claim construction

Contentions – Rule 3

14 Days after Scheduling Conference:

- Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions (Rule 3.1)
- Document Production (Rule 3.2)

45 Days after Rule 3.1 Disclosures:

- Disclosure of Invalidity Contentions (Rule 3.3)
- Document Production (Rule 3.4)







Infringement Contentions – Rule 3.1

- 1. Each claim that is infringed
- 2. Identify "Accused Instrumentality" of opposing party as specific as possible, *e.g.*, by name or model number
- 3. Chart identifying limitations on Accused Instrumentality
- 4. Description of the acts of any alleged indirect infringement
- 5. Literal infringement or by DOE
- 6. Priority date each claim is entitled
- 7. Identification of parties own instrumentalities that practice the invention
- 8. Basis of willfulness

Infringement Documents – Rule 3.2

- 1. Disclosures and offers for sale
- 2. Conception / reduction to practice / development
- 3. File history
- 4. Ownership
- 5. Operation of own instrumentalities covered by patent
- 6. Identify by production numbers which documents correspond to which category

Invalidity Contentions – Rule 3.3

- 1. Prior art under § 102
- 2. Obviousness must show combinations
- 3. Chart correlating prior art to claim limitations
- 4. Invalidity under § 101

 Lack of enablement or written description under § 112(1)

6. Indefiniteness under § 112(2)

Invalidity Documents – Rule 3.4

- 1. Documents sufficient to show the operation, composition or structure of Accused Instrumentality
- 2. Prior art that is not in file history
- 3. Identify by production numbers which documents correspond to which category

DJ Cases – Rule 3.5

- Roles are typically "flipped" Assuming infringement counterclaim, then DJ defendant patentee will still go first with infringement contentions in normal schedule
- If no infringement claim, then DJ Plaintiff must comply with Invalidity Contentions

Invalidity contentions due 10 days after initial scheduling conference "Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions" does not apply

• Rule does not apply to counterclaim

Hatch – Waxman Cases – Rule 3.6

- Inverts the process of 3.1 to 3.5
- Takes precedence over any conflicting provision in Rules 3.1 to 3.5 (disclosures)
 - At or prior to scheduling conference production of Abbreviated New Drug Application or New Drug Application
 - 14 Days after scheduling conference defendant provides written basis for invalidity contentions and non-infringement contentions
 - Invalidity and non-infringement contentions must be accompanied by documents
 - 45 days after disclosure of non-infringement contentions plaintiff provides defendant with infringement contentions with documents

Amendments to Disclosures – Rule 3.7

- Order of the court by timely application and showing of good cause
- Enumerated examples of good cause (nonexclusive):
 - 1. Claim construction differs from that proposed by the party seeking amendment.
 - 2. Recent discovery of material prior art.
 - 3. Discovery of nonpublic information about accused instrumentality.
 - 4. Disclosure of asserted claim and infringement by plaintiff under Hatch Waxman not previously presented or anticipated.

Advice of Counsel – Rule 3.8

• Not later than 30 days after entry of court's claim construction order ...

.. if relying upon advice of counsel, defendant must produce written advice and documents related to:

- 1. Attorney work product protection waived
- 2. Written summary of oral advice
- 3. Serve privilege log related to advice documents still being withheld except those authored by counsel acting solely as trial counsel

Claim Construction Procedures – Rule 4

Rule 4.1 - Exchange proposed terms for construction

- 14 Days after invalidity cont. or 45 days after infringement cont. if no validity issue
- a) Meet and confer for purposes of limiting terms

Rule 4.2 - Exchange preliminary construction and extrinsic evidence

- 21 Days after exchange of proposed terms
- a) Identify all intrinsic and extrinsic evidence for support and experts

Rule 4.3 - Joint Claim Construction and Prehearing Statement

30 Days after preliminary claim constructions

- a) Identify terms on which parties agree
- b) Proposed construction of disputed terms and evidence (intrinsic and extrinsic)
- c) Identify terms that are significant to resolution of the case
- d) State length of time needed for claim construction hearing
- e) State whether the parties will present live witnesses at claim construction hearing

Rule 4.4 - Completion of claim construction discovery

30 days after filing joint claim construction and prehearing statements

- a) Witnesses other than experts
- b) Expert depositions by 30 days after initial *Markman* briefs

Rule 4.5 - Claim construction submissions

- a) Opening *Markman* briefs not later than 45 days after filing joint claim construction and prehearing statement
- b) Conclusion of expert witness within 30 days after filing opening Markman briefs
- c) Responding *Markman* briefs not later than 60 days after opening *Markman* briefs

Rule 4.6 - Claim construction hearing

- a) Two weeks following submission of briefs counsel confer and propose schedule
- b) Court set date



Average Time to Termination by Summary Judgment



Months from Case Filing

Average Time to Termination by Jury Trial





Question: Should Contentions be Prior To Claim Construction?

Claims of U.S. Patent 5,530,966	Invalidity under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/§ 103 over U.S. Patent No. 5,029,341 to Wingo ("Wingo"), or, alternatively, Invalidity under § 103 over Wingo in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,993,076 to Dierickx ("Dierickx")
1. A protective garment for the torso of a body for use by baseball umpires comprising in combination	Figs. 1 and 2 of Wingo are reproduced below:
	FIG. 2