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**Authority:** 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2), 3(a)(2)(A), 21, 23, 32, 41, 134, 135.

#### Subpart A—General Provisions

##### § 41.1 Policy.

(a) *Scope.* This Part 41 governs proceedings before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Sections 1.1 to 1.36 and 1.181 to 1.183 of this title also apply to practice before the Board, as do other sections of part 1 of this title that are cited in this part 41.

(b) *Construction.* The provisions of this Part 41 shall be construed to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive resolution of every proceeding before the Board.

(c) *Decorum.* Each party must act with courtesy and decorum in all proceedings before the Board, including interactions with other parties.

##### § 41.2 Definitions.

Unless otherwise clear from the context, the following definitions apply to proceedings under this part:

*Affidavit* means affidavit, declaration under § 1.68 of this title, or statutory declaration under 28 U.S.C. 1746. A transcript of an ex parte deposition may be used as an affidavit in a contested case.

*Board* means the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences and includes:

- (1) For a final Board:
  - (i) In an appeal or contested case, a panel of the Board.
  - (ii) In a proceeding under § 41.3, the Chief Administrative Patent Judge or another official acting under an express delegation from the Chief Administrative Patent Judge.
- (2) For non-final actions, a Board member or employee acting with the authority of the Board.

*Board member* means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Commissioner for Patents, the Commissioner for

Trademarks, and the administrative patent judges.

*Contested case* means a Board proceeding other than an appeal under 35 U.S.C. 134 or a petition under § 41.3. An appeal in an inter partes reexamination is not a contested case.

*Final* means, with regard to a Board action, final for the purposes of judicial review. A decision is final only if:

(1) *In a panel proceeding.* The decision is rendered by a panel, disposes of all issues with regard to the party seeking judicial review, and does not indicate that further action is required; and

(2) *In other proceedings.* The decision disposes of all issues or the decision states it is final.

*Hearing* means consideration of the issues of record. *Rehearing* means reconsideration.

*Office* means United States Patent and Trademark Office.

*Panel* means at least three Board members acting in a panel proceeding.

*Panel proceeding* means a proceeding in which final action is reserved by statute to at least three Board members, but includes a non-final portion of such a proceeding whether administered by panel or not.

*Party*, in this part, means any entity participating in a Board proceeding, other than officers and employees of the Office, including:

- (1) An appellant;
- (2) A participant in a contested case;
- (3) A petitioner; and
- (4) Counsel for any of the above, where context permits.

##### § 41.3 Petitions.

(a) *Deciding official.* Petitions must be addressed to the Chief Administrative Patent Judge. A panel or an administrative patent judge may certify a question of policy to the Chief Administrative Patent Judge for decision. The Chief Administrative Patent Judge may delegate authority to decide petitions.

(b) The following matters are not subject to petition:

- (1) Issues committed by statute to a panel, and
- (2) In pending contested cases, procedural issues. See § 41.121(a)(3) and § 41.125(c).

(c) *Petition fee.* The fee set in § 41.20(a) must accompany any petition under this section except no fee is required for a petition under this section seeking supervisory review.

(d) *Effect on proceeding.* The filing of a petition does not stay the time for any other action in a Board proceeding.

(e) *Time for action.*