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Squires Institutes 7 AIA Reviews, Denies 12

Other Petitions

By [Ryan Davis](#) · [Listen to article](#)

Law360 (December 12, 2025, 9:16 PM EST) -- [U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Director John Squires](#) has instituted seven America Invents Act reviews in the second round of cases where he has found that patent challenges warrant consideration since taking over the institution process.

The [director's order](#) Thursday said in each of the seven inter partes review requests, the petitioners had shown a reasonable likelihood of prevailing on the merits. He sent those cases to the [Patent Trial and Appeal Board](#), having previously decided that the petitions didn't warrant denial for discretionary reasons.

Squires also denied 12 other inter partes review petitions, 11 on discretionary grounds and one on the merits.

Since he began making institution decisions in the fall, he has now instituted review in a total of 13 cases and denied review in 113, for an institution rate of 10.3%.

Squires also said Thursday that after considering discretionary factors, he was moving on to considering the merits in another 12 cases, and would issue decisions later on whether to institute review. That batch includes 11 requests for inter partes review and one request for post-grant review.

The USPTO director [announced](#) in October that he would personally decide whether to institute all AIA reviews, a task previously handled by the PTAB, which issued lengthy decisions. He has since issued five bulk orders consisting only of a list of case numbers and whether they have been instituted or denied.

In his [first three orders](#), Squires denied all 91 petitions he considered. Earlier this month, he [granted](#) his first petitions, instituting review in six cases while denying 10 other petitions.

With his fifth order on Thursday, Squires' 10% institution rate now stands far below the nearly 70% rate at which the PTAB instituted review over the last three years, according to USPTO statistics.

Of the 113 decisions in which Squires has denied review, 110 have cited discretionary considerations. Three other cases advanced past the discretionary stage, but Squires then found the petitioners had not shown that they are likely to succeed on the merits.

In each case where Squires instituted review on the merits Thursday, he decided last month that the petitions did not warrant discretionary denial.

One of the cases in which Squires instituted review is a challenge by [Solventum Corp.](#) to a Wound Healing Technologies Corp. wound-dressing patent, which is at issue in a [Western District of Texas](#) suit.

Wound Healing [argued](#) review shouldn't be instituted because it had settled expectations that the patent wouldn't be challenged, saying Solventum knew of the patent, and the application that led to it, for 11 years before filing the petition. The company also said Solventum's invalidity arguments had been considered by the patent examiner who issued the patent.

Solventum's [response](#) called Wound Healing's claim it knew of the patent for 11 years "obviously false" because the patent was only issued 4½ years ago. The company also said its invalidity arguments were not considered by the examiner, calling Wound Healing's claim an "attempt to sow confusion" and noted that the

infringement suit has been stayed.

Another case in which the director instituted review is ASUSTeK Computer Inc.'s challenge to a Nokia Technologies Oy video coding patent, which is at issue in a suit at the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Nokia contended that review should be denied because the board's decision would be due about three months after the ITC's target date for completing the case, and because the patent had previously been upheld in an earlier ITC case.

ASUSTeK countered that the proximity of the due dates for decisions from the board and the ITC don't warrant denial, and that the ITC's prior ruling only narrowly considered the patent's validity. It also noted that the PTAB previously instituted review of the patent on the same grounds in a case brought by Amazon that settled, which it said weighed in favor of review.

The director also instituted review of a Carbyne Ltd. streaming data patent challenged by CentralSquare Technologies LLC.

In an unusual move, Carbyne tied its argument for why CentralSquare's request for review of its patent should be denied to a separate case where Carbyne challenged a CentralSquare patent. It argued that the cases involve analogous issues and should be treated similarly.

In October, USPTO Deputy Director Coke Morgan Stewart decided that discretionary denial was not warranted for Carbyne's petition challenging CentralSquare's patent, because there was evidence the examiner made an error when issuing the patent.

The PTAB then instituted review in that case, and CentralSquare maintained that as a result, its challenge to Carbyne's patent "should likewise in fairness" not be discretionarily denied.

Squires instituted review of two different Intrepid Automation Inc. 3D printing patents challenged by 3D Systems Corp. Intrepid was founded by former 3D Systems employees and the companies are embroiled in trade secrets and patent litigation in district court.

According to Intrepid, 3D Systems is claiming in the litigation to have an ownership interest in the patents. Intrepid argued that it is not an efficient use of resources for the USPTO to institute review when a company claiming to own patents also contends that they are invalid. In addition, it said it had settled expectations that 3DS wouldn't challenge patents it claims to own.

3DS countered that it is not claiming to own the patents and only mentioned transferring them as a possible form of relief if Intrepid is found to have stolen 3DS trade secrets. It also said Intrepid could not have settled expectations when the patents have only been in force for three or four years.

Imperative Care Inc.'s petition challenging an Inari Medical Inc. patent on treating blood clots was also instituted by the director. Inari argued Imperative's invalidity arguments had previously been considered during prosecution, while Imperative said they hadn't.

Imperative also said Inari's requests for discretionary denial of four related petitions were all denied on the ground that there is no trial date set for related litigation in California and the patents issued recently, so this fifth petition should also not be denied.

Finally, Squires instituted review of a Marlin Semiconductor Ltd. challenged by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Marlin claimed the petition should be denied based on its settled expectations because the patent has been in force for over 10 years. TSMC replied that review was warranted because the examiner made a material error in issuing the patent and that it was the one with settled expectations, after the patent wasn't asserted for eight years.

Both companies argued economic and national security issues supported their position. Ireland-based Marlin said it is a small company seeking to protect the U.S. chip industry from TSMC's infringing products. TSMC said it is challenging the patent to protect the U.S. industry from a possible infringement suit by Marlin.

The case in which Squires denied review on the merits Thursday involved ProAmpac Holdings Inc.'s challenge to a Sigma Technologies International LLC packaging patent. Sigma argued ProAmpac's invalidity arguments relied on hindsight and "conclusory expert assertions."

The cases in which the director issued discretionary denials included a challenge by Generac Holdings Inc. to two Champion Power Equipment Inc. patents, CrowdStrike Inc.'s challenges to two Skysong Innovations LLC patents, Amazon.com Inc.'s challenge to three VB Assets LLC patents, Amazon's challenge to a SoundClear Technologies LLC patent, Meta Platforms Inc.'s challenge to a Dialect LLC patent, BPI Labs LLC's challenge to an Eli Lilly and Co. patent, and Mundra Solar PV Ltd.'s challenge to a First Solar Inc. patent.

The cases in which Squires said he would move on to consider the merits include petitions filed by Meta, Marvell Semiconductor Inc., Regions Bank and others.

--Editing by Janice Carter Brown.

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PTAB Case Information

Case Title

[ProAmpac Holdings Inc. Inter Partes Review](#)

Case Number

[IPR2025-01143](#)

Date Filed

June 11, 2025

Case Title

[Solventum Corporation Inter Partes Review](#)

Case Number

[IPR2025-01042](#)

Date Filed

June 13, 2025

Case Title

ASUSTeK Computer Inc. et al. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01153

Date Filed

June 16, 2025

Case Title

GENERAC POWER SYSTEMS, INC. et al. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01099

Date Filed

June 17, 2025

Case Title

CentralSquare Technologies, LLC Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01179

Date Filed

June 27, 2025

Case Title

3D Systems Corporation et al. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01241

Date Filed

July 08, 2025

Case Title

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01265

Date Filed

July 08, 2025

Case Title

Imperative Care, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01264

Date Filed

July 08, 2025

Case Title

Generac Power Systems, Inc. et al. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01228

Date Filed

July 11, 2025

Case Title

3D Systems Corporation et al. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01242

Date Filed

July 18, 2025

Case Title

CrowdStrike, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01170

Date Filed

July 25, 2025

Case Title

Be Smarter, LLC et al. Post grant review

Case Number

PGR2025-00070

Date Filed

July 29, 2025

Case Title

Amazon.com, Inc. et al. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01368

Date Filed

July 30, 2025

Case Title

Albany International Corp. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01367

Date Filed

July 30, 2025

Case Title

Regions Bank Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01326

Date Filed

July 30, 2025

Case Title

AMAZON.COM SERVICES LLC Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01365

Date Filed

July 30, 2025

Case Title

Harbor Freight Holdings, Inc. et al. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01272

Date Filed

July 30, 2025

Case Title

Amazon.com Services LLC Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01343

Date Filed

July 31, 2025

Case Title

Marvell Semiconductor, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01218

Date Filed

August 01, 2025

Case Title

Terumo BCT, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01374

Date Filed

August 04, 2025

Case Title

BPI Labs, LLC et al. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01346

Date Filed

August 04, 2025

Case Title

Amazon.com Services LLC Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01379

Date Filed

August 04, 2025

Case Title

BOE Technology Group Co., Ltd. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01267

Date Filed

August 05, 2025

Case Title

Regions Bank Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01356

Date Filed

August 05, 2025

Case Title

Marvell Semiconductor, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01219

Date Filed

August 07, 2025

Case Title

Marvell Semiconductor, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01220

Date Filed

August 08, 2025

Case Title

Terumo BCT, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01391

Date Filed

August 11, 2025

Case Title

CrowdStrike, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01397

Date Filed

August 15, 2025

Case Title

Mundra Solar PV Limited Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01411

Date Filed

August 15, 2025

Case Title

Meta Platforms, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01335

Date Filed

August 15, 2025

Case Title

Meta Platforms, Inc. Inter Partes Review

Case Number

IPR2025-01336

Date Filed

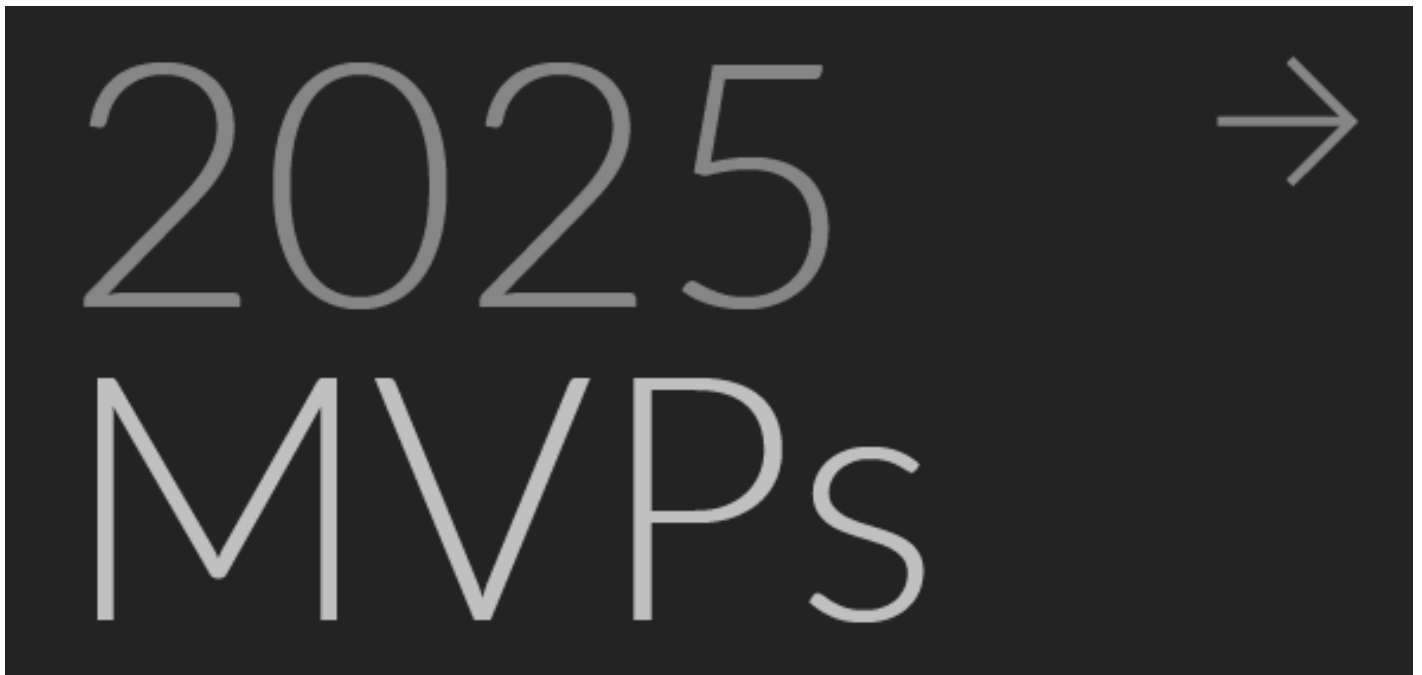
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Companies

- 3D Systems Corporation
- Amazon.com Inc.
- ASUSTeK Computer Inc.
- CrowdStrike Holdings Inc.
- Eli Lilly & Co.
- First Solar Inc.
- Generac Holdings Inc.
- Imperative Care
- Marvell Technology Inc.
- Meta Platforms Inc.
- Nokia Corp.
- Solventum
- Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Government Agencies

- International Trade Commission
- Patent Trial and Appeal Board
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



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