

PTAB Rules That Amendment Date Does Not Qualify a Patent for Post-Grant Review

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The petitioner argued that the effective filing date of the '890 patent is the date on which the claims were amended, March 17, 2015. The PTAB stated that 35 U.S.C. § 100(i), which defines "effective filing date," makes no provision for the effective filing date to be later than the actual filing date of the application, even if the application is later amended, and even if that later amendment lacks written description support in the original specification. Therefore, the effective filing date of the '890 patent cannot be the date the claims were amended. The PTAB held that the effective filing date of the '890 patent must be either the actual filing date or the date to which the patent claims priority. The PTAB declined to rule on the validity of the claim of priority to the earlier provisional application because both the actual filing date and the earlier priority date claimed are before March 16, 2013, the effective filing date required for post-grant review. As a result, the PTAB denied the petition.

Adebimpe v. The Johns Hopkins Univ., PGR2016-00020, (PTAB July 25, 2016).

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