

THE HONORABLE JAMES L. ROBART

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

MICROSOFT CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MOTOROLA, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. C10-1823-JLR

**MICROSOFT CORPORATION'S
MOTION TO CONFIRM BENCH
TRIAL OF BREACH OF CONTRACT
ISSUES**

NOTED: March 29, 2013

MOTOROLA MOBILITY LLC, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

MICROSOFT CORPORATION,

Defendants.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38 and 39, Plaintiff Microsoft Corporation ("Microsoft") respectfully brings this motion to confirm that the breach of contract issues in the above-captioned case will be tried to the Court.

I. INTRODUCTION

Neither party has demanded a jury in this case, so all remaining issues, including Motorola's breach of contract, should be tried to the bench. The Federal Rules require that any

1 party seeking a jury make a timely demand, in writing and filed with the Court—and the
 2 failure to do so constitutes waiver. Motorola had two weeks from the filing of its Answer in
 3 June 2011 to make a jury demand, and it has never done so. Motorola noted in multiple status
 4 reports prior to its Answer that it was still considering a jury demand in this case, but decided
 5 not to make one. Motorola made a jury demand—explicitly limited to its H.264 patent
 6 infringement claims—in the consolidated patent case, in a pleading filed on the same day as its
 7 Answer in this case. Motorola was well aware of its jury right in the contract case, and
 8 deliberately waived it. The fact that Microsoft’s breach of contract action, in which neither
 9 party demanded a trial by jury, has been consolidated with Motorola’s patent case, in which
 10 Motorola demanded a jury trial only as to patent issues, does not cure Motorola’s jury trial
 11 waiver in the contract action. Motorola apparently would now prefer that this case be tried to a
 12 jury rather than the bench, but the Rules do not provide that option. Because Motorola has
 13 waived any jury right in this case, the liability phase of Microsoft’s breach of contract case,
 14 like the RAND determination phase, should be a bench trial.

15 II. BACKGROUND

16 Microsoft’s Complaint in this case, filed November 9, 2010, contained no jury demand.
 17 (*See* Dkt. No. 1.)¹ On December 15, 2010, Motorola moved to dismiss. (*See* Dkt. No. 23.) On
 18 February 7, 2011, the parties submitted a first Joint Status Report, stating: “The Parties have
 19 not requested a jury trial. Motorola has not yet answered the complaint, and respectfully
 20 reserves its right to request a jury pursuant to Rule 38(b), Fed. R. Civ. P.” (Dkt. No. 44 at
 21 ¶12.) On February 23, 2011, Microsoft filed an Amended Complaint, again containing no jury
 22 demand. (*See* Dkt. No. 53.) On February 28, 2011, the parties filed a Supplemental Joint
 23 Status Report, using the same language indicating that no jury demand had been made: “The
 24 _____

25 ¹ All references to docket entries are for Microsoft’s breach of contract case, No. 2:10-cv-01823-JLR, unless otherwise specified.

1 Parties have not requested a jury trial. Motorola has not yet answered the complaint, and
 2 respectfully reserves its right to request a jury pursuant to Rule 38(b), Fed. R. Civ. P.” (Dkt.
 3 No. 50 at ¶ 12.)

4 On November 10, 2010—the day after this case was filed—Motorola filed two patent
 5 infringement suits in the Western District of Wisconsin, demanding a jury trial in each. (*See*
 6 Dkt. No. 1, Case. No. 2:11-cv-00343-JLR (W.D. Wash.), Original Case No. 3:10-cv-00699
 7 (W.D. Wis.) (the “343 Patent Case”); Dkt. No. 1, Case No. 3:10-cv-00700-bbc (W.D. Wis.).)
 8 On February 18, 2011, Microsoft’s motion to transfer Motorola’s Western District of
 9 Wisconsin patent infringement case relating to its H.264 patents² was granted, and the case
 10 was docketed in this District. (*See* Dkt. No. 44, 343 Patent Case.) On May 31, 2011, the
 11 parties filed a Joint Status Report in the 343 Patent Case stating that “[t]he parties have
 12 requested a jury trial for this action.” (Dkt. No. 86, 343 Patent Case.)

13 Also on May 31, 2011, the Court ordered that the 343 Patent Case be consolidated with
 14 this case. (*See* Dkt. No. 66 at 10–11.) While noting the significant differences in factual and
 15 legal issues between the two cases, the Court observed that “there will be some factual overlap
 16 between the two cases” connected to the Court’s determination of a RAND rate that “could
 17 limit the damages available to Motorola.” (*Id.* at 10.) The Court explicitly found “that the
 18 essential facts are not so intertwined and logically connected that considerations of judicial
 19 economy and fairness dictate that the issues be resolved in one lawsuit,” but that consolidation
 20 was nonetheless appropriate due to interests of judicial economy. (*Id.* at 11.)

21 The Court’s May 31, 2011 Order also denied Motorola’s pending motion to dismiss
 22 Microsoft’s breach of contract claim. Accordingly, on June 15, 2011, Motorola answered
 23 Microsoft’s complaint in this case, and filed a separate answer to Microsoft’s counterclaims in
 24 _____

25 ² Motorola’s other Western District of Wisconsin case alleged infringement of 802.11 standard-essential patents,
 and was stayed pending resolution of Motorola’s ITC action against Microsoft on those patents.

1 the 343 Patent Case. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 68, 67.) In its answer to Microsoft’s breach of contract
2 claim in this case, Motorola made no jury demand. (*See* Dkt. No. 68.) In its answer to
3 Microsoft’s counterclaims in the 343 Patent Case, Motorola stated: “Motorola demands a jury
4 trial on all issues arising under the Patent Laws of the United States that are triable to a jury.”
5 (Dkt. No. 67 at 2.) Following consolidation, the parties filed a Second Revised Joint Status
6 Report on June 17, 2011, stating as to the jury issue “Motorola requests a jury trial on the
7 patent claims.” (Dkt. No. 69 at ¶ 12.)

8 More than a year later, during a July 9, 2012 telephonic status conference, the Court
9 requested clarification from Motorola as to whether it believed that the breach of contract issue
10 would be tried to the bench or to a jury, and Motorola responded, “we have decided not to
11 waive the jury trial on the breach of the duty of good faith issue.” (7/6/2012 Hearing Tr. 5:6–
12 8.) Motorola was granted leave to file an additional summary judgment motion challenging
13 the grounds for the November 2012 RAND trial, and in an August 6, 2012 brief opposing that
14 motion, Microsoft stated that “any jury right as to the breach issues has been waived, because
15 Motorola failed to timely seek a jury,” citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 38 and Ninth Circuit authority
16 holding that a jury demand made months after the last pleadings were filed was untimely.
17 (Dkt. No. 374 at 3 n. 3.)

18 III. LEGAL STANDARD

19 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38 provides: “On any issue triable of right by a jury, a
20 party may demand a jury trial by: (1) serving the other parties with a written demand—which
21 may be included in a pleading—no later than 14 days after the last pleading directed to the
22 issue is served; and (2) filing the demand in accordance with Rule 5(d).” Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b).
23 Instead of demanding a jury on all issues so triable, a party may instead “specify the issues that
24 it wishes to have tried by a jury.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(c). The “last pleading” for the purposes
25 of Rule 38 is the last-filed complaint or third-party complaint; answer to a complaint,

1 counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party complaint. *See Tarrer v. Pierce County*, No. C10-
2 5670-BHS, 2011 U.S. Dist. Lexis 47225, at *5 (W.D. Wash. Apr. 21, 2011).

3 “A party waives a jury trial unless its demand is properly served and filed.” Fed. R.
4 Civ. P. 38(d). The right to a jury trial is waived by the failure to timely assert the right. *See*
5 *Wall v. Nat’l R.R. Passenger Corp.*, 718 F.2d 906, 909 (9th Cir. 1983) (where “jury demands
6 were made almost a year after the last pleadings were filed, [party] failed to make a timely
7 demand for a jury trial” under Rule 38(b)).

8 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 39 states that “the court may, on motion, order a jury
9 trial on any issue for which a jury might have been demanded.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 39(b). A
10 district court’s discretion to grant Rule 39 motions “is narrow . . . and does not permit a court
11 to grant relief when the failure to make a timely demand results from an oversight or
12 inadvertence.” *Pacific Fisheries Corp. v. H.I.H. Cas. & Gen. Ins., Ltd.*, 239 F.3d 1000, 1002
13 (9th Cir. 2001), quoting *Lewis v. Time Inc.*, 710 F.2d 549, 556–57 (9th Cir. 1983). “An
14 untimely request for a jury trial *must be denied* unless some cause beyond mere inadvertence is
15 shown.” *Id.* (emphasis added). *See also Newport Yacht Club v. City of Bellevue*, No. C09–
16 0589–MJP, 2012 WL 254013, at *4 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 27, 2012); *Meeco Mfg. Co., Inc. v.*
17 *Imperial Mfg. Group*, No. C03-3061-JLR, 2005 WL 1459685, at *3 (W.D. Wash. June 20,
18 2005) (noting near-uniform rejection of Rule 39(b) relief within the Ninth Circuit).

19 IV. ARGUMENT

20 A. Motorola Waived Its Right to a Jury Trial in the Breach of Contract Case.

21 Motorola’s Answer, filed on June 15, 2011, is the “last pleading” in this case for the
22 purposes of Rule 38, and it contains no jury demand. Motorola neither served Microsoft with
23 nor filed a jury demand within the 14 days that followed. Motorola has made no timely jury
24 demand as to Microsoft’s breach of contract claims, and has accordingly waived its right to a
25

1 jury determination of the breach issues in the upcoming trial. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b), (d);
2 *Wall*, 718 F.2d at 909.

3 Motorola was keenly aware of its jury trial right as to the breach issues, but waived it
4 nonetheless. The parties filed two joint status reports in this case in February 2011, and in
5 each instance Motorola explicitly “reserve[d] its right to request a jury pursuant to Rule 38(b).”
6 (Dkt. Nos. 44, 50 at ¶ 12.) Thereafter, Motorola decided not to exercise this right. In its
7 simultaneously-filed answers to Microsoft’s breach of contract complaint and Microsoft’s
8 counterclaims in the 343 Patent Case, Motorola explicitly requested a jury trial on the patent
9 issues in the 343 Patent Case, but made no jury demand in Microsoft’s breach of contract case.
10 (*Compare* Dkt. No. 68 *with* Dkt. No. 67.) Motorola made no written demand for a jury in the
11 14 days that followed the filing of its answer.

12 Motorola’s oral statement at the July 2012 hearing that it had “decided not to waive the
13 jury trial on the breach of the duty of good faith issue” (7/9/2012 Hearing Tr. at 5:6–8) cannot
14 cure its waiver. First, the statement on its face is not a jury demand. Motorola did not
15 “demand a jury trial,” it only indicated a hope that the right it once had to make such a demand
16 remained open—that is, it stated only that it had “decided not to waive” its right (presuming,
17 erroneously, that it had not already done so), but not that it was actually attempting to exercise
18 that right. Second, Rule 38 requires “serving the other parties with a written demand” for a
19 jury trial and “filing the demand in accordance with Rule 5(d).” Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b).
20 Motorola has done neither at any point in this case, even to this day. Third, Motorola’s
21 declaration of potential interest in a jury in July 2012, even if it were treated as a demand,
22 would have been far too late to be a timely demand—the Rule required that Motorola make
23 this election more than a year earlier. *Wall*, 718 F.2d at 909 (where “jury demands were made
24 almost a year after the last pleadings were filed, [party] failed to make a timely demand for a
25 jury trial”).

1 Even if Motorola were to move for a jury trial on the breach issues now, relief under
 2 Rule 39 would be inappropriate under Ninth Circuit law. Motorola’s initial reservation of a
 3 decision on the jury issue, followed by its jury demand as to the patent issues in the 343 Patent
 4 Case, and the absence of such a demand in its simultaneously-filed Answer in this case,
 5 reflects an intentional, strategic decision: Motorola apparently wanted a jury in the only
 6 portion of the two cases in which it was positioned as a plaintiff. Motorola’s failure to make a
 7 timely demand would not be excused even if, rather than reflecting a strategic decision, it had
 8 resulted from oversight or inadvertence. *See Pacific Fisheries*, 239 F.3d at 1003. The narrow
 9 grounds on which courts within the Ninth Circuit have granted Rule 39 relief confirm that
 10 Motorola’s decision to change its trial strategy mid-case provides no basis to permit a jury
 11 trial.³ *Cf. Ruiz v. Rodriguez*, 206 F.R.D. 501, 504-05 (E.D. Cal. 2002) (granting relief under
 12 Rule 39 where “plaintiff timely filed the jury demand and submitted it to a process server,” but
 13 “the process server apparently failed to serve the demand”); *Jones v. Pan Amer. World*
 14 *Airways, Inc.*, No. C88-2033-DLJ, 1990 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13728, at *21-22 (N.D. Cal. June
 15 26, 1990) (granting relief under Rule 39 where a party’s “failure to file a timely demand arose
 16 from the breakdown of his communications with his attorney,” who was “preparing to
 17 withdraw from the case” at the critical time).

19 ³ Even if Motorola *believed*—erroneously and inconsistently with its narrow jury demand on patent issues alone
 20 in the 343 Patent Case—that the parties’ jury demands in the 343 Patent Case would carry over to this case by
 21 virtue of consolidation or because of an overlap in jury-triable issues, *see* Section III.B, III.C, *infra*, that mistake
 22 of law would provide no basis for relief under Rule 39(b). *See Pacific Fisheries*, 239 F.3d at 1003 (“[A]n
 23 untimely jury demand due to legal mistake does not broaden the district court’s narrow discretion to grant the
 24 demand.”). Further, while Microsoft’s original answer and counterclaims the 343 Patent Case—prior to transfer
 25 from the Western District of Wisconsin—repeated Motorola’s jury demand (as to “all issues triable by jury in this
 action”), Microsoft’s counterclaim concerning breach of contract was alleged in the alternative, “subject to
 resolution” of Microsoft’s motion to dismiss, stay, or transfer the patent case to Seattle. (Dkt No. 37, 343 Patent
 Case at ¶ 21.) Once Microsoft’s motion was granted, Microsoft’s breach counterclaim dropped out of the 343
 Patent Case. *Cf. Northwest Envtl. Advocates v. EPA*, 855 F. Supp. 2d 1199, 1213 (D. Or. 2012) (where a party
 prevailed on a first claim, a second claim “plead as an alternative to the First” was moot); *Constellation Power
 Source, Inc. v. Select Energy, Inc.*, 467 F. Supp. 2d 187, 219 (D. Conn. 2006) (same); *Reliance Ins. Co. v. Doctors
 Co.*, 299 F. Supp. 2d 1131, 1152 (D. Haw. 2003) (same).

1 Further, Motorola was aware that Microsoft disputed any jury right in this case at least
2 by August 6, 2012, when Microsoft presented its waiver argument in its Opposition to
3 Motorola's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment: "Microsoft believes that any jury right as
4 to the breach issues has been waived, because Motorola failed to timely seek a jury." (Dkt.
5 No. 374 at 3 n. 3.) If it was a surprise to Motorola in August 2012 that the parties did not agree
6 on this jury trial issue, Motorola could have at least attempted a jury demand then (although it
7 still would have been untimely under *Pacific Fisheries*). Instead, Motorola continued to wait;
8 any demand made now would be even more untimely.

9 Finally, even if the high bar for exercise of Rule 39 discretion could be met, the Court
10 should decline to exercise that discretion. A large portion of the record generated in the
11 November 2012 RAND bench trial will be relevant to the bifurcated breach phase of this case.
12 The Court heard extensive testimony concerning the purposes of standard-setting
13 organizations; the rationale for RAND commitments; industry concerns about hold-up and
14 patent stacking; principles of RAND valuation; the relationship between the H.264 and 802.11
15 standards and Microsoft's products; the relationship between Motorola's H.264 and 802.11
16 patents and Microsoft's products; and Motorola's licensing history of its standard-essential
17 patents, including its patent suits against standards-implementers. A jury trial for the breach
18 phase of the case would require extensive, unnecessary, and inefficient duplication of that
19 testimony from the RAND trial, at a significant cost of judicial resources. In contrast, a bench
20 trial will permit the parties and the Court to cite and efficiently reference the entirety of the
21 RAND trial record, and the proceedings can immediately focus on the issues remaining in the
22 case.

23 **B. The Breach Trial Presents No Issues on Which Motorola Has a Jury Right.**

24 The right to a jury trial "depends on the nature of the issue to be tried rather than the
25 character of the overall action." *Ross v. Bernard*, 396 U.S. 531, 538 (1970). As Motorola's

1 pleadings confirm, the “issues” tried in the breach trial would not overlap with Motorola’s 343
2 Patent Case. Even in answering Microsoft’s counterclaims in the 343 Patent Case, Motorola
3 did not make a general jury demand, but requested a jury only on “claims arising under the
4 Patent Laws of the United States”—explicitly leaving out Microsoft’s defenses sounding in
5 contract. (Dkt. No. 67 at 2.) And Motorola concedes that Microsoft’s breach of contract claim
6 is not one “arising under the Patent Laws,” having appealed the Court’s preliminary injunction
7 to the Ninth Circuit (*see* Dkt. No. 303), and not the Federal Circuit. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1295
8 (granting exclusive jurisdiction to the Federal Circuit “in any civil action arising under . . . any
9 Act of Congress relating to patents”); *see also* *Gunn v. Minton*, _ U.S. _, _ S. Ct. _, 2013 U.S.
10 Lexis 1612, at *19 (Feb. 20, 2013) (noting the “exclusive appellate jurisdiction” vested in the
11 Federal Circuit over “actual patent cases”).

12 The issues in Microsoft’s breach of contract claim and Motorola’s patent claims are
13 factually distinct, as reflected both in Motorola’s circumscribed jury demand and in its decision
14 to appeal the breach of contract preliminary injunction to the Ninth Circuit. The Court
15 recognized as much in its consolidation order. (*See* Dkt. No. 66 at 10–11.) While Motorola
16 would have been entitled to a jury determination of damages in the 343 Patent Case (if that
17 case were not mooted by the forthcoming RAND license, and if Motorola were to establish
18 infringement of any remaining valid claims of its asserted H.264 patents), having acceded to
19 the Court’s determination of RAND in the bench trial, nothing would remain for a jury to
20 decide on damages. The remaining issue for the breach trial—whether Motorola breached the
21 duty of good faith inherent in its RAND commitment—could have no impact on the 343 Patent
22 case.

23 **C. Consolidation Does Not Grant Motorola Any Jury Rights.**

24 While consolidation of Motorola’s 343 Patent Case with Microsoft’s contract case did
25 not extinguish Motorola’s jury demand for its patent claims, *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(b) (“When

1 ordering a separate trial [in a consolidated case], the court must preserve any federal right to a
2 jury trial.”); 9A Charles A. Wright et al., *Federal Practice and Procedure* § 2391 (3d ed.)
3 (“Federal Rule 42(b) may not be used in a way that defeats any right of one or both of the
4 parties to a jury trial on a particular issue.”), consolidation does not transfer Motorola’s patent
5 jury demand to the contract case. As the Supreme Court stated in *Johnson v. Manhattan Ry.*,
6 289 U.S. 479, 496–97 (1933), “consolidation is permitted as a matter of convenience and
7 economy in administration, but does not merge the suits into a single cause, or change the
8 rights of the parties, or make those who are parties in one suit parties in another.” Further, at
9 the time the Court consolidated the cases, Motorola had not yet answered Microsoft’s
10 complaint in this case, meaning it still had the right to demand a jury. But when Motorola
11 answered the complaint and 343 Patent Case counterclaims two weeks later, it explicitly
12 elected a jury as to the patent claims in the 343 Patent Case, and not as to any issue in this case.

13 **V. CONCLUSION**

14 For the foregoing reasons, Microsoft respectfully requests that the Court enter an order
15 confirming that the upcoming breach of contract trial will be a bench trial.

16 DATED this 8th day of March, 2013.

17 CALFO HARRIGAN LEYH & EAKES LLP

18 By s/ Arthur W. Harrigan, Jr.
19 Arthur W. Harrigan, Jr., WSBA #1751

20 By s/ Christopher Wion
21 Christopher Wion, WSBA #33207

1 By s/ Shane P. Cramer
2 Shane P. Cramer, WSBA #35099
3 999 Third Avenue, Suite 4400
4 Seattle, WA 98104
5 Phone: 206-623-1700
6 arthurh@calfoharrigan.com
7 chrisw@calfoharrigan.com
8 shanec@calfoharrigan.com

9 By s/ T. Andrew Culbert
10 T. Andrew Culbert

11 By s/ David E. Killough
12 David E. Killough

13 MICROSOFT CORPORATION
14 1 Microsoft Way
15 Redmond, WA 98052
16 Phone: 425-882-8080
17 Fax: 425-869-1327

18 David T. Pritikin
19 Richard A. Cederoth
20 Constantine L. Trela, Jr.
21 William H. Baumgartner, Jr.
22 Ellen S. Robbins
23 Douglas I. Lewis
24 David C. Giardina
25 John W. McBride
David Greenfield
Nathaniel C. Love

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
One South Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-853-7000
Fax: 312-853-7036

Carter G. Phillips
Brian R. Nester

SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP
1501 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: 202-736-8000
Fax: 202-736-8711

Counsel for Microsoft Corp.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Linda Bledsoe, swear under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington to the following:

1. I am over the age of 21 and not a party to this action.
2. On the 8th day of March, 2013, I caused the preceding document to be served on counsel of record in the following manner:

Attorneys for Motorola Solutions, Inc., and Motorola Mobility, Inc.:

Ralph Palumbo, WSBA #04751	
Philip S. McCune, WSBA #21081	_____ Messenger
Lynn M. Engel, WSBA #21934	_____ US Mail
Summit Law Group	_____ Facsimile
315 Fifth Ave. South, Suite 1000	<u> X </u> ECF
Seattle, WA 98104-2682	
Telephone: 206-676-7000	
Email: Summit1823@summitlaw.com	

Steven Pepe (<i>pro hac vice</i>)	_____ Messenger
Jesse J. Jenner (<i>pro hac vice</i>)	_____ US Mail
Ropes & Gray LLP	_____ Facsimile
1211 Avenue of the Americas	<u> X </u> ECF
New York, NY 10036-8704	
Telephone: (212) 596-9046	
Email: steven.pepe@ropesgray.com	
Email: jesse.jenner@ropesgray.com	

Norman H. Beamer (<i>pro hac vice</i>)	_____ Messenger
Ropes & Gray LLP	_____ US Mail
1900 University Avenue, 6 th Floor	_____ Facsimile
East Palo Alto, CA 94303-2284	<u> X </u> ECF
Telephone: (650) 617-4030	
Email: norman.beamer@ropesgray.com	

1 Paul M. Schoenhard (*pro hac vice*)
2 Ropes & Gray LLP
3 One Metro Center
4 700 12th Street NW, Suite 900
5 Washington, DC 20005-3948
6 Telephone: (202) 508-4693
7 Email: Paul.schoenhard@ropesgray.com

____ Messenger
____ US Mail
____ Facsimile
 X ECF

5 DATED this 8th day of March, 2013.

7 s/ Linda Bledsoe
8 LINDA BLEDSOE

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