IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA WEST PALM BEACH DIVISION

VERNA IP HOLDINGS, LLC,)
Plaintiff,)) Civil Action No. 9:23-cv-81590
v.	
ANTHOLOGY INC.,) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
Defendant.	<i>)</i>

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT

Verna IP Holdings, LLC ("Plaintiff" or "Verna") files this Original Complaint and demand for jury trial seeking relief from patent infringement of the claims of U.S. Patent No. 11,403,932 ("the '932 patent") (referred to as the "Patent-in-Suit") by Anthology, Inc. ("Defendant" or "Anthology").

I. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

1. Plaintiff is a non-practicing entity, with no products to mark. Plaintiff has pled all statutory requirements to obtain pre-suit damages. Further, all conditions precedent to recovery are met

II. THE PARTIES

- 2. Plaintiff, Verna IP Holdings, LLC, is a Texas Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business located in Austin, Texas.
- 3. On information and belief, Defendant is a Florida corporation with a principal address of 5201 Congress Avenue, Suite 220, Boca Raton, FL 33487 and has regular and established places of business throughout this District. Defendant is registered to do business in this State and has

may be served via its registered agent Corporate Creations Network Inc., 801 US Highway 1, North Palm Beach, FL 33408.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. This Court has original subject-matter jurisdiction over the entire action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because Plaintiff's claim arises under an Act of Congress relating to patents, namely, 35 U.S.C. § 271.
- 5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because: (i) Defendant is present within or has minimum contacts within the State of Florida and this judicial district; (ii) Defendant has purposefully availed itself of the privileges of conducting business in the State of Florida and in this judicial district; and (iii) Plaintiff's cause of action arises directly from Defendant's business contacts and other activities in the State of Florida and in this judicial district.
- 6. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(b). Defendant has committed acts of infringement and has a regular and established place of business in this District. Further, venue is proper because Defendant conducts substantial business in this forum, directly or through intermediaries, including: (i) at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein; and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to individuals in Florida and this District.

IV. INFRINGEMENT

A. Infringement of the '932 Patent

7. On August 2, 2022, U.S. Patent No. ("the '932 patent", included as Exhibit A and part of this complaint) entitled "Digitized Voice Alerts" was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Plaintiff owns the '932 patent by assignment.

- 8. The '932 patent relates to novel and improved methods, systems and processor-readable media for providing instant/real-time voice alerts automatically to remote electronic devices.
- 9. Defendant maintains, operates, and administers systems, products, and services that infringes one or more of claims 1-18 of the '932 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant put the inventions claimed by the '932 Patent into service (i.e., used them); but for Defendant's actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving Defendant's products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant's acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to perform, and Defendant's procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.
- 10. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the chart attached as Exhibit B. These allegations of infringement are preliminary and are therefore subject to change. The Accused Instrumentality is the Mass Notification System, which may also be known as Blackboard Connect or Blackboard Connect's Mass Notification System.
- 11. Defendant has and continues to induce infringement. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., method for providing instant emergency voice alerts to wireless hand held device users in a specified region) such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-18 of the '932 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Defendant has known of the '932 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the filing date of the lawsuit. For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

¹ Plaintiff reserves the right to amend and add inducement pre-suit if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

- 12. Defendant has and continues to contributorily infringe. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., method for providing instant emergency voice alerts to wireless hand held device users in a specified region) and related services such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-18 of the '932 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Further, there are no substantial noninfringing uses for Defendant's products and services. Moreover, Defendant has known of the '932 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the filing date of the lawsuit.² For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.
- 13. Defendant has caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff damage by direct and indirect infringement of (including inducing infringement of) the claims of the '932 patent.

B. JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on issues so triable by right.

C. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

- a. enter judgment that Defendant has infringed the claims of the '932 patent;
- b. award Plaintiff damages in an amount sufficient to compensate it for Defendant's infringement of the Patents-in-Suit in an amount no less than a reasonable royalty or lost profits, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and costs under 35 U.S.C. § 284;

² Plaintiff reserves the right to amend and add inducement pre-suit if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

c. award Plaintiff an accounting for acts of infringement not presented at trial and an award

by the Court of additional damage for any such acts of infringement;

d. declare this case to be "exceptional" under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award Plaintiff its

attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action;

e. declare Defendant's infringement to be willful and treble the damages, including attorneys'

fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action and an increase in the damage award

pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

f.

g.

a decree addressing future infringement that either (if) awards a permanent injunction

enjoining Defendant and its agents, servants, employees, affiliates, divisions, and

subsidiaries, and those in association with Defendant from infringing the claims of the

Patents-in-Suit, or (ii) awards damages for future infringement in lieu of an injunction in

an amount consistent with the fact that for future infringement the Defendant will be an

adjudicated infringer of a valid patent, and trebles that amount in view of the fact that the

future infringement will be willful as a matter of law; and

award Plaintiff such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DATED: December 28, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Victoria E. Brieant

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