
Court of Appeals Upholds Summary Judgment in Palomar Medical Technologies Suit

1999-10-01

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit recently upheld in a published opinion a summary judgment Hale and Dorr obtained that invalidated a patent on which Hale and Dorr client Palomar Medical Technologies had been sued. The patent in question was for a laser dermatology treatment that would allegedly remove hair, and had been broadly asserted throughout the medical laser industry. However, we were able to demonstrate that the patent's inventor had basically just copied Palomar's instruction manual showing that when a laser was used to remove tatoos, it also removed hair. In addition, the patented method was described in a prior art scientific article by our client's licensor, Massachusetts General Hospital, which the Court of Appeals found anticipated all claims of the patent.

Hale and Dorr litigators Wayne Stoner, Bill Lee, Bill McElwain, Chip O'Neill and Colleen Dow worked on the case.