Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 1 of 21

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- '	SAN FRANCISCO I	DIVISION	
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1.0		Case Nos.	3:18-cv-00360-WHA 3:18-cv-00363-WHA
19	Plaintiffs,		3:18-cv-00365-WHA
20			3:18-cv-00572-WHA
20	v.		
21			NT APPLE INC.'S REPLY IN
			OF ITS MOTION TO
22			OR LACK OF SUBJECT- URISDICTION
23		VIAI I EK J	UNISDICTION
23		DATE: Thurs	sday, January 10, 2019
24	4∥ 7	ΓΙΜΕ: 8:00 a	a.m.
			OM: 12, 19th Floor
25	5 J	UDGE: Hon	n. William Alsup
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Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 2 of 21

1		TABLE OF CONTENTS			
2	TABL	BLE OF AUTHORITIESii			
3	I.	INTRODUCTION1			
4 5	II.	PLAINTIFFS LACKED ARTICLE iii STANDING AT THE TIME OF FILING			
6		A.	Mann D	oes Not Support Plaintiffs' Standing Argument	3
7		B.	Proper A	Application of the Law Establishes that Plaintiffs Lacked Standing	. 5
8		C.		S Cannot and Do Not Challenge the Unambiguous Terms of Fortress' ents with Plaintiffs	7
10			1) N	Mr. Palmer's Declaration is Irrelevant	. 8
11			2) I	Plaintiffs' New Testimonial Evidence is Inadmissible Parol Evidence	. 8
12	III.			CANNOT CURE THEIR CURRENT STANDING	11
13	137			OW VITH PREJUDICE IS APPROPRIATE	
14	IV.				
15	V. CONCLUSION		15		
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 3 of 21

1	TABLE OF AUTHORITIES
2	CASES
4	Acceleration Bay LLC v. Activision Blizzard, Inc., 2017 WL 3668597 (D. Del. Aug. 24, 2017)
5 6	Alfred E. Mann Foundation for Science v. Cochlear Corp., 604 F.3d 1354 (Fed. Cir. 2010)passim
7	Aspex Eyewear, Inc. v. Miracle Optics, Inc., 434 F.3d 1336 (Fed. Cir. 2006)
8 9	AssymetRx, Inc. v. Biocare Medical, Inc., 582 F.3d 1314 (Fed. Cir. 2009)5
10 11	Janssen Pharmaceutica, N.V. v. Apotex, Inc., 540 F.3d 1353 (Fed. Cir. 2008)14
12	Jarecki v. Shung Moo Louie, 745 N.E.2d 1006 (2001)
1314	Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir. 1992)12
15 16	Luminara Worldwide, LLC v. Liown Elecs. Co., 814 F.3d 1343 (Fed. Cir. 2016)2, 3, 5
17	MKB Constructors v. Am. Zurich Ins., 49 F. Supp. 3d 814 (W.D. Wash. 2014)9
1819	Morrow v. Microsoft, 499 F.3d 1332 (Fed. Cir. 2007)3
2021	Nat'l Oilwell Varco, L.P. v. Omron Oilfield & Marine, Inc., 676 F. App'x 967 (Fed. Cir. 2017)12
22	Prima Tek LLC v. A-Roo Co., 222 F.3d 1372 (Fed. Cir. 2000)5
2324	Raniere v. Microsoft Corp., 2016 WL 4626584 (N.D. Tex. Sept. 2, 2016),
2526	aff'd 673 Fed. App'x 1008 (Fed. Cir. 2017)
27	889 F.3d 1088 (9th Cir. 2018)9 Speedplay, Inc. v. Bebop, Inc.,
28	211 F.3d 1245 (Fed. Cir. 2000)

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 4 of 21

1	WiAV Sols. LLC v. Motorola, Inc., 631 F.3d 1257 (Fed. Cir. 2010)
2	631 F.3d 1257 (Fed. Cir. 2010)
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Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 5 of 21

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I. INTRODUCTION

Apple's Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Subject-Matter Jurisdiction ("Motion") established, based on the unambiguous language of Plaintiffs' licensing agreements, the following facts:

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Plaintiffs dispute *none* of these facts in their Opposition to Apple's Motion ("Opposition"). Taken together, these uncontroverted facts lead to an inescapable conclusion:

As Plaintiffs lacked constitutional standing at the time of filing, Apple's Motion should be granted.

Plaintiffs' sole basis for asserting that they did have standing at the time of filing hinges on a misinterpretation of a single case, *Alfred E. Mann Foundation for Science v. Cochlear Corp.*, 604 F.3d 1354 (Fed. Cir. 2010). (Uniloc's 11/12/18 Opposition to Apple's Motion to Dismiss, Dkt. No. 142 ("Opp.") 4–10.) In *Mann*, the Federal Circuit held that there cannot be *more than one* entity with the right to bring a patent-infringement case by itself. *Id.* at 1359–1360, 1359 n.2. The Federal Circuit did not hold, as Plaintiffs wrongly suggest, that there *must be* at least one entity that possesses that right. (Opp. 6.) This issue was not presented, much less decided as Plaintiffs wish, in

¹ Documents referenced herein are to case number 3:18-cv-00360-WHA.

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 6 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

1 Mann. Plaintiffs' argument is not only based on a logical fallacy, but is contrary to Mann itself. 2 | Plaintiffs lacked the right to exclude Apple at the time of filing, and their cases must be dismissed.

Apple's Motion also established that, even if Plaintiffs had standing at the time of filing, 4 they lacked standing when Apple filed its Motion. Plaintiffs have conceded as much. But rather than attempt to show that they do have standing now, Plaintiffs have represented that they will be restructuring their business and licensing arrangements to create standing in the future. (Opp. 10.) These new contractual arrangements—which Plaintiffs did not submit as evidence supporting, or 8 describe in, their brief—are too little, too late. The Court's deadline to add new parties passed on 9 June 28, 2018. (5/1/18 Case Management Order, Dkt. No. 70 ¶ 3.) Plaintiffs knew, or should have 10 known, of their current standing problem no later than March 28, when they agreed to the arrangements that existed at the time the Motion was filed. Yet Plaintiffs took no steps to correct 12 the resulting standing issue or disclose their division of rights to Apple and the Court. Instead, Plaintiffs concealed and repeatedly misrepresented the facts underlying their licensing arrangements. And it was only after Apple had uncovered those transactions that Plaintiffs attempted to address their current lack of standing. Plaintiffs were deceitful, not diligent. They cannot show good cause to amend their pleadings now; their cases should thus be dismissed.

This dismissal should be with prejudice. Plaintiffs repeatedly misrepresented to the Court the rights and interests in the patents-in-suit. Plaintiffs concealed and wrongly denied the existence of evidence reflecting the true division of those rights. Plaintiffs' only excuse for this behavior is and did not understand the legal significance of the rights they had granted to that entity. (Opp. 11.) But

II. PLAINTIFFS LACKED ARTICLE III STANDING AT THE TIME OF FILING

Plaintiffs' ignorance does not excuse their misconduct. Dismissal with prejudice is appropriate.

Plaintiffs do not—and cannot—substantively challenge the two fundamental principles regarding Article III standing that underpin Apple's Motion. First, Plaintiffs do not contest that the 26 right to exclude is an absolute prerequisite for standing. Luminara Worldwide, LLC v. Liown Elecs. Co., 814 F.3d 1343, 1347 (Fed. Cir. 2016) ("Under our precedent, only parties with exclusionary rights to a patent may bring suit for patent infringement." (citing Morrow v. Microsoft, 499 F.3d

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Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 7 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

1 | 1332, 1339 (Fed. Cir. 2007))); WiAV Sols. LLC v. Motorola, Inc., 631 F.3d 1257, 1265 (Fed. Cir. 2010) ("[T]he touchstone of constitutional standing in a patent infringement suit is whether a party can establish that it has an exclusionary right in a patent that, if violated by another, would cause the party holding the exclusionary right to suffer legal injury."). Second, Plaintiffs do not explain 5 how a plaintiff can have the right to exclude an accused infringer if another party has an unfettered right to license the patent to that accused infringer. See WiAV, 631 F.3d at 1266. Taking these two principles together, a plaintiff lacks standing to sue an accused infringer if another party possesses an unfettered right to grant sublicenses to that accused infringer. *Luminara*, 814 F.3d at 1348.

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inadmissible parol evidence.

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Plaintiffs offer virtually no rebuttal to these facts, which are dispositive of the standing inquiry. Instead, Plaintiffs' defense turns on a specious legal theory and

Mann Does Not Support Plaintiffs' Standing Argument

Plaintiffs' Opposition throws the fundamental principles of standing out the window based on a misreading of a single Federal Circuit case, Mann. First and foremost, Mann is inapposite. In 19 Mann, the issue presented was whether or not a patentee had transferred "all substantial rights" to an exclusive licensee. 604 F.3d at 1359–60. Mann only analyzed the division of exclusionary rights between two entities. Id. It never addressed the issue presented here: whether a third entity holding an unfettered right to sublicense an accused infringer vitiates a plaintiff-owner's right to exclude that infringer and thereby deprives the plaintiff of standing. Contrary to Plaintiffs' argument, nothing in Mann "clarif[ied]" or changed the requirement that a plaintiff must hold exclusionary rights to have constitutional standing, as stated in Morrow and in several Federal Circuit cases since. See, e.g., Morrow, 499 F.3d at 1340-41; Luminara, 814 F.3d at 1347; WiAV, 631 F.3d at 1265. Indeed, Mann does not cite Morrow a single time, let alone distinguish it.

Even if Mann were relevant here, it would not support Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs read Mann as

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 8 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

1 establishing an oxymoronic "default rule" that there "generally always" must exist one entity that is 2 | a "CATEGORY ONE" plaintiff—that is, a plaintiff with standing to sue on its own. (Opp. 4–6.) This "default" rule has no support in Mann. Mann held that there cannot be more than one entity with the right to sue in its own name. 604 F.3d at 1359 ("[A] patent may not have multiple separate owners for purposes of determining standing to sue."). But it does not follow logically, as Plaintiffs 6 suggest, that there *must be one* entity with that right. (Opp. 6.) *Mann* did not consider, much less resolve, that issue.

Further, nothing in Mann supports Plaintiffs' "inertial" theory of standing, in which 9 CATEGORY ONE status remains with whomever [sic] had it before the division of "all 10 substantial rights' . . . between two persons." (Opp. 6.) To the contrary, Mann stands for the exact opposite proposition: when "all substantial rights" are divided between a patent owner and 12 exclusive licensee, it may be that *neither* has "CATEGORY ONE" status that would enable one to 13 sue in its name alone. In *Mann*, the Federal Circuit held that, where an agreement conveys some, but not all, substantial rights to the patents-in-suit, it operates as an exclusive license rather than an 15 as assignment. Mann, 604 F.3d at 1363; see also Aspex Eyewear, Inc. v. Miracle Optics, Inc., 434 16 F.3d 1336, 1342–43 (Fed. Cir. 2006). And, importantly, the patent owner that conveys those rights does *not* retain the right to sue, on its own. See Aspex, 434 F.3d at 1344 ("For the same policy reasons that a patentee must be joined in any lawsuit involving his or her patent, there must be 19 joinder of any exclusive licensee."); see also Mann, 604 F.3d at 1363 (remanding for the district court to consider whether the exclusive licensee was an indispensable party, and if so, whether the case needed to be dismissed). To borrow Plaintiffs' parlance, Mann establishes that a patent owner who no longer possesses "all substantial rights" is not a CATEGORY ONE plaintiff but—at most a CATEGORY TWO plaintiff who cannot sue in its name, alone. And Plaintiffs readily concede that "CATEGORY TWO status requires exclusivity." (Opp. 7.)

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Nor does *Mann* or any of the other cases cited by Plaintiffs support their argument that "a right to sublicense" cannot deprive a patent owner of standing. (Opp. 6–7.) To the contrary, Mann recognized that an unfettered sublicensing right could vitiate a patent owner's exclusionary rights.

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 9 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

1 604 F.3d at 1362, citing *Speedplay*, *Inc. v. Bebop*, *Inc.*, 211 F.3d 1245, 1251 (Fed. Cir. 2000). The 2 particular sublicensing right at issue in *Mann*, however, was fettered: any sublicense was required to include "the payment of specified pass-through royalties to" the owner. 604 F.3d at 1358, 1362; see also Aspex, 434 F.3d at 1342–43 (licensee's sublicense rights limited in time); AssymetRx, Inc. v. Biocare Medical, Inc., 582 F.3d 1314, 1320 (Fed. Cir. 2009) (licensee's sublicense rights limited by royalty-sharing requirement). Neither *Mann* nor any of the other cases cited by Plaintiffs holds that a licensee's sublicensing right can never deprive a patent owner of standing. And none allows Plaintiffs to side-step the constitutional requirement of holding the right to exclude.

Lastly, Plaintiffs' argument is contradicted by their pleadings. In their Opposition, Plaintiffs 10 argue that Uniloc Lux had the ability to sue on its own because it had not transferred "all substantial 11 rights" in its patents to another entity. (Opp. 6.) Plaintiffs' entire theory of standing is predicated on 12 their contention that Uniloc Lux never lost "CATEGORY ONE" status because it never transferred 13 away all substantial rights. (Id. 3, 6, 9–10.) But Plaintiffs alleged in their Complaints that **Uniloc** USA, not Uniloc Lux, held "all substantial rights" in the patents-in-suit. (E.g., Plaintiffs' 5/26/17 Complaint, Dkt. No. 1 ¶ 9.) The factual underpinning of Plaintiffs' argument is belied by their own allegations. Plaintiffs' argument should be rejected for this additional reason.

В. Proper Application of the Law Establishes that Plaintiffs Lacked Standing

The Federal Circuit indicated in both Luminara and WiAV that a plaintiff lacks standing when a third party has an unfettered right to grant sublicenses. Luminara, 814 F.3d at 1348; WiAV, 631 F.3d at 1266. At least one district court, presented with facts very similar to those here, has held that such a right deprives the plaintiff of standing. Acceleration Bay LLC v. Activision Blizzard, Inc., 2017 WL 3668597, at *3 (D. Del. Aug. 24, 2017). In Acceleration Bay, the plaintiff obtained patents by assignment from the prior patent owner, Boeing. Id. at *1; (Ex. BB, Case No. DED-1-16cv-00543 Dkt. No. 1). Boeing, however, had previously granted a non-exclusive license to a third party, Sony, that included the right to grant sublicenses to Sony's publishers within a certain field of use. Acceleration Bay, 2017 WL 36685897 at *3. The defendants were Sony publishers who sold

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² Prima Tek LLC v. A-Roo Co. is simply irrelevant: the court there dismissed the case for lack of standing because the licensee did not hold all substantial rights; the court did not hold that a party could sue absent exclusionary rights. 222 F.3d 1372, 1382 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 10 of 21

1	products within that field of use. <i>Id.</i> at *1. Because third-party, Sony, had the right to license the
2	defendants in the relevant field, the court determined that the plaintiff "ha[d] not shown that it had
3	the right under the patents to exclude the Defendants from engaging in the alleged infringing
4	activity, and therefore held that the plaintiff "lack[ed] standing to sue Defendants with respect to
5	games covered by the Sony license." <i>Id.</i> at *3.
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14	Acceleration Bay directly rebukes Plaintiffs' theory that a patent owner is
15	immune from the requirement that it must possess the right to exclude the accused infringer.
16	Plaintiffs complain, as did the patentee in Acceleration Bay, that applying WiAV and
17	Luminara would render their patents unenforceable. (Opp. 8.) But this is a predicament of
18	Plaintiffs' own making.
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Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 11 of 21

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15	C. Plaintiffs Cannot and Do Not Challenge the Unambiguous Terms of Fortress'
16	Agreements with Plaintiffs
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19	Tellingly, Plaintiffs do not dispute the clear language of their own
20	contracts, nor do they contest Apple's interpretation of that language.
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24	But Plaintiffs provide no legal argument based on this
25	declaration, which can be ignored for this reason alone. In any event, Mr. Palmer's testimony
26	should be disregarded as both irrelevant and inadmissible.
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REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED 1) Mr. Palmer's Declaration is Irrelevant 2) Plaintiffs' New Testimonial Evidence is Inadmissible Parol Evidence

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 12 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED APPLE'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION TO DISMISS CASE NOS. 3:18-CV-00360-WHA; FOR LACK OF SUBJECT-MATTER JURISDICTION -00363-WHA; -00365-WHA; -00572-WHA

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 13 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 14 of 21

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 15 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

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III. PLAINTIFFS CANNOT CURE THEIR CURRENT STANDING PROBLEM NOW

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Apple's Motion raised a second independent reason to dismiss Plaintiffs' suits: the named 4 Plaintiffs lacked standing from May 3 until Apple filed its Motion on October 25. (Mot. 15–22.) 5 | Plaintiffs now concede that Apple is right: Plaintiffs agree that Uniloc Lux has no standing, and 6 they do not dispute that Uniloc USA lacks standing, as well. Plaintiffs' sole argument for Uniloc 2017's ability to sue as of May 3 is based on the same misinterpretation of *Mann* outlined above. (Opp. 8–10.) Tellingly, even Plaintiffs do not seem to believe their own argument: after Apple filed 9 | its Motion, Uniloc 2017 dismissed over 35 cases nationwide that it had filed after May 3 in which 10 Uniloc 2017 and/or Uniloc USA were plaintiffs. (Winnard Decl. ¶ 10.) There should be no dispute that, between May 3 and when Apple filed its Motion, neither Uniloc 2017 nor the named Plaintiffs had constitutional standing to sue.

Plaintiffs now represent that they are executing new agreements that would ostensibly cure Uniloc 2017's current lack of standing. (Opp. 10.) But even though it is Plaintiffs' burden to establish that they have standing, they did not attach or even describe the documents referenced in 16 their brief. Of course, these new documents can do nothing to cure Plaintiffs' lack of standing at the time of filing. And Plaintiffs' belated efforts to fix their current standing problem should be rejected.

As a threshold matter, Plaintiffs cannot show good cause, as Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b) requires, to amend their pleadings to add Uniloc 2017 as plaintiff. This Court's Scheduling Order set June 28, 2018, as the deadline to add new parties or amend the pleadings. (Dkt. No. 70.)

Yet Plaintiffs said

nothing, and they disclosed nothing—not to Apple, and not to the Court. Worse, Plaintiffs continued to misrepresent their rights and interests by falsely stating to the Court—in late August that Uniloc USA was an "exclusive license[e]" (Plaintiffs' 8/29/18 Detailed Account of Patent

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 16 of 21

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1 Ownership History, Dkt. No. 120 at 1), and that Uniloc 2017 held "the right to all causes of action" (Plaintiffs' 8/23/18 Motion to Join, Dkt. No. 119 at 2). Plaintiffs offer no excuse or explanation for this conduct. And even if Plaintiffs did not understand the legal significance of their licensing machinations, their ignorance of the law cannot meet the "good cause" requirement. See Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604, 609 (9th Cir. 1992) ("[C]arelessness is not compatible with a finding of diligence and offers no reason for a grant of relief.").

In any case, Plaintiffs have not met their burden to show that their new agreements do indeed cure their standing problem. . In any event, Plaintiffs have not furnished evidence of these amendments to the Court and cannot rely on them in opposing Apple's Motion.

IV. DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE IS APPROPRIATE

Although dismissal for lack of jurisdiction is generally without prejudice, dismissal with prejudice is appropriate where, as here, the plaintiff has engaged in misconduct and made misrepresentations. See Nat'l Oilwell Varco, L.P. v. Omron Oilfield & Marine, Inc., 676 F. App'x 967, 972 (Fed. Cir. 2017) (affirming dismissal with prejudice for lack of standing where patentee "did not present a consistent picture of ownership" and "at no point even made an attempt to

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1 explain the blatant inconsistences in its previous positions on standing"); Raniere v. Microsoft

2 Corp., 2016 WL 4626584, at *4 (N.D. Tex. Sept. 2, 2016) (dismissing with prejudice for lack of standing based in part on plaintiffs' "clear history of delay and contumacious conduct"), aff'd 673 Fed. App'x 1008 (Fed. Cir. 2017). Plaintiffs' behavior—and their complete failure to explain or 5 justify it—warrants dismissal with prejudice.⁷ First, in response to the Court's order to provide a complete and detailed statement of 6 ownership in the patents-in-suit, Plaintiffs misled the Court in several respects. Despite the Court's clear directive to include licensing information (8/22/18 Order Setting Discovery Hearing, Dkt. No. 9 118 at 2), Plaintiffs did not disclose Fortress' rights in the patents-in-suit. (Dkt. 120 at 1.) 10 11 12 Plaintiffs have also never explained why they falsely 13 represented to the Court that Uniloc USA possessed an "exclusive license" to the patents-in-suit as of May 3, 2018. (Dkt. No. 120 at 1; Ex. HH, Hearing Tr. at 5:6–9.) 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 Apple sought this discovery nearly a year ago, and but for 27 28

⁷ Apple also intends to seek attorneys' fees and costs if the Court grants relief with respect to this Motion.

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 18 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

1 Plaintiffs' concealment and misrepresentations, Apple could have presented this standing problem 2 to the Court *before* the parties and the Court had expended substantial resources with the Court's shootout procedure.

Third, Plaintiffs have offered no justification for inducing the Court to enter final judgment 5 | in the -358 action at a time when the Court lacked subject-matter jurisdiction. Plaintiffs concede 6 that Uniloc Lux had no standing after May 3, 2018, and they offer no argument that Uniloc USA had standing, either. (Opp. 8–9.) Plaintiffs thus do not dispute that, when the Court entered final 8 | judgment in the -358 action on May 18, 2018, the named Plaintiffs did not have standing to sue. 9 And, unlike in the other actions, Plaintiffs cannot even attempt to cure this defect in the -358 matter 10 because the Court has already entered final judgment. See Janssen Pharmaceutica, N.V. v. Apotex, 11 | Inc., 540 F.3d 1353, 1363 n.9 (Fed. Cir. 2008) ("As Apotex failed to cure the jurisdictional defect 12 by the time the district court entered final judgment, we need not reach the issue of whether this case constitutes one of the limited circumstances in which temporary jurisdictional defects can be cured."). As of at least March 28, 2018—less than two weeks after Apple filed its motion for 15 judgment on the pleadings—Plaintiffs knew that they intended to execute the May 3 licensing transactions that would ultimately deprive the Court of subject-matter jurisdiction. But Plaintiffs disclosed nothing about these transactions until the Court ordered them to do so in September, months after the Court had entered final judgment in the -358 action.

Even now, Plaintiffs continue to mislead the Court. Plaintiffs argue that the transfer of rights from Uniloc Lux to Uniloc 2017 was "reported to Apple." (Opp. 11.) This is dishonest. Plaintiffs executed various patent assignments and licenses on May 3, 2018, but said nothing about those arrangements for months. It was not until Apple learned from public records of a possible transfer of the patents; those public records, however, included no information about Plaintiffs' licensing arrangements. Apple then sent Plaintiffs a letter on August 9, which set in motion a series of events culminating in this Court's issuing an order compelling Uniloc to produce documents about the assignment and licensing of rights in the patents-in-suit. (Mot. 8–10.) Plaintiffs cannot claim, in good faith, that they were forthcoming about these transactions. Plaintiffs' characterization of the May 3 transactions as a mere "transfer" of rights is similarly misleading. (Opp. 11.) As Apple

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Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 19 of 21

1	explained in its Motion, the assignment from Uniloc Lux to Uniloc 2017 was only a small piece of
2	the puzzle, and the only piece that Plaintiffs disclosed publicly and willingly. (Mot. 2–10.) Several
3	other agreements,
4	, fundamentally altered the nature of the rights held in the patents at issue.
5	(Mot. 7–8.) Plaintiffs withheld those documents, producing them only after Apple and the Court
6	had expended resources addressing Plaintiffs' hide-the-ball tactics.
7	Dismissal with prejudice for lack of standing is not the ordinary result, but it is appropriate
8	where the plaintiff has engaged in a pattern of misconduct and deception. Here, Plaintiffs: (1) failed
9	to disclose in contravention of the Court's August 22 order (Mot. 24); (2)
10	misrepresented Uniloc USA's status as an "exclusive licensee" and misstated the nature of Uniloc
11	USA's rights in the patents-in-suit (Mot. 23); (3) misrepresented Uniloc 2017 as holding all rights
12	in the causes of action despite it having alienated those rights to others (Mot. 18–21); (4) wrongly
13	concealed in response to Apple's request for production of licenses to the
14	patents-in-suit (Mot. 23); (5) falsely represented in response to interrogatories that they had no
15	information about licensing rights in the patents-in-suit (Mot. 22, 24.); and (6) failed to disclose that
16	the named Plaintiffs in the -358 action lacked standing at the time the Court entered final judgment
17	(Mot. 23–24). Plaintiffs have repeatedly deceived Apple and the Court, even in response to the
18	Court's order compelling them to be forthcoming about the division of rights and interests in the
19	patents-in-suit. Plaintiffs had plenty of opportunities to be forthcoming about their standing
20	problems, but they chose not to do so. Dismissal with prejudice is warranted in these circumstances.
21	V. CONCLUSION
22	Plaintiffs cannot show they had standing to sue at the time of filing.
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24	
25	Nothing in Plaintiffs' Opposition challenges
26	the factual or legal basis for this conclusion. Nor have Plaintiffs met their burden to show that they
27	presently have standing, or offered any explanation for their history of misrepresentations and
28	misconduct. The Court should grant Apple's Motion and dismiss Plaintiffs' cases with prejudice.

Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 20 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

1	DATED: November 27, 2018	Respectfully submitted,
2		
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Case 3:18-cv-00360-WHA Document 146-3 Filed 11/27/18 Page 21 of 21

REDACTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED

	REDICTED VERSION OF DOCUMENT SOUGHT TO BE SERVED
1	PROOF OF SERVICE
2	The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of DEFENDANT APPLE
3	INC.'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION TO DISMISS FOR LACK OF SUBJECT-
4	MATTER JURISDICTION has been served on November 27, 2018, to all counsel of record who
5	are deemed to have consented to electronic service.
6	
7	
8	<u>/s/ Michael T. Pieja</u> Michael T. Pieja (CA Bar No. 250351)
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