

Fulbright Assists Transocean in Litigation and Licensing of Patents for Offshore Drilling Technology

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HOUSTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Transocean Deepwater Drilling Company, a subsidiary of Transocean Inc., settled its claim for patent infringement by granting GlobalSantaFe Corporation a license for its offshore dual activity drilling technology. The agreement follows a final judgment entered by a federal district court last month in favor of Transocean, represented by Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.'s experienced intellectual property attorneys.

Transocean grants GlobalSantaFe a nonexclusive patent license for approximately \$15 million and an ongoing royalty of three to five percent of future revenue. The license allows GlobalSantaFe to utilize Transocean's dual activity drilling technology on its three Development Driller offshore drilling rigs and future acquired rigs incorporating the patented technology. The initial payment includes a \$4 million fee for each of the three Development Driller rigs and approximately \$3 million for prior use by the two rigs already in operation. GlobalSantaFe also must pay a royalty when operating in countries with a Transocean patent equal to three percent of revenue received on the three Development Driller rigs and five percent of revenue received on later acquired rigs covered by the dual activity patents.

The settlement ends worldwide disputes between the parties over Transocean's dual activity patents. GlobalSantaFe will withdraw from several proceedings challenging Transocean's dual activity patents, including any appeal of the recent final judgment. Transocean will dismiss its Singapore lawsuit against the shipyards that built the Development Drillers I and II.

The settlement follows a final judgment entered in favor of Transocean. United States District Judge Sim Lake entered an amended final judgment on January 19, 2007 awarding Transocean approximately \$5.1 million in damages and a permanent injunction against further infringement.

In August, a federal jury found in favor of Transocean after almost a two week trial in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas before Judge Lake. The jury upheld the validity and enforceability of the Transocean patents, and awarded reasonable royalty damages of five percent of the revenue received by GlobalSantaFe for its infringing rigs.

The court had previously ruled in April 2005 that GlobalSantaFe's two Development Driller semisubmersible drilling rigs infringe Transocean's U.S. patents.

Transocean developed its dual activity drilling design in 1996 as part of a project to construct wells more efficiently in deepwater. Compared to conventional rigs, the patented design saves time drilling in deepwater by using two drilling systems for parallel drilling operations on a single well.

Transocean (NYSE: RIG) is the world's largest offshore drilling contractor with a fleet of 82 mobile offshore drilling units and a current equity market capitalization in excess of \$22 billion. The company's mobile offshore drilling fleet consists of a large number of high-specification deepwater and harsh environment drilling units. It is considered to have one of the most modern and versatile drilling fleets in the world.

"This ruling underscores the importance Transocean has placed on protecting its technology and innovations," Fulbright Partner Charles Walker said. "As a leader in deepwater drilling, Transocean has a

long history of technological firsts, and here it took the necessary steps to protect its intellectual property.”

Walker was lead counsel for Transocean. He concentrates his practice on intellectual property and technology litigation. Walker has tried cases involving patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trademarks and other commercial disputes. He also has handled state and federal appeals, including oral arguments before the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Walker has an engineering background and is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Fellow Fulbright Partner Winn Carter served as trial counsel for Transocean. Carter has more than 25 years experience trying complex commercial cases in federal and state courts. He has tried over 80 cases to verdict and represented a wide variety of corporations and individuals in the aviation, energy, health and telecommunications industries. Carter has handled cases involving patent infringement, trade secrets, shareholder disputes, air carrier disasters, products liability and general commercial disputes. “Transocean has been and will remain a leader in deepwater drilling in part based on the help of those who are not only well-versed in the law, but also in the intricacies of our business,” said Eric B. Brown, Transocean’s Senior Vice President, Corporate Secretary and General Counsel. “We view protecting our current patents and safeguarding our future innovations as a necessary component of our operations. We are thankful for the legal skills and experience of the entire Fulbright team.”

Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.

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