

PTAB Upholds All 38 Claims in Downing Wellhead Patent Dispute Over Continuous Pumping Fracking Technology

June 10, 2025 Scott Jarratt, Tiffany Cooke, Laura Vu, Russ Emerson, Caroline Fox, Brooke Parker

PRACTICES Intellectual Property Litigation, Patent Litigation, Patent Office Trials

The U.S. Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) provided [Downing Wellhead Equipment](#) a decisive win in its dispute with competitor Intelligent Wellhead Systems (IWS), upholding all 38 claims of a key hydraulic fracturing patent, U.S. Patent No. 11,560,770.

This decision follows denials in the three previous related *inter partes* review (IPR) cases filed by IWS, marking a clean sweep for [Haynes Boone representing Downing's](#) continuous pumping patents. The inventive technology makes hydraulic fracturing operations significantly safer and more efficient.

Downing, headquartered in Oklahoma City, is a pioneer in pressure-control technologies for hydraulic fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," is the process of injecting high-pressure fluid into underground rock formations to extract oil and natural gas. By enabling continuous operations, the patented system reduces well equipment transition times, minimizes personnel exposure and streamlines the entire fracturing process.

The PTAB sided with Downing and found that IWS did not prove any of the 38 challenged claims to be unpatentable, rejecting all asserted grounds of anticipation and obviousness.

The ruling is a major development in ongoing patent infringement litigation between the two companies [in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado](#), where Downing is suing IWS for infringing the '770 patent as well as U.S. Patent No. 11,401,779.

"This is a resounding win for Downing and a clear affirmation of the strength and clarity of its continuous pumping patents," said Partner [Scott Jarratt](#), who led the IPR team. "We're proud to defend a technology that is reshaping the efficiency and safety of modern energy operations."

Jarratt along with Partner [Tiffany Cooke](#) and Associate [Laura Vu](#) led the Haynes Boone IPR team with additional support from Partner [Russ Emerson](#), Counsel [Caroline Fox](#), and Associates [Brooke Parker](#) and Andrew Drott.

Partner [Alan Herda](#) and Counsel [Zach Halbur](#) prepared and prosecuted the patent applications for U.S. Patent Nos. 11,560,770 and 11,401,779

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