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Press Release – Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 27, 2014. Court invalidates patents asserted against Price Heneveld client.

Price Heneveld LLP is very pleased to announce that the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit released its decision affirming the invalidity of computer-related patents asserted against its client, VKGS LLC, based in Omaha.

In 2012, VKGS LLC was sued in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan's by Planet Bingo, LLC for alleged infringement of two patents related to a computer-implemented bingo game management system and method. Following a *Markman* order interpreting the patent claims, VKGS moved for summary judgment that Planet Bingo's patents were invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to patent-ineligible abstract ideas. Judge Robert Holmes Bell agreed, and held the patents to be invalid. In the decision, the Federal Circuit applied the U.S. Supreme Court's recent holding in *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank International* to lead it to the same result. In *Alice Corp.*, the Supreme Court invalidated patent claims directed to "mitigating settlement risk" in "financial transactions," an abstract idea that is not patent eligible. The Federal Circuit similarly found that the asserted patents here were also directed to an "abstract idea" – the idea of "managing a game of Bingo." The Federal Circuit also observed that Judge Bell correctly concluded that the claimed bingo game management systems and methods "consist[] solely of mental steps which can be carried out by a human using paper and pencil."

The case is *Planet Bingo, LLC v. VKGS LLL*, Case No. 2013-1663 (Fed. Cir. Aug. 26, 2014).

Price Heneveld LLP is an internationally recognized law partnership founded in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1952. The firm specializes in patent, trademark, and copyright causes, technology-related law, international trade law, unfair competition, trade secrets, antitrust matters, and related law. Find out more about Price Heneveld at www.priceheneveld.com.

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