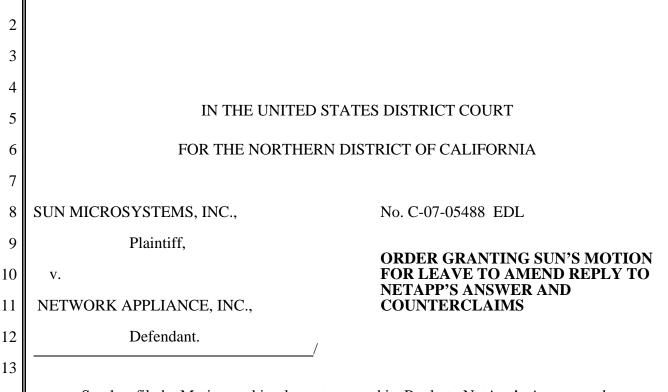
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Sun has filed a Motion seeking leave to amend its Reply to NetApp's Answer and 14 Counterclaim to assert the affirmative defense of assignor estoppel. Sun contends that it only 15 recently learned that a current NetApp employee, Mark Insley, involved in development of the 16 accused NetApp technology, is a former Sun employee and inventor of the patent in question. 17 NetApp counters that Sun had all of the information needed to assert this defense months ago but 18 delayed, that it will be prejudiced as a result, and that amendment would be futile. 19

Having considered the parties' papers and oral arguments, relevant legal authority, and the 20 record in this case, the Court hereby GRANTS Sun's Motion For Leave to Amend its Reply. 21 Although it is a close question, Sun has demonstrated that it did not unduly delay in bringing this 22 motion and was diligent in doing so once it had all of the relevant information it needed. Given 23 Sun's concession in its papers and open court that it will not need additional discovery on the 24 assignor estoppel defense, and NetApp's admission that the information it needs to defend against 25 this defense is within its possession, little or no prejudice has been shown. Finally, NetApp has not 26 shown that the amendment would be futile. 27

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Sun has also filed requests to seal portions of its Motion and Reply as well as portions of the accompanying declarations based on the fact that NetApp had previously designated this

information Confidential or Highly Confidential. NetApp's response reduced the number of documents that Sun initially sought to be sealed on the basis of NetApp's designations, and requests sealing of: Exhibits C and D to the Corbett Declaration, Sun's unredacted Reply brief, and Exhibits 1 and 3 through 10 of the Corbett Reply Declaration. NetApp states that these documents reflect NetApp's trade secrets or sensitive business information that could harm NetApp if publicly disclosed. There is good cause for sealing these documents, and Sun's request to seal should be GRANTED as to Exhibits C and D to the Corbett Reply Declaration. Sun's unredacted Reply brief, and Exhibits 1 and 3 through 10 of the Corbett Reply Declaration. Sun's neguest is otherwise DENIED.

Finally, in the parties' papers and at oral argument, NetApp relied on an agreement between
the parties whereby document production would serve to supplement initial disclosures. While the
agreement has some merit, neither party could articulate any standard by which this agreement
would operate if the Court were called upon to decide whether disclosures were adequate if
challenged. The parties are hereby Ordered to meet and confer regarding this agreement to
determine more specifically when and how initial disclosures should be updated, and when and how
document production may serve to supplement initial disclosures. The Court notes that any process
by which limited hits in searches of the millions of documents produced in this case are relied on as
adequate disclosure supplementation of important information like witnesses likely to be called at
trial is unlikely to be sanctioned by the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

22 Dated: December 16, 2009

Elizah R. D. Lepote

ELIZABETH D. LAPORTE United States Magistrate Judge