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(54) **METHODS FOR HANDLING COMMUNICATION REQUESTS RECEIVED FOR FORMER USERS OF A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The methods for handling a communication request received for a former user of a communication system include sending updated address book information for the former user to an initiator's address book, redirecting the communication request to the forwarding address for the former user, redirecting the communication request to an assigned replacement of the former user, or any combination of the above. Additionally, the replacement's address book information may be sent to the initiator's address book for updating. In one embodiment, a replication of the former user's address book is retained to assist in determining how to handle the received communication request.

**17 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**

