

**From:** [Jennifer Church](#)  
**To:** [Fee.Setting](#)  
**Cc:** [TM FR Notices](#); [Cain, Catherine](#)  
**Subject:** your proposed fee for filing an LOP  
**Date:** Friday, September 13, 2019 12:20:17 PM

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Hello,

My name is Jennifer Church and I am a graphic designer and small business owner in Virginia. I have spent the last few years building a catalog of unique and thoughtfully designed shirts and gift items to sell in various marketplaces. As part of my due diligence, I utilize the USPTO's database and tools to make sure I am building a business with integrity and not infringing on appropriately assigned trademarks.

Over recent months, I've been alarmed at the high number of trademarks that have passed the examining attorney's "complete examination" that should be considered as frivolous attempts to trademark terms and phrases that to most people would be considered a '*Widely Used Message*' (TMEP §§1202.04)

As frustrating as it is to discover that phrases like "DOGS", "I LOVE FLOWERS" and "SISTER" have been assigned a registration number (which I understand means it went through the 'complete examination' phase), I knew that I at least had the option to file a letter of protest to bring attention to these types of pending trademarks so they don't negatively affect my business and thousands of others.

That is our only recourse. The ability to file an LOP is the people's way of preventing trademarks from getting through the registration process that violate the guidelines the USPTO itself sets. We are HELPING to present evidence for the examining attorneys to review.

Now, perhaps the most alarming part, is the proposed fee of \$100-200 fee to be charged for filing an LOP. This feels more like a punishment being doled out to the people taking time from their business to provide the evidence that the trademark registration system is not being followed correctly.

I'm asking that you reconsider this proposed fee. Even \$100 is significant

enough to essentially tie the hands of small business owners everywhere and leave us no way to bring attention to these trademarks that have the potential to cripple our businesses.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Church