

From: [Ashley Hodgen](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: LOP Fee Proposal
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 5:02:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing as a small business owner concerned about the \$100 fee that the USPTO is proposing be charged for LOP submissions going forward, and ask that you please reconsider implementing this fee.

Currently, submitting an LOP is my only recourse to prevent trademarks from being registered that clearly violate the guidelines set forth in the TMEP, U.S.C. and the C.F.R. Countless small business owners must take time away their businesses in order to file LOPs for pending trademarks that somehow incorrectly make it through the "complete examination" of the USPTO.

Unfortunately it seems that companies backed by huge law firms have been taking advantage of the system, attempting to register trademarks that should never be registered in the first place (common phrases already in use, generic words/phrases, etc.) The fact that many of these generic phrases get approved is a problem. Once they are trademarked, it would be enormously expensive to challenge it in court, and would thus be nearly impossible for small business owners like me to pursue it. The proposed fee will limit the actions we can take as small business owners to try and prevent these trademarks from being incorrectly approved in the first place.

I'm asking that you remove any consideration of charging a fee for LOPs until changes have been made at the USPTO to ensure that the constitutional basis for trademarks is being followed.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ashley Hodgen