

From: silbran@web.de
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Please do not charge for letters of protest >>> new version without my full address
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 4:53:46 PM

Dear Madame or Sir,

today I'm writing you because I'm very concerned that the plans to charge a 100\$ fee for letters of protest against frivolous trademarks will stop a majority of small business owners effectively to protest against the abuse of the TM system.

It is already the case that people „buy“ themselves a TM not to use it to identify the source of goods but to be able to send out takedown notes to online marketplaces like Amazon and Etsy and effectively get rid of competitors using slogans as decorative elements on T-Shirts. This has led in the past to the unfortunate situation that small business owners have to delete their bestsellers or even loose their shops over the claim of infringing on TMs that are not used the right way.

If this situation would just occur in unique situations and in small numbers it would be not too bad but as it is handled right now this „takedown industry“ sends out hundreds if not thousands of takedowns and sometimes in whole series.

One evening I was checking TMs using the USPTO search when I discovered that one such well known TM bully tried to trademark 19 (!) phrases all connected to the wedding sector. If this person would have been granted those TMs she would have been able to erase hundreds of designs from the Amazon and Etsy marketplaces.

Those TMs she tried to get were the following:

BRIDE OF THE PARTY - 88005961
I DO CREW - 88005968
BRIDE SQUAD - 88005971
BACH AND BOOZY - 88004256
HONEYMOONIN - 88005972
HONEYMOON VIBES - 88005979
FUTURE MRS. - 88004265
THE PARTY - 88004272
LOVE DRUNK - 88004277
BACH AND BOUJEE - 88004278
WE'RE GETTING DRUNK - 88004285
I'M GETTING MARRIED - 88004289
ALOHA BEACHES - 88004293
ALOHA BRIDE - 88004300
ON CLOUD NINE - 88004305
JUST DRUNK - 88004314
ON CLOUD WINE - 88004326
BRIDE AND BOUJEE - 87956851
BAD AND BOOZIE - 87953085

All of those TM claims have been denied on base of letters of protest filed successfully. According to the new plans to charge for letters of protest it would have costed at least 1900\$ to protest against all those TM filings which basically means noone would have been able to afford such a large sum especially without knowing the outcome.

The abuse of the TM system is meanwhile a business practice to get rid of unwelcome competitors of a whole industry. Therefore it should be only right that the person filing for a TM should pay the costs for the system to work properly. Please do not take away the possibility to file letters of protest because charging the high sum of 100\$ for each letter of protest means exactly that: The Tm bullies get their say and the people who try to protect the

free market against shady practices will be effectively stopped. This is affecting hundreds of small business owners trying to earn their family income.

Yours sincerely,
Silvia B.