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Comment - Loya

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General Comment

As a small business owner I object to the increase in trademark fees period because I feel it is suppressing the small business owner by making it harder and harder for start-ups and other small businesses to afford trademark registration. The cost for an attorney to defend a trademark is already prohibitive to the point that almost no really small business can afford one... so it is even more discouraging that the fees for the trademarks will go up. It is as if our country is leaving off the value of small businesses and as it happens... only medium and large businesses are afforded protections for their Intellectual property. Not only can the small business not find it in their budget to register their IP; they also cannot find it in their budget to defend their IP. As the owner of many (common law) trademarks; we have only found it in our budget to protect only the most used of our trademarks leaving us an easy target for infringers (who are most often larger and better funded company's) to steal our trademarks. This is just one more example of how small businesses and entrepreneurship is being devalued in our country. A suggestion would be to keep the current fees for small businesses that have under \$500000.00 in revenue per year.

Thank you.