

From: [Kathleen Lynch](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Proposed Rule Change for All Electronic Trademark Applications and Prosecution; Docket PTO-T-2017-0004;
Attention: Ms. Catherine Cain
Date: Friday, June 01, 2018 11:31:50 AM

Dear Catherine:

I am responding to the proposed change in the Trademark rules set forth in the Federal Gazette of May 30, 2018. While I believe the proposed change is a good one, I am concerned as to the effect of the change to low-wealth entrepreneurs and start up companies with limited knowledge and access to a computer.

I am a volunteer with the NCLEAP organization (NC Lawyers' Entrepreneurs Assistance Program) sponsored by the NC Bar Association Foundation. I often work with low-wealth entrepreneurs assisting them with trademark and patent matters. While most have access to a computer and may have an email address, some have little or know understanding of the US Trademark Office Rules and Regulations and the general trademark application and prosecution process. As a volunteer we aid our NCLEAP clients in filing their trademark applications electronically. We encourage them to include their own email address for purposes of communication and future prosecution of the application. The proposed rule change would require people, such as a low-wealth entrepreneur, to be responsible for handling email communications from the US Trademark Office that may have significant impact on their ability to conduct their business. Given all of the fraudulent communications currently in existence relating to trademark filings as well as some low-wealth entrepreneurs having limited computer and email skills, I am concerned that such an applicant may mismanage the communication.

I would strongly urge that any change to a completely electronic system be made after ensuring that every library in this country be equipped with personal computer access. Moreover, I would urge that the Trademark Office communications be written in such a way as to ensure understanding by a lay person.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
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