

From: [Richard](#)
To: [TM FR Notices](#)
Subject: Trademark Processing Fees
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 5:57:30 AM

Fortunately it has been drawn to my attention that there is a proposal to charge for a Letter of Protest in the Trademark Processing Fees currently under review.

Frankly, I am appalled by this proposal. It suggests that the USPTO is more interested in making money than properly reviewing Trademark applications.

The USPTO frequently fails to correctly appraise applications for Trademarks and grants registration to applications that do not pass its own written requirements.

Because the USPTO was failing manifestly to notice obvious fraudulent claims, it became necessary for individuals to file Letters of Protest.

It seems perverse to propose charging people for helping the USPTO fulfil their duty in checking the validity of Trademarks. If the USPTO considers it costs \$100 for them to just look at a LOP and check its veracity, I suggest that instead a payment should be made to the person who has taken the time to collate the information and submit the LOP.

The USPTO is obviously overwhelmed by applications, which is why many Trademarks go through processing and are awarded registration when they blatantly fail to meet the very requirements that the USPTO outline.

Instead of looking at LOPs as yet another burden of work, understand that they are saving the USPTO a massive amount of research and helping to highlight what are often intentionally fraudulent applications.

The question is whether the USPTO is actively interested in registering only valid Trademarks, or whether the motive is to process as many applications as possible and to make money. The obvious consequence of charging for LOPs will be to see a massive reduction in LOPs being filed and consequently a huge growth in the approved registration of fraudulent Trademarks, which would seem to be contrary to the remit of the USPTO.

This fee proposal seems to indicate that the USPTO is more concerned with reducing its workload, by not having to bother with checking LOPs, so that it can get on with allowing business as usual.

Having said this, the USPTO has a lot to do and it is understandable that some things pass by unnoticed and I am sure that most are conscientious about all that they do. Freely provided assistance by those outside of the USPTO to make the job easier should be welcomed, not rejected by imposing a cost to do so.

Hopefully, when reviewed, it will be apparent that Letters of Protest should be welcomed and any idea of charging for this will be swiftly discarded.

Regards,

Richard