From:
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 To:
 TM FR Notices

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 84 FR 4393 Comments

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I am very much in favor of the trademark rules being amended to require a US attorney represent all non-US applicants.

I am in favor of this for the reasons noted in the Federal Register: specifically that greater confidence will in the statements made in the trademark registration will be insured when a US practitioner is required.

In addition, however, I am also in favor of this rule because it adds reciprocity, and further opportunities for employment by US attorneys, to a system that otherwise prevents US attorneys from carrying out filings outside the United States. Right now, I am not able to represent a client who seeks to register trademarks outside the United States. This rule will would require reciprocity, thus requiring that foreign attorneys could represent foreign clients in the US, only to the extent that US attorneys could represent US clients in that foreign country. This provides more work for the US attorneys, and is overall a fairer system.

In Canada and Europe, the 2 jurisdictions where I have checked, it appears that nonlocal applicants must engage local representation to file trademark applications. The United States should follow this lead, and require that a local attorney be engaged by foreign nationals to file a US trademark.

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