

Trademark Solicitations & Scams

Beware of unsolicited trademark notices and scams. Once a trademark application is filed with the United States Patent & Trademark Office (“USPTO”), the trademark and owner information becomes public record. In the past few years, a large number of companies have used this information to send documents to trademark owners deceptively appearing to be official, but are actually solicitations or outright scams. The real USPTO does not send invoices.

The trademark scam companies sometimes use information about the trademark’s mandatory filing deadlines to request services. For example, to keep a trademark registration alive, registrants must file mandatory maintenance filings between five and six years after registration, and a renewal before every tenth year after registration. It is of utmost importance to calendar your trademark’s deadlines on your internal docket.

The trademark scam companies hope that trademark owners who are vaguely aware of such requirements will send money to them without investigation. Some of the unsolicited notices provide a useful function in notifying registrants of upcoming deadlines. However, typically these companies are composed of non-lawyers who process filings without doing the necessary review to see if the filings and trademark specimens meet legal requirements. Other notices are outright scams that request payments for fraudulent services.

The following is a list of some solicitations and scams that we have seen. You may disregard notices from such services.

Service:

Elective Trademark Monitoring Service
Trademark Renewals Service
Trademark Cancellation Notice
Invoice for Trademark Publication
Section 8 Declaration of Use/Pending Trademark
Cancellation

Company:

United States Trademark Maintenance Service
Center for United States Trademark Renewals
United States Trademark Renewal Service
Trademark Internet Publication
United States Trademark Center

If you are ever in doubt about a trademark notice you receive, feel free to contact us.

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