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About the Author

Jonathan Brown

Jonathan W. Brown is a partner in the firm's Intellectual Property and Commercial Litigation departments. Jonathan focuses his practice on the following areas of law:

- Intellectual Property
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Copyright Law
- Trademark Registration
- The Rights of Privacy and Publicity

Jonathan has handled numerous matters in both California and New York including contractual disputes, licensing disputes, trademark infringement claims, copyright infringement claims, and proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeals Board and the U.S. International Trade Commission.

In addition, Jonathan helps to manage international trademark portfolios for several global entertainment and novelty companies.

For questions on any Intellectual Property related matter, please contact Jonathan at 716 849 1333 or via e-mail at jbrown@lglaw.com

SPECIAL LEGAL ALERT ON

Intellectual Property

WARNING: Beware of "Official Looking" Notices Concerning Your Trademark

The United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has recently issued a warning to be aware of private companies who are using deceptive letters and e-mails to solicit business for their trademark-related services.

Characteristics Of The Deceptive Correspondence

The notices often resemble invoices and contain fine print which sometimes explains that a fee is required for optional services such as recordation with U.S. Custom & Border Protection, trademark monitoring, legal services, or registration in a private trademark registry.

These are **not** government issued correspondence. In an effort to appear official, the names of these companies tend to include the terms "U.S." or "United States" (such as "United States Trademark Registration Office") and strive to mimic official documents as closely as possible. In addition, these companies use publicly available information such as registration numbers, serial numbers, filing dates, and excerpts of the United States Code (U.S.C.) to deceive trademark owners.

Identifying Legitimate Correspondence

Official correspondence from the USPTO will always be sent from its headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia or electronically from the domain "uspto.gov." Moreover, if your attorney filed your trademark application, correspondence from the USPTO will be sent directly to your attorney. You can view the official warning statement from the USPTO at www.uspto.gov/trademarks/solicitation_warnings.jsp.

Obtaining Additional Information

While "scams" like this are not new, I have already been contacted by a few clients to verify the suspicious, but official looking notices, which were allegedly issued from the "United States Trademark Registration Office."

If you receive any correspondence regarding your trademark that seems suspicious or have any specific questions regarding protection of your trademark, please contact me at any time by calling **716 849 1333 ext. 371** or via e-mail at jbrown@lglaw.com.