



INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY LAW

Ronald E. Smith, Esq.
Anton J. Hopen, Esq.

Disregarding Trademark Scams

The United States Patent & Trademark Office makes existing trademark registrations and pending trademark applications public record. These records include: (1) the trademark owner's name; (2) trademark owner's address; (3) trademark sought for protection; and (4) our firm's information. This data is mined for a number of different scams. However, the scams all seek to instill some level of urgency and often take forms that appear to be from a governmental agency. Some of the scam letters are displayed to the right. **Be advised that you will almost certainly receive some of these solicitations.** Do not engage this scam artists and always feel free to contact our office with questions. Our office will communication all deadlines and necessary actions to you.

International Trademark Registry: This scam requests payment simply to put your trademark brand into an arbitrary listing. By analogy it is like getting on the list of "Who's Who of Middle School Kickball Players." Getting listed on the service is meaningless.

Trademark Renewal Services: These scammers sent you a carbon-copy, tractor-feed form that appears governmental in nature. They warn that failure to renew your trademark will result in its abandonment. Often times, they are requesting hundreds of dollars to simply remind you a few months later to renew your trademark. We've noticed that these scammers always sent this form out before it is even possible to pay the renewal fee. They need to send this out early to preempt communications from the law firm that handled the trademark application in the first place. Again, a waste of money.

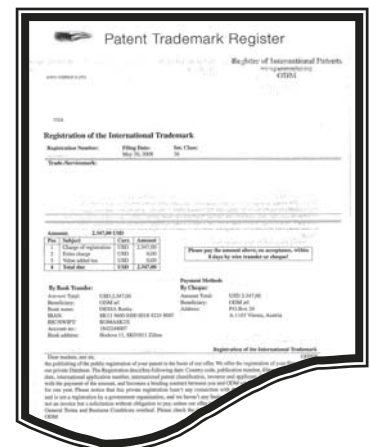
Domain Slamming: A form of domain slamming frequently comes from China in which the brand names of U.S. companies are allegedly applied for by a third party and the ISP benevolently contacts the U.S. company to see if they object. Here is a sample:

We are Asia DNR Limited, which is the domain name registrar centre in Asia. We have something important need to confirm with your company. On the Apr 9 2008, we received an application formally. One company named Fenghua network services inc applied for the internet brand Name:

YOURTRADEMARK
the domain names:
yourtrademark.info
yourtrademark.mobi
yourtrademark.asia
yourtrademark.net.cn
yourtrademark.org.cn
yourtrademark.hk
yourtrademark.tw

These days we are dealing with it, After our initial examination, we found that the internet brand Name and domain names applied for registration are as same as your company's name and trademark. hope to get the affirmation of your company because that may relate to your intellectual property on internet. Now we have not finished the registration of Fenghua network services inc yet, in order to deal with this issue better, please let someone who is responsible for trademark or domain name contact me as soon as possible

Best Regards, Frank.lee



Summary: Whether you use our firm or another for your trademark matters, do not fall for these forms and emails. Contact your trademark attorney first and do not reply to these scammers.