

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board  
P.O. Box 1451  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

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Mailed: November 15, 2008

Opposition No. 91178682

Franciscan Vineyards, Inc.

v.

Domaines Pinnacle, Inc.

**Brian D. Brown, Interlocutory Attorney:**

Proceedings herein are suspended pending disposition of opposer's October 24, 2008 motion to strike. Any paper filed during the pendency of this motion which is not relevant thereto will be given no consideration. See Trademark Rule 2.127(d).<sup>1</sup>

The motion to strike will be decided in due course.

**NEWS FROM THE TTAB:**

The USPTO published a notice of final rulemaking in the Federal Register on August 1, 2007, at 72 F.R. 42242. By this notice, various rules governing Trademark Trial and Appeal Board inter partes proceedings are amended. Certain amendments have an effective date of August 31, 2007, while most have an effective date of November 1, 2007. For further information, the parties are referred to a reprint of the final rule and a chart summarizing the affected rules, their changes, and effective dates, both viewable on the USPTO website via these web addresses:  
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242.pdf>  
[http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242\\_FinalRuleChart.pdf](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242_FinalRuleChart.pdf)

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<sup>1</sup> Opposer filed on September 24, 2008 a motion to amend pleading and its amended pleading. Defendant's amended answer filed October 24, 2008 is also noted. In view of the above decision, all the outstanding motions will be decided in due course.

By one rule change effective August 31, 2007, the Board's standard protective order is made applicable to all TTAB inter partes cases, whether already pending or commenced on or after that date. However, as explained in the final rule and chart, this change will not affect any case in which any protective order has already been approved or imposed by the Board. Further, as explained in the final rule, parties are free to agree to a substitute protective order or to supplement or amend the standard order even after August 31, 2007, subject to Board approval. The standard protective order can be viewed using the following web address:  
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/ttab/tbmp/stndagmnt.htm>