

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

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Mailed: June 22, 2009

Opposition No. 91188449

Blue String Ventures, Inc.

v.

Las Vegas Sands Corporation

Cheryl Goodman, Interlocutory Attorney:

Opposer's filing of June 11, 2009 is noted. Although such filing is entitled a stipulation, it only includes the signature of opposer.

With regard to the parties' waiver of initial disclosures, the stipulation does not indicate that the parties intend to use traditional discovery devices in lieu of initial disclosures.

The parties are allowed until **FIFTEEN DAYS** from the mailing date of this order to file a revised stipulation with both parties' signatures.

With regard to the Board's standard protective agreement, the parties are advised that only confidential or trade secret information should be filed pursuant to a stipulated protective agreement. Such an agreement may not

be used as a means of circumventing paragraphs (d) and (e) of 37 CFR § 2.27, which provide, in essence, that the file of a published application or issued registration, and all proceedings relating thereto, should otherwise be available for public inspection.

The parties' agreement to defer service of discovery until settlement is considered is noted.

Dates remain as last reset.

**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)

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>