

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

Mailed: February 20, 2014

Opposition No. 91212477

Balance Bar Company

v.

GFA Brands, Inc.

**Nicole Thier, Paralegal Specialist:**

The stipulated protective agreement filed on February 18, 2014, is noted. The parties are referred, as appropriate, to Trademark Rule 2.126(c) and TBMP §§ 412.02, *et seq.* (3d ed. rev.2 2013).

The parties are advised that only confidential or trade secret information should be filed pursuant to a stipulated protective agreement.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The Board notes that confidential papers can now be filed via ESTTA, the Board's electronic filing facility. <http://estta.uspto.gov>. Pick the "CONFIDENTIAL Opposition, Cancellation or Concurrent Use" form under the "File Documents in a Board Proceeding" option.

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Discovery and trial dates remain as set forth in the Board's September 14, 2013 institution order.