

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451
General Contact Number: 571-272-8500

Ey/wbc

Mailed: January 27, 2016

Opposition No. 91220602

Valery Sigal

v.

Ello, Inc.

Wendy Boldt Cohen, Interlocutory Attorney:

Assignment

In its answer filed February 18, 2015, Applicant alleges that the current owner of the involved application is Ello, PBC and filed the answer on behalf of Ello, PBC. Inasmuch as an assignment has not been recorded with the Assignment Recordation Branch of the USPTO¹ and Applicant has not provided proof of the assignment by way of a motion to join or substitute the parties or otherwise, Ello, Inc. remains the defendant in this case. *See* TBMP § 512.

¹ It has come to the Board's attention that Applicant filed a voluntary amendment of its application through TEAS on February 18, 2015. A request to amend an application involved in a Board proceeding must be filed with the Board, not with the Trademark Examining Attorney. Because Applicant did not file its request to amend with the Board, the request will be given no further consideration. A copy of the amendment has been added to the Board's proceeding file.

If Applicant wishes to record an assignment, the assignment should be filed with the Assignment Recordation Branch of the USPTO. After filing an assignment with the Assignment Recordation Branch of the USPTO, Applicant may notify the Board of the assignment so the Board may update its record.

Because the answer was filed on behalf of Ello, PBC not Ello, Inc., Applicant is hereby allowed until **February 15, 2016** to file an answer in the name of Ello, Inc. and/or provide the Board with proof of the assignment of the mark from Ello, Inc. to Ello, PBC.

Withdrawal of Opposer's Counsel

On December 16, 2015, Opposer's attorneys filed a request to withdraw as Opposer's counsel of record in this case. The request to withdraw as counsel is in compliance with the requirements of Trademark Rules 2.19(b) and Patent and Trademark Rule 11.116, and is accordingly granted. The law firm of Neifeld IP Law, PC no longer represents Opposer in this proceeding.

In view of the withdrawal of Opposer's counsel, and in accordance with standard Board practice, proceedings herein are suspended, and Opposer is allowed until thirty days from the mailing date of this order to appoint new counsel, or to file a paper stating that opposer chooses to represent itself. If Opposer files no response, the Board may issue an order to show cause why default judgment should not be entered against Opposer based on Opposer's apparent loss of interest in the proceeding.

Proceedings are otherwise suspended pending response to this order.

The parties will be notified by the Board when proceedings are resumed, and dates will be reset, as appropriate.

A copy of this order will be sent to all persons listed below.

cc:

Bruce T. Margulies

Opposition No. 91220602

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Information regarding legal representation

Although Patent and Trademark Rule 11.14 permits an entity to represent itself, it is strongly advisable for a party who is not acquainted with the technicalities of the procedural and substantive law involved in *inter partes* proceedings before the Board to secure the services of an attorney who is familiar with such matters. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) cannot aid in the selection of an attorney. As the impartial decision maker, the Board may not provide legal advice; it may provide information solely as to procedure.

Any party who does not retain counsel should be familiar with the authorities governing this proceeding, including the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure (TBMP), and the Trademark Rules of Practice (37 C.F.R. Part 2), both accessible directly from the Board's web page:

<http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/appeal/index.jsp>. Also on the Board's web

page are links to ESTTA, the Board's electronic filing system² at <http://estta.uspto.gov>, and TTABVUE, for case status and prosecution history at <http://ttabvue.uspto.gov/ttabvue>.

Trademark Rules 2.119(a) and (b) require that every paper filed in the USPTO in a proceeding before the Board must be served upon the attorney for the other party or on the party if there is no attorney. Proof of service must be made before the paper will be considered by the Board. Accordingly, copies of all papers filed in this proceeding must be accompanied by a signed statement indicating the date and manner in which such service was made. *See* TBMP § 113.03. The statement, whether attached to or appearing on the paper when filed, will be accepted as prima facie proof of service, must be signed and dated, and should take the form of a certificate of service as follows:

I hereby certify that a true and complete copy of the foregoing (insert title of submission) has been served on (insert name of opposing counsel or party) by mailing said copy on (insert date of mailing), via First Class Mail, postage prepaid (or insert other appropriate method of delivery) to: (name and address of opposing counsel or party).

Signature _____

Date _____

Strict compliance with the Trademark Rules of Practice, and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (where applicable), is required of all parties before the Board,

² The Board strongly encourages parties to file all papers through ESTTA, which operates in real time and provides a tracking number that the filing has been received. For assistance in using ESTTA, call 571-272-8500.

whether or not they are represented by counsel. *See McDermott v. San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent*, 81 USPQ2d 1212, n.2 (TTAB 2006).

This *inter partes* proceeding is similar to a civil action in a federal district court. The parties file pleadings and a range of possible motions. This proceeding includes designated times for disclosures, discovery (discovery depositions, interrogatories, requests for production of documents and things, and requests for admission, to ascertain the facts underlying an adversary's case), a trial period, and the filing of briefs. The Board does not preside at the taking of testimony; all testimony is taken out of the presence of the Board during the assigned testimony, or trial, periods, and the written transcripts thereof, together with any exhibits thereto, are then filed with the Board. No paper, document, or exhibit will be considered as evidence unless it has been introduced in evidence in accordance with the applicable rules.