

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

Mailed: January 30, 2016

Opposition No. 91224132 (Parent)

Opposition No. 91224133

Opposition No. 91224367

eHarmony, Inc.

v.

Kathleen Kvalvik

Victoria von Vistauxx, Paralegal Specialist:

Motion to Consolidate Opposition No. 91224367

On December 16, 2015, the Board consolidated Opposition Nos. 91224132 and 91224133. On December 29, 2015, Applicant filed a motion to consolidate Opposition No. 91224367 with the above referenced consolidated opposition proceedings. The Board notes initially that Applicant has filed its answer in Opposition No. 91224367.

When cases involving common questions of law or fact are pending before the Board, the Board may order consolidation of the cases. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a); *Regatta Sport Ltd. v. Telux-Pioneer Inc.*, 20 USPQ2d 1154 (TTAB 1991); and *Estate of Biro v. Bic Corp.*, 18 USPQ2d 1382 (TTAB 1991). In determining whether to consolidate proceedings, the Board will weigh the savings in time, effort, and expense which may be gained from consolidation, against any prejudice or inconvenience which may be caused thereby.

Consolidation is discretionary with the Board, and may be ordered upon motion granted by the Board, or upon stipulation of the parties approved by the Board, or upon the Board's own initiative. *See, e.g., Hilson Research Inc. v. Society for Human Resource Management*, 27 USPQ2d 1423 (TTAB 1993).

It is noted that the parties to these proceedings are identical, and the issues are similar or related. Accordingly, the motion to consolidate is granted. Opposition No. 91224367 is hereby consolidated with already consolidated Opposition Nos. 91224132 and 91224133 and may be presented on the same record and briefs. *See Hilson Research Inc. v. Society for Human Resource Management, supra*; and *Helene Curtis Industries Inc. v. Suave Shoe Corp.*, 13 USPQ2d 1618 (TTAB 1989).

The Board file will be maintained in Opposition No. 91224132 as the “parent case.” From this point on, only a single copy of all motions and papers should be filed, and each such motion or paper should be filed in the parent case only, but caption all consolidated proceeding numbers, listing the “parent case” first.¹

Despite being consolidated, each proceeding retains its separate character and requires entry of a separate judgment. The decision on the consolidated cases shall take into account any differences in the issues raised by the respective pleadings; a copy of the decision shall be placed in each proceeding file.

Motion to Suspend

Opposer’s consented motion (filed January 20, 2016) to suspend this proceeding for 60 days is granted.

¹ The parties should promptly inform the Board of any other Board proceedings or related cases within the meaning of Fed. R. Civ. P. 42, so that the Board can consider whether further consolidation is appropriate.

Because the parties are negotiating for a possible settlement of this case, proceedings are suspended, subject to the right of either party to request resumption at any time. *See* Trademark Rule 2.117(c), and 2.127(a); and TBMP § 605.02).

In the event that there is no word from either party concerning the progress of their negotiations, upon conclusion of the suspension period, proceedings shall resume without further notice or order from the Board, in accordance with the schedule set forth in Applicant's motion.

In each instance, a copy of the transcript of testimony together with copies of documentary exhibits, must be served on the adverse party within thirty days after completion of the taking of testimony. Trademark Rule 2.125.

Briefs shall be filed in accordance with Trademark Rules 2.128(a) and (b). An oral hearing will be set only upon request filed as provided by Trademark Rule 2.129.

If, during the suspension period, either of the parties or their attorneys should have a change of address, the Board should be so informed.²

² If the parties are (or during the pendency of this proceeding become) parties to another proceeding involving the subject application/registration, the parties must notify the Board so the Board can consider whether consolidation or suspension of proceedings is appropriate.