

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

KWM

Mailed: August 19, 2016

Opposition No. 91227258

Mattel, Inc.

v.

Anastasia Lilly, LLC

Eric McWilliams, Supervisory Paralegal:

The motion (filed August 2, 2016) to withdraw as counsel of record in this proceeding is hereby denied without prejudice because it fails to comply with the requirements of Trademark Rules 2.19(b) and Patent and Trademark Rule 11.116.

Specifically, the motion does not include one or more of the following requirements: (1) a specification of the basis for the request; (2) a statement that the practitioner has notified the client of his or her desire to withdraw from employment, and has allowed time for employment of another practitioner; (3) a statement that all documents and property that relate to the proceeding and to which the client is entitled have been delivered to the client; (4) if any part of a fee paid in advance has not been earned, a statement that the unearned part has been refunded; and (5) **proof of service of the request upon the client and upon every other party to the proceeding.** See Trademark Rule 2.19(b). Cf. *In re Legendary Inc.*, 26 USPQ2d 1478 (Comm'r 1992).

In view thereof, counsel is allowed until thirty days from the mailing date of this order to submit a motion which complies with Trademark Rules 2.19(b) and Patent and Trademark Rule 11.116, as indicated above.¹

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 has been sent to all persons listed below.

cc:

Bobby Ghajar
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
725 S. Figueroa St., Suite 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Ana Lily
Anastasia Lilly, LLC
P.O. Box 52157
Mesa, AZ 85206

Marvin A. Glazer
Cahill Glazer PLC
1241 E. Highland Ave., Ste. 155
Phoenix, AZ 85106

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

¹ A review of the file indicates that the Board's July 26, 2016 order denying the parties' July 20, 2016 stipulation mischaracterized the nature of the parties' stipulation. However, in light of the fact that proceedings are now suspended, the parties' July 26, 2016 stipulation is now moot. The Board will reset trial deadlines upon resumption of the proceedings.

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

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.

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, 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.