

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

Mailed: January 3, 2006

Opposition No 91168356
Serial No. 78456640

Peter N. Lobasso
Johanson Berenson LLP
1146 Walker Road, Suite C
GREAT FALLS, VA 22066

Empire Iron Works, Inc.

v.

Empire Home Services, LLC

Jeffrey P. Thennisch
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29 W. Lawrence Street Suite 210
Pontiac, MI 48342

ESTTA60116

A notice of opposition to the registration sought in the above-identified application has been filed. The notice of opposition can be viewed and printed at <http://ttabvue.uspto.gov/>

ANSWER IS DUE FORTY DAYS after the transmission date hereof. (See Trademark Rule 2.196 for expiration date falling on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday).

Proceedings will be conducted in accordance with the Trademark Rules of Practice, set forth in Title 37, part 2, of the Code of Federal Regulations. The parties are reminded of the recent amendments to the Trademark Rules that affect the rules of practice before the TTAB. See Rules of Practice for Trademark-Related Filings Under the Madrid Protocol Implementation Act, 68 Fed. R. 55,748 (September 26, 2003) (effective November 2, 2003); Reorganization of Correspondence and Other Provisions, 68 Fed. Reg. 48,286 (August 13, 2003) (effective September 12, 2003). Notices concerning the rules changes, as well as the *Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure* (TBMP), are available at www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/ttab/.

The parties are particularly referred to Trademark Rule 2.126 pertaining to the form of submissions. Paper submissions, including but not limited to exhibits and depositions, not filed in accordance with Trademark Rule 2.126 may not be given consideration or entered into the case file.

Discovery and testimony periods are set as follows:

Discovery period to open: January 23, 2006

Discovery period to close: July 22, 2006

30-day testimony period for party
in position of plaintiff to close: October 20, 2006

30-day testimony period for party
in position of defendant to close: December 19, 2006

15-day rebuttal testimony period
for plaintiff to close: February 02, 2007

A party must serve on the adverse party a copy of the transcript of any testimony taken during the party's testimony period, together with copies of documentary exhibits, within 30 days after completion of the taking of such testimony. See Trademark Rule 2.125.

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

NOTE: The Board allows parties to utilize telephone conferences to discuss or resolve many interlocutory matters that arise in inter partes cases. See the *Official Gazette* notice titled "Permanent Expansion of Telephone Conferencing on Interlocutory Matters in Inter Partes Cases Before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board," 1235 TMOG 68 (June 20, 2000). The notice is available at <http://www.uspto.gov>. Interlocutory matters which the Board agrees to discuss or decide by phone conference may be decided adversely to any party which fails to participate.

If the parties to this proceeding are also parties to other Board proceedings involving related marks or, during the pendency of this proceeding, they become parties to such proceedings, they should notify the Board immediately, so that the Board can consider consolidation of proceedings.

New Developments at the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board

TTAB forms for electronic filing of extensions of time to oppose, notices of opposition, and inter partes filings are now available at <http://estta.uspto.gov>. Images of TTAB proceeding files can be viewed using TTABVue at <http://ttabvue.uspto.gov>.