

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

Mailed: June 23, 2009

Opposition No. 91189782

Carefirst of Maryland, Inc.,
d/b/a CareFirst BlueCross
BlueShield

v.

Physician's Healthcare
Solutions

**Robert H. Coggins,
Interlocutory Attorney:**

On May 12, 2009, proceedings were suspended pending service by publication on applicant; however, on May 22, 2009, before the Office could serve applicant by publication, applicant filed its answer to the notice of opposition.¹ In view thereof, proceedings are resumed and the answer is noted.

The schedule is reset as follows:

Deadline for Discovery Conference	7/20/2009
Discovery Opens	7/20/2009
Initial Disclosures Due	8/19/2009
Expert Disclosures Due	12/17/2009
Discovery Closes	1/16/2010
Plaintiff's Pretrial Disclosures	3/2/2010
Plaintiff's 30-day Trial Period Ends	4/16/2010

¹ The appearance (embedded in the answer) of counsel for applicant is noted and entered.

Defendant's Pretrial Disclosures	5/1/2010
Defendant's 30-day Trial Period Ends	6/15/2010
Plaintiff's Rebuttal Disclosures	6/30/2010
Plaintiff's 15-day Rebuttal Period Ends	7/30/2010

NEWS FROM THE TTAB:

The USPTO published a notice of final rulemaking in the Federal Register on August 1, 2007, at 72 F.R. 42242. By this notice, various rules governing Trademark Trial and Appeal Board inter partes proceedings are amended. Certain amendments have an effective date of August 31, 2007, while most have an effective date of November 1, 2007. For further information, the parties are referred to a reprint of the final rule and a chart summarizing the affected rules, their changes, and effective dates, both viewable on the USPTO website via these web addresses:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242.pdf>
http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/72fr42242_FinalRuleChart.pdf

By one rule change effective August 31, 2007, the Board's standard protective order is made applicable to all TTAB inter partes cases, whether already pending or commenced on or after that date. However, as explained in the final rule and chart, this change will not affect any case in which any protective order has already been approved or imposed by the Board. Further, as explained in the final rule, parties are free to agree to a substitute protective order or to supplement or amend the standard order even after August 31, 2007, subject to Board approval. The standard protective order can be viewed using the following web address:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/ttab/tbmp/stndagmnt.htm>