

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: May 30, 2017

Opposition No. 91233591

*Bacardi & Company Limited and Bacardi
USA, Inc.*

v.

Havana Club Holding, S.A.

Millicent Canady, Paralegal Specialist:

On March 27, 2017, the Board forwarded a notice of institution of this proceeding to Opposer. On May 6, 2017, Applicant filed a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). On May 25, 2017, Opposer filed an amended notice of opposition.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(1), made applicable to Board proceedings by Trademark Rule 2.116(a), a party may amend its pleading once as a matter of course within 21 days after serving it, or if the pleading is one to which a responsive pleading is required, 21 days after service of a responsive pleading or 21 days after service of a motion under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b), (e) or (f), whichever is earlier. *See* Trademark Rule 2.107/2.115; TBMP § 507.01. However, as a practical matter, because the time to answer set by the Board's institution order is 40 days, a plaintiff may amend its complaint once as a matter of course beyond the initial 21 days from serving it until

the defendant files either an answer or a motion under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b), (e) or (f).
See TBMP § 507.02.

Opposer's amended notice of opposition was filed as a matter of course, and is accepted as Opposer's operative pleading in this proceeding. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(1)(A) and (B).

Accordingly, Applicant's motion to dismiss for failing to state a more definite statement is moot, and will be given no consideration.

Applicant is allowed until thirty days from the mailing date of this order to file an answer to the amended notice of opposition.

Conferencing, discovery and trial dates are reset as follows:

Time to Answer	6/29/2017
Deadline for Discovery Conference	7/29/2017
Discovery Opens	7/29/2017
Initial Disclosures Due	8/28/2017
Expert Disclosures Due	12/26/2017
Discovery Closes	1/25/2018
Plaintiff's Pretrial Disclosures Due	3/11/2018
Plaintiff's 30-day Trial Period Ends	4/25/2018
Defendant's Pretrial Disclosures Due	5/10/2018
Defendant's 30-day Trial Period Ends	6/24/2018
Plaintiff's Rebuttal Disclosures Due	7/9/2018
Plaintiff's 15-day Rebuttal Period Ends	8/8/2018
Plaintiff's Opening Brief Due	10/7/2018
Defendant's Brief Due	11/6/2018
Plaintiff's Reply Brief Due	11/21/2018

Generally, the Federal Rules of Evidence apply to Board trials. Trial testimony is taken and introduced out of the presence of the Board during the assigned testimony periods. The parties may stipulate to a wide variety of matters, and many

requirements relevant to the trial phase of Board proceedings are set forth in Trademark Rules 2.121 through 2.125. These include pretrial disclosures, the manner and timing of taking testimony, matters in evidence, and the procedures for submitting and serving testimony and other evidence, including affidavits, declarations, deposition transcripts and stipulated evidence. Trial briefs shall be submitted in accordance with Trademark Rules 2.128(a) and (b). Oral argument at final hearing will be scheduled only upon the timely submission of a separate notice as allowed by Trademark Rule 2.129(a).