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 23, 2018

Opposition No. 91238575

Patron Spirits International AG

v.

Pirate Strong Rum Company LLC

Tyrone Craven, Lead Paralegal Specialist:

On January 12, 2018, Applicant's attorneys filed a request to withdraw as Applicant's counsel of record in this proceeding.[1] The request to withdraw as counsel is in compliance with the requirements of Trademark Rules 2.19(b) and Patent and Trademark Rule 11.116, and is accordingly granted. The law firm of LegalForce RAPC Worldwide PC no longer represents Applicant in this proceeding.

In view of the withdrawal of Applicant's counsel, and in accordance with standard Board practice, proceedings are suspended, and Applicant is allowed until thirty days from the mailing date of this order to appoint new counsel, or to file a paper stating that Applicant chooses to represent itself. If Applicant files no response, the Board may issue an order to show cause why default judgment should not be entered against Applicant based on Applicant's apparent loss of interest in the proceeding.

Proceedings are otherwise suspended pending response to this order.

[1] A copy of the request to withdraw is placed in the application involved in this proceeding.

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:
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Information regarding legal representation

While Patent and Trademark Rule 11.14 permits any person to represent itself, it is strongly advisable for a person who is not acquainted with the technicalities of the procedural and substantive law involved in *inter partes* proceedings before the Board to secure the services of an attorney who is familiar with such matters. The Patent and Trademark Office cannot aid in the selection of an attorney. *See* TBMP § 114.02.

Trademark Rules 2.119(a) and (b) require that every submission filed in a proceeding before the Board must be served upon the other party or parties, and proper proof of such service must be made before the submission will be considered by the Board. Accordingly, all submissions filed in this proceeding must be

accompanied by a statement, signed by the attorney or other authorized representative, attached to or appearing on the original submission when filed, clearly stating the date and manner in which service was made, the name of each party or person upon whom service was made, and the email address or address. *See* TBMP § 113.03. Service must be made by email unless otherwise stipulated, or unless the filing party has satisfied the requirements for another method of service as set forth in Trademark Rule 2.119(b). The statement will be accepted as prima facie proof 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 forwarding said copy on (insert date of mailing), via email (or insert other appropriate method of delivery) to: (set out name, address, and email address of opposing counsel or party).
>
> Signature_____
> Date_____

Submissions in Board proceedings must be made via ESTTA, the Electronic System for Trademark Trials and Appeals, and must be in compliance with Trademark Rules 2.126(a) and (b). *See* TBMP § 110.01. The ESTTA user manual, ESTTA forms, and instructions for their use are at http://estta.uspto.gov/.

It is recommended that any pro se party be familiar with the latest edition of Chapter 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which includes the Trademark Rules of Practice. Parties should also be familiar with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure (TBMP), available at http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks-application-process/trademark-trial-and-appeal-board-ttab, the TTABVUE system

for viewing the record for all Board proceedings, available at http://ttabvue.uspto.gov/ttabvue/, and the Standard Protective Order, available at https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks-application-process/appealing-trademark-decisions/standard-documents-and-guidelines-0.

Strict compliance with the Trademark Rules of Practice, and where applicable the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, is required of all parties, whether or not they are represented by counsel. *McDermott v. San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent,* 81 USPQ2d 1212, n.2 (TTAB 2006), *aff'd unpub'd*, 240 Fed. Appx.865 (Fed. Cir. 2007), *cert. denied*, 552 U.S. 1109 (2008).