

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board
P.O. Box 1451
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451
TTAB Assistance Center: 571-272-8500
General Email: TTABInfo@uspto.gov

December 6, 2018

Opposition No. 91244819

The Vineyard House LLC

v.

Constellation Brands U.S. Operations Inc.

Karl Kochersperger, Paralegal Specialist:

On November 19, 2018, the Board forwarded a notice of institution of this proceeding to Opposer. On November 28, 2018, 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).

Applicant is allowed until forty days from the 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	1/15/2019
Deadline for Discovery Conference	2/14/2019
Discovery Opens	2/14/2019
Initial Disclosures Due	3/16/2019
Expert Disclosures Due	7/14/2019
Discovery Closes	8/13/2019
Plaintiff's Pretrial Disclosures Due	9/27/2019
Plaintiff's 30-day Trial Period Ends	11/11/2019
Defendant's Pretrial Disclosures Due	11/26/2019
Defendant's 30-day Trial Period Ends	1/10/2020
Plaintiff's Rebuttal Disclosures Due	1/25/2020
Plaintiff's 15-day Rebuttal Period Ends	2/24/2020
Plaintiff's Opening Brief Due	4/24/2020
Defendant's Brief Due	5/24/2020
Plaintiff's Reply Brief Due	6/8/2020
Request for Oral Hearing (optional) Due	6/18/2020

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).