

Watch Out for Trademarks and Patent Scams!

Introduction

In today's highly competitive business landscape, protecting intellectual property is of paramount importance. However, it's crucial to be aware of the existence of trademark and patent scams that can jeopardize your intellectual property rights and financial well-being, and to contact counsel at Wood Phillips if you suspect a deceptive practice.

False Invoices and Deceptive Notices

- Watch out for fake invoices and deceptive trademark/patent notices; scammers may use official-looking documents to request payments.

Unscrupulous Service Providers

- Watch out for service providers offering guaranteed approvals and huge cost savings for intellectual property filings.

Domain Name Scams

- Scammers register domain names similar to trademarks and demand inflated prices from legitimate owners.






False Invoices and Deceptive Notices

One of the most prevalent trademark and patent scams involves receiving false invoices or deceptive notices in the mail or via email. Scammers often target trademark and patent owners by sending official-looking documents that request payment for services related to trademark or patent registration. Commonly, there is a warning of a fake deadline that must be met to avoid loss of patent or trademark rights. These invoices or notices may appear legitimate but are often misleading and not associated with any authorized government agency or reputable service provider.

Here is an example of a fake renewal fee solicitation:

Patent and Trademark Office
2200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
4th Floor East
Washington, DC 20037
United States of America



Correspondence address:	
 1035 	
Pending Trademark Cancellation by USPTO	
Trademark name:	
Registration Number: 	Number of classes: 1
Your trademark is about to expire. Renewal date:  2019 Your trademark registration requires a filing between the 9 th and 10 th years after registration to remain valid.	

Before making any payments or providing personal information, you can consult with an experienced attorney at Wood Phillips who will review the documents in question and advise you on their authenticity.

Unscrupulous Service Providers:

Another common scam involves unscrupulous service providers who prey on trademark and patent owners seeking assistance with their intellectual property filings. These fraudulent operators may claim to offer expedited services, guaranteed approvals, or substantial cost savings. They often charge exorbitant fees upfront but fail to deliver on their promises, leaving the victims with wasted time and financial losses. The USPTO website provides information on signs to watch out for and what questions to ask [[PDF](#)]. The FTC's website also provides information on how to spot legitimate invention promotion firms (www.ftc.gov).

At Wood Phillips, our team of experienced attorneys can ensure that your applications for IP protection are properly prepared and submitted to the appropriate authorities and that you are given adequate advanced notice to take all steps necessary to renew or maintain your rights, protecting you from falling prey to unscrupulous service providers.

Domain Name Scams:

Trademark owners are also vulnerable to domain name scams, where scammers register domain names identical or similar to established trademarks and then try to sell them back to the legitimate trademark owners at inflated prices. This practice, known as cybersquatting, can cause brand reputation damage and financial harm.

Consult with Wood Phillips to develop a comprehensive strategy for protecting your trademarks and addressing cybersquatting issues. Our intellectual property attorneys will assist you in enforcing your trademark rights and taking appropriate legal action against cybersquatters.

Protecting your trademarks and patents is vital for the success and longevity of your business or innovative endeavors. By staying informed about the various trademark and patent scams that exist, you can be proactive in safeguarding your intellectual property rights. For more information, you can visit the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) website (<https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/protect/caution-misleading-notices>, <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/basics/using-legal-services/scam-prevention>).

At Wood Phillips, our experienced attorneys can guide you through the trademark and patent registration processes securely and effectively, ensuring that your valuable assets are protected from scams and unauthorized use. When it comes to trademarks and patents, vigilance, research, and seeking professional advice are the key ingredients to safeguarding your intellectual property and avoiding falling victim to scams.