Course Description
Trademark Practice is a three-credit course that provides students with the fundamental skills necessary to represent clients in transactional trademark matters. Emphasis is placed on the practice of trademark law within the framework of specific business and strategic objectives. Students will be exposed to a variety of practical trademark topics, including the process of developing a trademark strategy, developing and protecting marks, the federal trademark registration process, trademark enforcement, and registration maintenance. Throughout the semester, students will prepare a variety of documents and filings in the course of representing a hypothetical client on various trademark matters. Student performance will be evaluated based upon the written work product as well as participation in class discussions.

Prerequisites
The course is open to all second and third year students who have completed a basic doctrinal course in trademark law and a course in legal writing.

Objectives
After completing the course, students will:

1. Understand the interplay between clients’ business and strategic objectives and the practice of transactional trademark practice.

2. Understand the process of trademark identification, selection, protection, and registration, including federal trademark registration prosecution.

3. Recognize the importance of enforcing trademark rights and understand the remedies available to prevent or stop infringement or improper use of a trademark.

Grading
The final grade will be comprised of the following components:

- Trademark Audit Memo 15%
- Search Strategy & Applications for Federal Registration 25%
- Response to an Office Action 25%
- Cease & Desist Letter & Opposition Filing 20%
- Trademark Usage Guidelines & License Agreement 15%

Case File
Throughout the semester, students will represent a hypothetical company in a variety of trademark matters. Such representation will require that students draft various documents, including materials for the client (e.g., letters, memoranda), legal filings (e.g., application for federal registration, infringement pleadings), and materials directed
towards third parties (e.g., cease and desist letters). The specific issues will be raised in a series of scenarios and supporting documents that will be distributed periodically throughout the semester; these materials are analogous to what a practicing trademark attorney might receive from a client. Although each student will be working from the same set of facts and materials, the range of legitimate responses is diverse and varied. While the case files will be the subject of some class discussion, each student is expected to work independently on the case file project. Students are permitted to discuss the issues and the project with classmates, but each student must submit work that is entirely original.

**Attendance and Deadline Policy**
Absent prior arrangements, students are expected to attend every class and participate fully. Deadlines for written work submission are firm and extensions are only available under extraordinary circumstances. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to, serious illness (subject to verification), or extraordinary personal issues, such as a death in the family. Late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor, but subject to a reduction in the grade.

**Resources**
A set of required reading materials is available from the bookstore. In addition, students should have in-class access to a current version of the Lanham Act either in print or online. One particularly useful and comprehensive print resource is the current edition of *SELECTED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND UNFAIR COMPETITION STATUTES, REGULATIONS & TREATIES* published by Thomson/West. Additional materials will be distributed from time to time either in class or via the course web site.

In addition to the assigned materials, students may find the following resources helpful:

**Branding & The Role of Trademarks in a Business Context**


**Trademark Practice**


United States Patent and Trademark Office, *Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure*, available online at http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/tac/tmep/. The book is also available from a variety of commercial publishers, but because it is updated so frequently, the online version is recommended.

**Blogs:**

Bridging the Gap, http://trademark-blawg.com/

The Trademark Blog, http://trademark.blog.us/blog/

The TTABlog, http://thettablog.blogspot.com/
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<th>WEEK</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>• Subject matter of trademark law</td>
<td><strong>Quality Inns Int’l v. McDonald’s Corp.</strong>, 695 F.Supp 198 (D. Md. 1988).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Role of trademarks in a competitive marketplace</td>
<td><strong>Abercrombie &amp; Fitch Co. v. Hunting World, Inc.</strong>, 537 F.2d 4 (2d Cir. 1976).</td>
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<td>• Federal vs. state protections</td>
<td><strong>Blue Bell, Inc. v. Farah Mfg. Co.</strong>, 508 F.2d 1260 (5th Cir. 1975).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Prerequisites for protection (distinctiveness and use)</td>
<td><strong>Thrifty Rent-A-Car System v. Thrift Cars, Inc.</strong>, 831 F.2d 1177 (1st Cir. 1987).</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Losing protection (abandonment and genericism)</td>
<td><strong>California Cedar Products Co. v. Pine Mountain Corp.</strong>, 724 F.2d 827 (9th Cir. 1984).</td>
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<td><strong>Bayer Co. v. United Drug Co.</strong>, 272 F. 505 (S.D.N.Y 1921).</td>
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<td><strong>King-Seeley Thermos Co. v. Aladdin Industries, Inc.</strong>, 321 F.2d 577 (2d Cir. 1963).</td>
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### UNDERSTANDING THE BUSINESS CONTEXT & MARK SELECTION

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<td>Hayes, Roth, <em>Wielding a Brand Name</em>, LATINCEO, Aug. 2001, at 64.</td>
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| 3    | • Nontraditional branding  
|      | • Brands as trademarks  
|      | • Leveraging and exploiting trademarks  
| 4    | • Developing a trademark strategy through client objectives. | Martin Jelsema, *Performing the Brand Audit*.  
|      |                  | Design Management Institute, Case Study, *Caterpillar: Working to Establish “One Voice.”* |
| 5    | • Mark search strategies  
|      | • Search planning and execution  
|      | • Searching drawings and nontraditional marks | Glenn A. Gundersen, *Trademark Searching*, Chapter 3.  
|      |                  | *Money Store v. Harriscorp Finance, Inc.*, 689 F.2d 666 (7th Cir. 1982).  
|      |                  | *International Star Class Yacht Racing v. Tommy Hilfiger, Inc.*, 146 F.3d 66 (2d Cir. 1998).  

**MARK SEARCHING**
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>• Principal vs. supplemental register</td>
<td><strong>Alan C. Atchison, WHAT TO FILE: A PRACTITIONER’S GUIDE FOR CHOOSING THE PROPER TRADEMARK FOR FEDERAL REGISTRATION</strong>, 88 TMR 289 (1998).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Filing basis</td>
<td>Lanham Act §§ 1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<td>• Basic filing requirements</td>
<td>TMEP Chapters 100, 200, 300, 400 (skim for general familiarity)</td>
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<td>• Navigating the PTO’s online services</td>
<td><strong>ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES MANUAL</strong>, available online at <a href="http://tess2.uspto.gov/netahtml/tidm.html">http://tess2.uspto.gov/netahtml/tidm.html</a> (skim for general familiarity).</td>
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<td>• Drafting goods and services descriptions</td>
<td>Peruse PTO online filing mechanisms and associated instructions.</td>
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<td>• Disclaimer language</td>
<td>Lanham Act §§ 5, 6, 30</td>
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<td>TMEP Chapter 800, 900 (skim for general familiarity)</td>
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<td>• Range of responses from the PTO.</td>
<td>Sample materials.</td>
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<td>Lanham Act §§ 7, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21</td>
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<td>TMEP Chapter 700, 1200, 1300 (skim for general familiarity)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>• Substantive rejections: immoral, scandalous, deceptive, disparaging; flags, symbols, or other insignia, names; portraits, or signatures that identify a living individual.</td>
<td><strong>In re Budge</strong>, 857 F.2d 773 (Fed. Cir. 1988)</td>
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<td><strong>In re Love Bottling Co.</strong>, Serial 78/171,270 (TTAB 2005).</td>
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<td>File Wrapper &amp; TTAB Briefs for Application Serial Number 78/281,746 (DIKES ON BIKES)</td>
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<td><strong>University of Southern California v. University of South Carolina</strong>, 2003 TTAB LEXIS 367 (TTAB 2003).</td>
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<td><strong>In re VITAFLEX Dr. Walter Mauch GmbH</strong>, 2002 TTAB LEXIS 443 (TTAB 2002).</td>
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<td><em>Fanta v. Coca-Cola</em>, 140 USPQ 674 (TTAB 1964).</td>
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<td><em>Brand v. Fairchester Packing Co.</em>, 84 USPQ 97 (TTAB 1950).</td>
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<td><em>In re McKee Baking</em>, 218 USPQ 287 (TTAB 1983).</td>
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<td>Lanham Act §§ 2(a), (b), (c)</td>
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| 10   | • Substantive rejections:  
      |        | likelihood of confusion  
|      |        | *Zanella Ltd. V. Saroyan Lumber Co.*, Opposition No. 91153249. |
|      |        | Lanham Act § 2(d) |
| 11   | • Substantive rejections:  
      |        | merely descriptive,  
      |        | deceptively misdescriptive,  
      |        | geographic indicators,  
      |        | surnames, functionality;  
      |        | acquired distinctiveness.  
<pre><code>  |        | *In re Pet Food Centers, LLC*, Serial No. 78/975330 (TTAB Sept. 9, 2005). |
</code></pre>
<p>|      |        | <em>In re JPI Colorworkshop, Inc.</em>, Serial No. 78/107577 (TTAB July 26, 2005). |
|      |        | <em>In re Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.</em>, Serial No. 78/222,332 (TTAB July 15, 2005). |
|      |        | <em>Donya, Ltd. v. Donya Michigan Co.</em>, Cancellation No. 92033012 (Sept. 6, 2005). |</p>
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<td><em>In re Messrs. Picchiotti S.r.l.</em>, Serial No. 76/476489 (TTAB June 24, 2005).</td>
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<td><em>In re Sullivan</em>, Serial No. 76/202254 (TTAB Aug. 18, 2005).</td>
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<td>Lanham Act §§ 2(e), (f)</td>
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**POST-REGISTRATION: MAINTAINING & ENFORCING THE MARK**

| 12   | • Post-registration maintenance  |
|      | • Avoiding genericism; developing trademark usage guidelines  |
|      | • Types of trademark infringement  |
|      | • Monitoring and policing the mark. |
|      | Sample trademark usage guidelines: Rollerblade, ABC Television, Turner Networks, Microsoft, Adobe. |
|      | Sample cease & desist letters and responses: Attrezzi and Maytag. |
|      | Coexistence agreement between EMI Christian Music Group, Inc. and CSR Media, LLC. |
|      | Sample Complaint: *Bohn & Associates Media, Inc. v. Bonneville International Corp.*, Case No. 05C-2677 (N.D. Ill. June 8, 2005). |
|      | Lanham Act §§ 8, 9, 14, 15 |
|      | TMEP Chapter 1600 (skim for general familiarity) |

| 13   | • Trademark licensing |
|      | Sample license agreements |
|      | Lanham Act § 10 |

| 14   | • Future of trademark law and the registration process. |
I. Trademark Basics Review
   A. Basic Concepts
      2. Primary purpose of trademark protection
         i. To protect names, titles, and slogans that serve as source identifiers for goods and services.
         ii. To protect the goodwill and reputation attributed to a particular company (source) with respect to their goods or services.
         iii. Reduce consumer confusion by providing a system by which one and only one user is permitted to use a mark on a particular class of goods or services.
      3. The fundamental right of a trademark is to prevent others from using the same or a similar mark on identical or related goods.
      4. Source of Protection
         i. The goals of trademark do not fit well with the goals and objectives of the “intellectual property clause” of the Constitution.
            a. No authors or inventors; no discoveries or writings!
         ii. Congress found authority under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution which allows them to regulate “Commerce…among the several States”
            a. Thus, for federal trademark law to apply, the trademark must be used in interstate commerce or such that it affects interstate commerce.
         iii. Federal trademark law codified in Title 15 of the United States Code, § 1051 et. seq. (all references herein refer to original Lanham Act sections rather than codified section numbers).
   B. Distinctiveness
      1. A word, name, or symbol must be distinctive in order to function as a trademark; it must create a distinct commercial impression
         i. Generic
            a. Not capable of functioning as a trademark; not registerable
            b. Example: using the word “car” to sell automobiles
         ii. Descriptive
            a. Describes, in a direct manner, the nature, character, quality, or uses of a particular good or service.
b. Capable of functioning as a trademark if it acquires secondary meaning
c. Example: “Honey Baked Ham” for baked ham, glazed with honey

iii. Suggestive
   a. Vague description of the goods or services but requires some thought on behalf of the consumer to make the association
   b. Example: “Rollerblade” for roller-skates that have the wheels in a straight line, like a blade

iv. Arbitrary
   a. Words in common usage but applied to goods or services arbitrarily
   b. Example: “Apple” for computers

v. Fanciful (“coined words”)
   a. Words that are made-up
   b. May also be words that are part of the language but are not commonly used
   c. Example: “Kodak”
   d. Example: “Flivver” (real word that refers to an inexpensive, cheap car, but not widely known or used)

C. Acquiring Trademark Rights
   1. Trademark rights arise from use – first in time, first in right
   2. Registration not required, but confers additional rights
      i. Nationwide rights; ability to secure a nationwide injunction
      ii. Enhanced damages
      iii. Prevent importation of infringing goods
   3. Priority Use – Blue Bell, Inc. v. Farah Mfg. Co., 508 F.2d 1260 (5th Cir. 1975) (dispute between two users of the identical mark on identical goods resolved in favor of the first party to use the mark legitimately in commerce).

D. Losing Trademark Rights
   1. Abandonment – 15 U.SC. §§ 1127, 1227 (abandonment generally); California Cedar Products Co. v. Pine Mountain Corp., 724 F.2d 827 (9th Cir. 1984) (express abandonment).
      i. Must have intent not to resume use
      ii. Resumption of use must be imminent
   2. Genericism
i. The term used as a trademark is no longer distinctive as applied to the relevant goods and services.

ii. Genericized trademark examples:
   c. ESCALATOR
   d. NYLON
   e. KEROSENE

iii. Examples of current trademarks that are frequently used generically:
   a. XEROX (photocopiers)
   b. KLEENEX (facial tissues)
   c. ROLLERBLADE (inline skates)
   d. BAND-AID (plastic adhesive bandages)

iv. Trademark owner can “reclaim” a mark, but the expense of re-educating the public can be enormous.

3. Acts of Omission and Commission
   ii. Assignment in gross
   iii. Naked licensing
   iv. Failure to police the mark
      a. No trademark symbol requirement (TM, SM, ®)
      b. Allowing use as a verb (e.g. “let’s go Rollerblade”)
      c. Allowing use as a possessive
   v. Express abandonment
      a. Sometimes done for various business or tax reasons

II. Business Considerations & Mark Selection

A. Role of Branding in the Enterprise
   1. History & Purpose of Branding
2. Brands Inside the Enterprise

3. Nontraditional branding techniques

4. Brands as Assets and Exploitation of Trademark Rights

5. Brand Valuation

B. Developing a Trademark Strategy through Client Objectives
   1. Martin Jelsema, *Performing the Brand Audit*
   2. Design Management Institute, Case Study, *Caterpillar: Working to Establish “One Voice”*

III. **Mark Searching** (this portion of the course based largely upon the structure, information, and advice set forth in Glenn A. Gunderson, TRADEMARK SEARCHING (INTA 2002)).

A. Why search?
   1. No “duty to search” – *Money Store v. Harriscorp Finance, Inc.*, 689 F.2d 666 (7th Cir. 1982)

B. Search Planning (Gunderson, chapter 3)
   1. Strategy: file then search; search then file
   2. Basic information needed to search (marks, goods/services classes, geographic information, channels of trade, etc)
   3. Preliminary searches vs. full searches
C. Preliminary Search Resources
   1. PTO web site (federal registrations)
   2. State web sites (state registrations)
   3. Dictionaries
   4. Atlases and geographic dictionaries
   5. Telephone directories
   6. Industry trade publications
   7. General business directories
   8. Domain name registrations

D. Conducting the Search
   1. Database selection
   2. Prefix and suffix
   3. Irregular plural constructions
   4. Corrupted spellings
   5. Phonetic similarities
   6. Names
   7. Abbreviations
   8. Punctuation
   9. Synonyms
   10. Alternate spellings

E. Searching for Designs and Nontraditional Marks
   1. Designs
      i. Design phrases
      ii. Design codes
   2. Trade dress
   3. Colors
   4. Animations
   5. Sounds
   6. Scents

F. Full Searches
   1. Commercial search services and databases
   2. Reviewing search reports
      i. Identifying and evaluating conflicting marks
         a. In use vs. abandoned
         b. Geographic considerations
         c. Goods/services class considerations
         d. Ownership considerations
         e. Famous Mark factors

IV. Federal Registration Process and Registration Maintenance
A. Benefits of Federal Registration (from Jane C. Ginsburg, Jessica Litman, & Mary L. Kelvin, TRADEMARK AND UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS 221-22 (Foundation Press 2001).

1. Nationwide protection
2. Incontestability
3. Notice system
4. Importation protection
5. Counterfeit protection
6. Evidentiary advantages
7. Trademark notice (circle-R symbol)
8. Confirmation of ownership and validity

B. Principal vs. Supplemental Register

1. Principal
   i. Offers the most benefit
      a. Ability to secure a nationwide injunction
      b. Access to federal court without a minimum amount in controversy
      c. Enhanced damages (attorney’s fees, treble damages)
      d. Prevent importation of infringing goods

2. Supplemental
   i. Created in response to international law and to comply with various treaties
   ii. Typically filled with marks that fail to meet requirements for the principal register.
   iii. Typically descriptive marks
   iv. Wait here to “grow up” – within 5 years (usually) the mark may acquire secondary meaning and qualify for the principal register.
   v. Cannot file intent to use applications on the supplemental register
   vi. “Capable of functioning as a trademark” – typical language used to describe something on the supplemental register.

C. Filing Basis

1. Use in Commerce – § 1(a)
2. Intent to Use – § 1(b)
   i. Registration relates back to date of filing; constructive use date.

D. Requirements for a Filing Date (“Magic 5”)

1. Name of the applicant
2. Name and address for correspondence
3. Clear drawing of the mark
4. Listing or description of the goods and services
5. Filing fee for at least one class ($335 per class, currently)

E. Alan C. Atchison, WHAT TO FILE: A PRACTITIONER’S GUIDE FOR
CHOOSING THE PROPER TRADEMARK FOR FEDERAL REGISTRATION, 88

F. Using the ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS AND SERVICES
MANUAL.
   1. How not to use the Manual: TARR record for Serial Number
      78/652,545.

G. Online Filing Mechanisms
   1. Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS)
      i. Launches form wizard to create form for you
      a. Can bypass the wizard and use the Standard Form,
         but it’s not recommended.
      ii. 60 minute timeout
      iii. Hyperlinks launch help pages and necessary definitions and
           explanations for virtually every question on the application.
      iv. Can submit an unsigned application (signature is not one of
           the magic 5) but must provide a signature later.
      v. Do not authorize e-mail communication with both the mark
         owner and the attorney – designate one to receive the
         communication.
   2. TEAS Plus
      i. Same requirements as TEAS, plus:
         a. Goods/service description must come directly from
            the ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS AND
            SERVICES MANUAL; and
         b. All required images, sound files, etc., must be
            included with the initial application; and
         c. Must pay the fees for all classes at the time of the
            filing; and
         d. Agree to file certain later communication (e.g.,
            responses to office actions) electronically; and
         e. Agree to receive correspondence via e-mail.

H. Trademark Specimens

I. Responses from the PTO
   1. Examiner’s Amendment – confirmation of changes made by the
      examiner, usually after a phone discussion with the applicant.
   2. Priority Actions – similar to office actions; 6 month response
      window, but if applicant replies within 2 months, the response
      receives priority attention.
3. Office actions – serve as an update on the legal status of the application. 6 month response time required to avoid abandonment.
   i. Formal – technical issues with the registration application; usually fixed easily.
   ii. Substantive – more difficult to overcome; require legal arguments, briefs, etc. See infra.
4. Suspension Letters – issued when the applicant’s mark is confusingly similar to a prior applicant’s mark. Junior applicant’s application is suspended until status of senior applicant’s mark is known.
5. Notice of Publication – issued after the examiner approves of the application; provides the date on which the mark will appear in the Official Gazette. Opposition period lasts 30 days.
   i. If no opposition is filed, or if no request for an extension is filed within the 30 day window, the registration process proceeds.
6. Notice of Allowance – issued in the case of an intent-to-use application after a mark’s opposition period closes but before applicant files an Allegation of Use. Must file within 6 months or application will be declared abandoned.
   i. Can get extensions of the 6 month period; first is as of right, subsequent extensions require a legitimate business reason.
7. Certificate of Registration – issued upon conclusion of the opposition period, provided specimens of use are filed with the application. In the case of an intent-to-use application for which a notice of allowance has been filed
8. Notice of Abandonment – issued when applicant fails to respond to communication from the PTO within the prescribed time frame.
   i. Can “revive” an abandoned application upon payment of the appropriate fee and a declaration that the abandonment was unintentional.

J. Substantive Rejections
   1. Sec 2(a) -- immoral/scandalous, deceptive, disparaging
      i. Immoral or scandalous
         a. Virtually no legislative history
         b. Courts/TTAB tends to avoid the “immoral” language and focus instead on whether the mark is “scandalous”
            1. Considers the population as a whole and not just the market in which the mark is used.
            2. Applies contemporary values/opinion on what is scandalous (similar to the Miller standard for obscenity).
c. If there are two possible meanings (one scandalous; one not), the mark will typically be registerable.
d. Nudity and drug references are never registerable.
e. The burden is on the examiner to “prove” that the mark is scandalous to a substantial portion of the population.

ii. Deceptive
   a. Deceptive marks are never registerable
   b. Note difference between “deceptive” and “deceptively misdescriptive”
   c. *In re Budge*, 857 F.2d 773 (Fed. Cir. 1988) – three part test:
      1. Is the term misdescriptive of the character, quality, function, composition, or use of the goods?
      2. If so, are prospective buyers likely to believe the misdescription actually describes the goods?
      3. If so, is the misdescription likely to affect the decision to purchase?
   d. Burden is on the examiner to show misdescription causes the product to be more appealing or desirable to prospective purchasers.

iii. Disparaging/false implication of connection
   c. File Wrapper & TTAB Briefs for Application Serial Number 78/281,746 (DIKES ON BIKES)
   d. Cannot register a mark that disparages, falsely suggests a connection, brings someone into contempt or disrepute.
      1. People
         • Natural people (living or dead); someone must be alive to assert proprietary rights and bring an action.
         • Juristic people (entity capable of suing and being sued)
         • Different than registration bar under § 2(c) which only covers living beings.
      2. Institutions – governments; similar to juristic persons
3. Beliefs

4. National Symbols
   - Subject matter that is of unique and special significance that, because of it meaning, appearance, or sound immediately suggests or refers to the country for which it stands.
     ◊ Yes: Bald eagle, Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam
     ◊ No: Space Shuttle, Boston Tea Party
   - Not like § 2(b) which is a pure ban on coats of arms, flags, or other insignia. Here, can use national symbols, but cannot disparage them.

e. Four-part test for false connection
   1. Proposed mark is the same as or a close approximation of the name or identity of the person or institution; and
   2. The mark would be recognized as such in that it points uniquely and unmistakably to that person or institution; and
   3. The person or institution named by the mark is not connected with the activities performed by the applicant under the mark; and
   4. The fame or reputation of the person or institution is such that when the mark is used with the applicant’s goods or services, a connection with the person or institution would be presumed.

f. Two-part test for disparagement
   1. The mark must reasonably be understood as referring to the plaintiff; and
   2. The mark is disparaging – that is, it would be considered offensive or objectionable by a reasonable person of ordinary sensibility.

2. Sec 2(b) – flags, symbols, or other insignia (or simulations thereof)
   ii. Includes marks where flags, symbols or insignia form the entire mark or a partial mark. Does not require contempt or disrepute; 2(b) serves as an absolute ban.
   iii. “Other insignia” has been narrowly interpreted as being various U.S. government seals (e.g., presidential, military),
or anything that represents the authority of the U.S.
government.
   a. Things like the Statue of Liberty or the National
Park Service logo have been held to not be insignia.
iv. What constitutes a “simulation”
   a. Must be an exact copy or nearly an exact copy
   (narrowly interpreted) – something that gives the
appearance or effect, or demonstrates the
characteristics of the original item.
   b. Mere inclusion of individual elements (e.g., stars
from the flag), distorted images, or merely
suggestive uses are not considered simulations.
3. Sec 2(c) – names, portraits, or signatures that identify a particular
living individual, or deceased presidents during lifetime of widow
without consent.
   i. “Name” interpreted very broad; can be any name or
combination thereof (first, first + last, first + middle, etc)
   ii. “Particular Living Individual”
      a. In re VITAFLEX Dr. Walter Mauch GmbH, 2002
      TTAB LEXIS 443 (TTAB 2002) – consent
      b. Fanta v. Coca-Cola, 140 USPQ 674 (TTAB 1964)
      – Robert Fanta claimed he worked at a soda
      fountain as a child and had developed the idea of
tobacco flavored soda. He believed this made him
so well-known in the industry that Coke’s use of
“Fanta” was unlawful; court disagreed.
      c. Brand v. Fairchester Packing Co., 84 USPQ 97
      (TTAB 1950) – Well-known lawyer named Arnold
Brand; same name being used on tomatoes. Court
found use lawful because industries were different.
   iii. Portraits follow same rules.
      a. In re McKee Baking, 218 USPQ 287 (TTAB 1983)
      b. In re Masucci, 179 USPQ 829 (TTAB 1973)
iv. Consent must be to register not merely to use the mark,
   must be in writing, and must be submitted with the
application. Consent is implied if the applicant seeks to use
his or her own name.
4. Sec 2(d) – confusingly similarity to a prior registration or
application
   i. Examiners usually willing to work with applicants to
approve the mark for registration; often requires crafting
the goods & services language to narrow the class to avoid
infringement.
   ii. PTO looks to the general commercial impression that is
made by particular marks. Accordingly, small differences
between marks are largely irrelevant.
   a. Similarity or dissimilarity of the marks, in their entireties, as to appearance, sound, connotation, and commercial impression (“SAM test”)
      1. Sound
         • Seyco/Seiko
         • Entelec/Intelec
         • Commcash/Communicash
         • Trucool/Turcool
      2. Appearance – minor additions or deletions will not overcome a 2(d) rejection.
      3. Meaning (in relation to goods/services)
         • City Woman vs. City Girl
         • AquaCare vs. WaterCare
         • Foreign words will be translated (doctrine of foreign equivalents)
         • Will look at marks in their entirety (anti-dissection rule)
         • Design marks can sometimes equal words (e.g. picture of a golden eagle and GOLD EAGLE mark)
   b. Similarity or dissimilarity and nature of the goods and services as described in the application or registration or in connection with which a prior mark is in use (“SUM test”)
      1. Similarity (purses and luggage)
      2. Used together (pancake syrup and pancake mix; beer and potato chips)
      3. Marketed together (wheelchairs and crutches)
      4. Evidence of relatedness:
         • Articles/press clippings demonstrating relationships between goods
         • Prior registrations in similar goods/services classes that
demonstrate connection between goods
5. Goods and services can be confused (Seiler for catering services and Seiler’s smoked meats)


c. The similarity or dissimilarity of established, likely to continue trade channels.

   d. The conditions under which, and buyers to whom, sales are made (“impulse” vs. “sophisticated” purchasing)

   e. The fame of the prior mark (sales, advertising, length of use)

   f. The number of nature of similar marks in use on similar goods (third party use).

   g. The nature and extent of any actual confusion.

   h. The length of time during and conditions under which there has been concurrent use without evidence of actual confusion

   i. The variety of goods on which the mark is or is not used (house mark, family mark, product mark)

   j. The market interface between applicant and owner of the prior mark (prior consent, agreements, etc)

   k. The extent of potential confusion (*de minimus* or substantial)

5. Sec 2(e) – merely descriptive, deceptively misdescriptive, geographic indicators, surnames, functionality
i. 2(e)(1) – merely descriptive – cannot be registered until it acquires secondary meaning under 2(f) which is accomplished by either 5 years of use or using sales figures, marketing, etc., to show secondary meaning.
   a. A mark is merely descriptive if it directly describes an ingredient, quality, characteristic, function, feature, purpose, use, or intended users. (BED AND BREAKFAST REGISTRY for providing bed & breakfast services)
   b. If a mark is generic, a 2(e) office action is issued, but along with an advisory statement noting that the mark is generic.
   c. Can sometimes amend to the supplemental register, but must be actually using in commerce; no intent-to-use filings on the supplemental register.
   d. Combined words – can sometimes combine 2 or more descriptive terms to create a protectible mark provided the combination creates a distinct commercial impression.
   e. Laudatory terms (best, biggest, fastest, first) are considered to be descriptive.
   f. Phone numbers are generic (888-PATENTS for an IP firm; 800-FLOWERS for flower delivery service)
   g. In re Pet Food Centers, LLC, Serial No. 78/975330 (TTAB Sept. 9, 2005) (PLAY THINGS merely descriptive of “pet treats”).

ii. Deceptively misdescriptive – a mark that immediately conveys an idea of an ingredient, quality, characteristic, function, or feature, but the idea is false but plausible.
   a. Can be registered if mark achieves secondary meaning, unlike a mark rejected under 2(a).

iii. 2(e)(2) – primarily geographically descriptive – marks where the primary association is geographic.
   a. Three-factor test
      1. Primary significance of the mark is geographic
         • Westpoint – city or military academy?
         • Cooperstown – city or Baseball Hall of Fame?
         • Hollywod – place or culture?
• Manhattan – borough or alcoholic drink?

2. Purchasers are likely to make a goods/place association
   • Must be a reasonable basis for concluding that the public is likely to believe the mark identifies the place in which the goods originate (manufactured, produced, sold)
   • Does not necessarily need to be a noted or famous location

3. Mark identifies the geographic origin of the goods or services.
   

iv. 2(e)(3) – primarily geographically deceptively misdescriptive
   
      1. The primary significance of the mark is a generally known geographic location;
      2. The consuming public is likely to believe the place identified by the mark indicates the origin of the goods bearing the mark, when in fact the goods do not come from that place; and
      3. The misrepresentation was a material factor in the consumer’s decision.
   
   b. Cannot be registered on the principal register unless they acquired secondary meaning before December 8, 1993.
   
   c. Disclaimers ineffective; examiners and TTAB look only to the mark itself.
   
   d. Donya, Ltd. v. Donya Michigan Co., Cancellation No. 92033012 (Sept. 6, 2005) (ZHIGULY found deceptively misdescriptive for beer)

v. 2(e)(4) – surnames
   
   a. Words that are more than just a surname are exempt; if a name has other meanings, it is less likely to be rejected on these grounds.
   
   b. Factors
      1. Is the surname rare?; or
      2. The mark in question has the “look and feel” of a surname; or
3. Whether the term is a surname of anyone in the business
   c. Combination of multiple surnames may be registerable due to the anti-dissection rule.
   d. Marks like R.J. SMITH make a surname rejection more likely because the “R.J” (or comparable terms, like Mr. or Mrs.) makes it seem like more of a surname.
   e. Burden is on the examiner to show mark is a primary surname. Examiners use phone books, newspaper/magazine articles about people with said surname, dictionaries (some with surname section), and use of the mark on a specimen.
   f. In re Messrs. Picchiotti S.r.l., Serial No. 76/476489 (TTAB June 24, 2005) (PICCHIOTTI held to be primarily a surname)
   g. In re Isabella Fiore, LLC, U.S.P.Q.2d 1564 (TTAB 2004) (FOIRE held to not be primarily a surname)

vi. 2(e)(5) – functionality (trade dress)

   a. Usually argument comes down to whether its packaging or design; if it’s a close call the examiners and courts will consider it design and require secondary meaning
   b. Product design
      1. Never inherently descriptive; qualifies only for the supplemental register and no intent-to-use filing available.
      2. Never registrable if deemed functional; functionality can include ease or reduced costs to manufacture, easier to use, aesthetic functionality, non-reputational advantage.
   c. Product packaging
      1. Can be inherently distinctive
         • A common, basic shape or design?
         • Unique or unusual in the field in which it is used?
         • A mere refinement of a commonly adopted and well-known form of ornamentation for a particular class of goods (as recognized by the public)?
         • Is the design capable of creating a commercial impression distinct from the accompanying words?
d. *In re Armament Systems and Procedures, Inc.*, Serial No. 75/107678 (TTAB Sept. 12, 2005) (the color red held to be functional as to fake weapons).

6. 2(f) – acquired distinctiveness
   i. *In re Sullivan*, Serial No. 76/202254 (TTAB Aug. 18, 2005) (TRAFFIC LAW CENTER had achieved secondary meaning as to “legal services”).

K. Post-Registration Maintenance
   1. Section 8 (required; between fifth and sixth year of registration)
      i. Excusable nonuse
   2. Section 15 (optional; after five years of continuous use)
   3. Section 9 (required; between ninth and tenth year of registration)

L. Appealing to the Trademark Trial and Appeals Board

V. Maintaining, Enforcing, Using & Protecting the Mark

A. Avoiding Genericism
   i. Trademark standards manuals, graphic standards manuals
      a. Rollerblade, *Why It’s Important to Use Trademarks Properly*
      b. ABC Television Logo Usage Guidelines
      c. Turner Networks Logo Usage Guidelines
      d. General Microsoft Trademark Guidelines
      e. Adobe Certified Program: Guidelines for Logos and Credentials
   ii. Trade advertising

B. Trademark “Torts” (limited treatment; covered in doctrinal trademark courses)
   1. Infringement
      i. Different test for each circuit; know your circuit
      ii. INTA’s *Annual Review* – good source for most recent developments in each jurisdiction.
   2. Unfair competition/false designation of origin
   3. Dilution
      i. Senior user’s mark must be famous.
   4. Cyberpiracy

C. Monitoring & Policing the Mark
   1. Commercial Watch Services
      i. Receiving and evaluating watch reports (consideration of confusion factors set forth in relevant circuit test).
   2. Registration with U.S. Customs

E. Dispute Resolution
   1. Cease & desist demands
      i. Evaluate the likelihood of adverse responses
      ii. Prepare for declaratory judgment action
      iii. Sample letters and responses – Attrezzi, LLC and Maytag Corporation
   2. Letters of Protest
      i. Sent to the PTO by anyone with information that may prevent the registration of a mark.
      ii. Usually sent before the opposition period opens
      iii. Sent to the Administrator for Trademark Classification and Practice who will decide whether it should go to the examining attorney.
   3. Oppositions and Cancellations
      i. Oppositions – formal filings made during the public opposition period; opposer must believe it will be damaged by the registration of the mark. Legal arguments generally based on § 2 of the Lanham Act.
      ii. Cancellations – similar to oppositions, except cancellations relate to marks that are already registered
      iii. Proceedings take place before the TTAB and operate somewhat like trials, but testimony is entered through depositions. Oral arguments are granted upon request.
      iv. TTAB appeals
         a. U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; or
         b. Appropriate District Court
   4. Coexistence and Concurrent Use Agreements
      i. Coexistence agreements – marks that may appear confusingly similar but owners agree that such confusion will not occur and consent to each other’s use and/or registration of their respective marks.
         a. Coexistence agreement between EMI Christian Music Group, Inc. and CSR Media, LLC
      ii. Concurrent use agreements – marks that are identical but owners believe that no confusion will ensue if both are used or registered.
      iii. Entering into such agreements allow both parties to use their marks within the parameters of the contract, but may be interpreted by courts to have weakened the strength of a particular mark.
5. Licensing – senior user of a potentially confusingly similar mark may be willing to allow junior user to license the mark within certain parameters.

6. Litigation
   i. Sample complaint – Bohn & Associates Media, Inc. v. Bonneville International Corp., Case No. 05C-2677 (N.D. Ill. June 8, 2005).

F. Trademark Licensing

1. Types of licensing (based on list found in INTA’s TRADEMARK LAW BASICS, conference materials from the Basics of Trademark Law Forum, Feb. 6-7, 2001, Washington, D.C.)
   i. Traditional licensing – marks used outside their normal market spaces (e.g., NFL team logos on clothing and apparel).
   ii. Promotional licensing – increased brand exposure in different market spaces and encourages consumer transfer from one space to another (e.g., McDonald’s and the Olympics; Domino’s Pizza and The Apprentice/NBC).
   iii. Brand extension licensing – mark used on closely related goods produced by someone other than the mark owner to expand the market position of a particular brand (e.g., United Airlines and United Express; Kodak on digital cameras).
   iv. Co-branding and endorsement licensing (affinity licensing) – marks used as components or otherwise closely intertwined with another product or service (e.g., “Intel Inside” or JetBlue Airways branded American Express credit cards)

2. Naked Licensing & Assignments in Gross – licensing without being associated with the underlying goodwill or reputation; invalid transfer and renders the mark virtually worthless.

3. Drafting Considerations – key terms to be considered:
   i. Definitions
   ii. Grant clause
      a. Specificity of the mark(s) to be licensed
      b. Exclusivity
      c. Territory
      d. Term
   iii. Royalty clause
      a. Lump sum (paid up license)
      b. Running royalty
      c. Complexities of royalty rate setting
   iv. Limitations on use of the mark
      a. Advertising and promotion guidelines
      b. Quality control provisions
v. Sublicensing issues  
vi. Audit rights  
vii. Infringement responsibility (who sues infringers?)  
viii. Indemnity/hold harmless clauses  
ix. Choice of venue, forum, and law  
x. Insurance requirements  
xi. Trademark attribution requirements (e.g., “CBS is a registered trademark of Viacom, Inc.”)  
 xii. Most favored licensee clause  
xiii. Notice, force majeure, transferability, no waiver, Voluntariness, integration, and counterparts clauses

Congratulations! As a result of your hard work and dedication to the firm, along with your superior background in trademark law, you have been selected to work on the trademark matters for one of our biggest and most promising new clients. VoxSoft Systems, Inc., is a small but fast-growing software company that develops, distributes, and supports highly specialized and sophisticated production, editing, and playback software for broadcast operations, such as radio and television stations, cable networks, Internet broadcasters, mobile disc jockeys, and the like. The company was founded several years ago after two students wrote a small program to help automate their weekly radio show on the college radio station. After discussions with numerous radio industry executives, the duo recognized the commercial applications of their software and founded VoxSoft. The company recently incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware. Today the company holds numerous patents on their software developments and has developed a suite of modular software packages, support services, and training programs aimed at audio industry professionals.

VoxSoft’s ultimate goal is to become the world leader in professional software for the audio production and distribution industries. In support of this goal, its strategic plan calls for a long-term aggressive marketing and branding campaign to help develop the company’s market position within the minds of key decision makers. At the heart of the new branding campaign will be a core “umbrella” identity that will have various branches corresponding to the various market sectors and job functions to which VoxSoft’s products and services are targeted. In essence, the company desires to occupy the “top of mind” position in the field of professional audio production and distribution software.

As the company positions itself for rapid future growth, VoxSoft’s in-house counsel is interested in evaluating the intellectual property landscape of its products, services, and the emerging branding campaign. The copyright and patent issues related to its software are already being handled by your colleagues. You have been assigned to handle all of the trademark issues relating to VoxSoft, which have been assigned the internal docket code VS06-TM.

Attached please find a brief memo that outlines the company’s products and services and its traditional sales channels. Based upon this information, please prepare a brief memo (five to ten (5-10), single-spaced pages) that outlines your thoughts on VoxSoft’s
protectible trademark assets and the best way, in your opinion, to protect and exploit those assets.
VoxSoft Systems, Inc.
33 Regional Drive – Concord, New Hampshire 03301 – 603/555-1234 – 603/555-1255 (fax)

TO: Able Associate

FROM: VoxSoft General Counsel

RE: VoxSoft Products & Services Overview

VoxSoft Systems, Inc. offers a variety of products and services for the professional audio production and distribution industries. Our products are used in over 100 radio and television stations worldwide, in addition to numerous other companies, including digital music services and mobile disc jockeys. The following describes the company’s product and services.

PRODUCT OFFERINGS

The heart of all VoxSoft installations is a network operating system known as Vox6, which resides on a central server and serves as the central nerve system for all other VoxSoft product offerings actually used by end-users. Unlike its other programs, Vox6 is only “used” by information technology professionals to drive enterprise-wide audio systems. End users of VoxSoft’s other products (described more fully below) never know of Vox6 except for a unique 3-note chime that is heard every time the user boots up a client computer.

The entire package of Vox6-based offerings is marketed under the VoxSuite banner. Once a customer installs the core Vox6 operating system, the system is entirely modular and scalable – customers may buy as much or as little of the system as they desire, installing only those modules that are needed for a particular application. VoxSoft recently hired a graphic design firm to create a visual identity for its software offerings, the center of which is the VoxSuite logo (see Attachment 1).

VoxStudio is the software component used in radio and TV studios for rapid playback of audio content. The program features a very distinctive layout that is easy to learn and use on the fly – perfect for broadcast installations where employee turnover is often quite high and where speed and accuracy is of paramount importance. The company is also contemplating a consumer-grade version of VoxStudio to compete with Apple’s iTunes or Nullsoft’s Winamp. The consumer-grade version would likely be made available, free of charge, to those who visit the VoxSoft web site.

VoxLive is very similar to VoxStudio except it contains additional features that are of particular use for live operations, such as television newscasts, or mobile disc jockeys. Its layout looks quite similar to that of its studio-based counterpart except with less emphasis on timing and scheduling mechanisms that are central to VoxStudio.
VoxScript is a programming and sequencing module that is used by broadcast programmers to setup playlists and programming sequences for future use. This program allows the programmers to structure programming elements (music blocks) and commercials and then send a master log to studio (for display and playback in VoxStudio).

VoxEdit is the audio editing component of the software suite, which provides basic audio manipulation capability. VoxEdit is used by producers, directors, and other behind-the-scenes crew members to prepare material that will eventually be broadcast or otherwise presented to audiences. As with VoxStudio, the company is contemplating a consumer-grade release of VoxEdit which would provide basic audio editing functionality for amateur and hobbyist producers.

Currently, all of the software herein discussed is sold directly to end users by VoxSoft. As the company positions itself for future growth, however, VoxSoft is contemplating the development of a network of licensed dealers throughout the world. Such dealers would be authorized and licensed to perform the pre-installation consultation, the software and systems installation, and post-installation support services (discussed below). The consumer-grade offerings would be distributed through conventional retail sales channels, including bricks and mortar stores (e.g., Best Buy, Circuit City), catalog retailers, and online retail partners.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Before selling or installing anything at a client’s site, VoxSoft’s team of consultants visits the customer’s site and determines which products and services will be of most value to the end users. In addition to the pre-installation services, the company also offers ongoing on-call support and system management services marked as VoxAssurance. For an annual fee, customers are able to call a dedicated 24/7 customer service hotline to receive immediate responses to issues with mission-critical systems. In addition, customers with VoxAssurance service contracts receive the latest updates and service patches for the various software programs that the customer has in service.

Because the software is highly sophisticated, a secondary market has developed over the years in offering training services for various aspects of the programs. To capitalize on this trend, VoxSoft developed a certification program that includes a structured curriculum and testing program. There are three certification levels: VoxSoft Certified Professional, VoxSoft Certified Expert, VoxSoft Certified Trainer. Together, the certification program is marketed simply as VoxSoft Training Services. Individuals who successfully complete the training programs receive a certificate, the right to call themselves VoxSoft Certified (at the appropriate level of certification) and access to a variety of proprietary support and marketing materials, including use of the VoxSoft certification seal.
ATTACHMENT 1:
VOXSUITE LOGO
VoxSoft’s General Counsel was very impressed by the memo that you prepared outlining the potentially trademarkable subject matter that exists within their enterprise and the way those assets might best be protected and exploited. After thorough review of your memo, the company’s strategic goals as well as their current financial picture, VoxSoft has decided to pursue federal registration on two of its marks. We have received approval from VoxSoft general counsel to begin the application process for federal registration. Because VoxSoft does not have in-house trademark counsel, our firm has been authorized to handle all aspects of the registration process.

For the purposes of this assignment, you are to prepare a search strategy and report as well as applications for federal registration for (1) the VoxSuite logo presented in Part 1 of the VoxSoft Systems, Inc. case file; and (2) any one additional mark of your choosing that was discussed in your memo from Part 1.

In your search strategy and report, please list the databases that you would use and the rationale behind each (only a brief explanation is necessary). Also list the search terms and design codes that you would use to ensure a complete review of each mark. The search strategy and associated explanatory remarks should be no longer than five (5) pages for each mark; there is no minimum number of pages.

You have been authorized to file electronic applications for federal registration on the principal register, but VoxSoft wants to keep the option of filing future documents relating to these applications on paper. Accordingly, please use the appropriate form on the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) web site (http://www.uspto.gov). For this assignment, you are to complete the application in its entirety, based upon the information provided in the Case File; your application must have more than merely the minimum filing requirements discussed in class. You should consult the Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual, available online at http://tess2.uspto.gov/netahtml/tidm.html, when drafting your goods/services descriptions.

After completing an application, you must validate the form. After validating the form (and remedying any issues that may have arisen), click on the input link in the “Application Data” box; the resulting application input page for each application should be submitted with your search strategies.
Should you find yourself in need of any additional information from the client to successfully complete this assignment, please state the information that you require and/or your assumption(s) and how such information or assumptions would affect your mark search strategy or application process. Cite to the Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure, available at http://tess2.uspto.gov/tmdb/tmep/, where appropriate.
TO: Able Associate
FROM: Pretentious Partner
Response to a Trademark Office Action

Thank you for your hard work on those trademark applications. I am confident they will sail through the Office with no problems. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for an application filed by your predecessor, Lazy Lester. We just received an Office Action on serial number 99123456 for the mark VOXSTUDIO. It seems Lester missed a few things when preparing the application. Worse, it appears that the examiner believes there is a confusingly similar mark that is already registered. I am not exactly sure what the precise issues are, but I know that with your strong background in trademark law, you will be able to keep our client happy by pushing the registration through the Office.

Please prepare a response to this Office Action; your response may be no more than ten (10) double-spaced pages, though you should not feel compelled to fill all ten pages. Although we will likely submit the response via the Office’s web-based system, you need not concern yourself with the details of such submission. Please prepare your response consistent with the requirements set forth on the Office Action itself and the Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure. You may also want to consult responses to Office Actions that we have reviewed in class or that you find on your own using the Trademark Document Retrieval system on the Office’s web site. To prepare an effective argument to the examiner, you will need to look beyond the cases and authorities we have read for and discussed in class.

Attached to this memo you will find a copy of the application input page for the application filed by Lazy Lester and the Office Action, which includes a copy of the registration information for the mark that is, allegedly, confusingly similar to our application. Please do not look beyond these materials for information regarding the marks; any resemblance to real registered marks is purely coincidental.
Trademark/Service Mark Application, Principal Register

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<td>EMAIL</td>
<td><a href="mailto:trademarks@pierceassociates.com">trademarks@pierceassociates.com</a></td>
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<td>NAME</td>
<td>Lazy Lester</td>
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<td>FIRM NAME</td>
<td>Pierce &amp; Associates, LP</td>
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<td>STREET</td>
<td>2 White Street</td>
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<td>CITY</td>
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OFFICE ACTION

TO AVOID ABANDONMENT, WE MUST RECEIVE A PROPER RESPONSE TO THIS OFFICE ACTION WITHIN 6 MONTH OF OUR MAILING OR E-MAILING DATE.

Serial Number 99/123456

The assigned trademark attorney has reviewed the referenced application and determined the following.

Likelihood of Confusion

The examining attorney refuses registration under Trademark Act § 2(d), 15 U.S.C. § 1052(d), because the applicant’s mark, when used on or in connection with the identified goods, so resembles the marks in U.S. Registration No. 9215212 as to be likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive. TMEP § 1207. See the enclosed registration.

The examining attorney must analyze each case in two steps to determine whether there is a likelihood of confusion. First, the examining attorney must look at the marks themselves for similarities in appearance, sound, connotation and commercial impression. In re E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co., 476 F.2d 1357, 177 USPQ 563 (CCPA 1973). Second the examining attorney
must compare the goods or services to determine if they are related or if the activities surrounding their marketing are such that confusion as to origin is likely. *In re August Storck KG*, 218 USPQ 823 (TTAB 1983); *In re International Telephone and Telegraph Corp.*, 197 UPQ 910 (TTAB 1978); *Guardian Products Co. v. Scott Paper Co.*, 200 USPQ 738 (TTAB 1978).

The Latin term VOX is translated and defined as “voice.”

The marks of the parties are very similar. The applicant applied to register the mark VOXSTUDIO for computer technology that facilitates the operation of radio stations. When translated into its English equivalent, pursuant to the foreign equivalents doctrine, the applicant’s mark reads VOICESOFT. The registered mark is THE STUDIO VOICE. The overall commercial impression of both marks is highly similar since both marks utilize the same words “voice” and “studio,” but merely transposed from one another. The presence of the word “the” in the registered mark, and its absence in the applicant’s mark is *de minimis*. Accordingly, the marks are confusingly similar.

The goods of the parties are very related. The applicant is providing an “apparatus for programming, editing, scheduling, and automating the operations of radio stations by means of computer technology. The registrant is providing a “digital audio system comprising of hardware and software intended to play music for use with radio broadcasting applications.” Both are providing software to radio professionals. The goods of both parties are likely to be encountered by the same consumers. The marketing of both goods might also be such that consumers would be likely to believe that both goods came from the same source. Since the marks of the parties are very similar, and the goods are highly related, registration must be refused on the Principal Register under § 2(d) of the Trademark Act.

Although the examining attorney has refused registration, the applicant may respond to the refusal to register by submitting evidence and arguments in support of registration.

If the applicant chooses to respond to the refusal to register, the applicant must also respond to the following informalities.

**State of Incorporation**

Applicant must state its state of incorporation. 37 C.F.R. § 2.32(a)(3)(ii); TMEP §§ 803.03(c) and 803.04.

**Identification of Goods – Unacceptable**

The identification is indefinite because the applicant uses the wording “apparatus” and “by means of computer technology.” The identification of goods must be specific. The applicant must amend the identification to specify the common commercial name of the goods or to indicate their nature. The identification must be all-inclusive. The applicant should amend the application to replace this wording with “namely.” Also, the identification of goods is too broad because it could include goods in other classes.
Specimens

The applicant must submit specimens showing use of the mark for the goods specified. 37 C.F.R. §§ 2.56, 2.58. Appropriate specimens for the goods include specimens that show the mark on labels for the goods, packaging for the goods, or on the goods themselves. The applicant must verify, with an affidavit or declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 2.20, that the substitute specimens were in use in commerce at least as early as the filing date of the application. 37 C.F.R. § 2.59(a); TMEP § 904.09.

If the applicant has any questions or needs assistance in responding to this Office Action, please telephone the assigned examining attorney.

Thank you,
/Eric T. Examiner/

Eric T. Examiner
United States Patent & Trademark Office
Trademark Examiner
Law Office 120
703-555-1234-21

How to respond to this Office Action:

You may respond using the Office’s Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) (visit http://www.uspto.gov/teas/index.html and follow the instructions therein), but you must wait until at least 72 hours after receipt of the e-mailed office action. PLEASE NOTE: For those with applications filed pursuant to Section 66(a) of the Trademark Act, all responses to Office Actions that include amendments to the identifications of goods and/or services must be filed on paper, using regular mail (or hand delivery) to submit such response. TEAS cannot be used under these circumstances. If the response does not include an amendment to the goods and/or services, then TEAS can be used to respond to the Office Action.

To respond formally via regular mail, your response should be sent to the mailing Return Address listed above and include the serial number, law office and examining attorney’s name on the upper right corner of each page of your response.

To check the status of your application at any time, visit the Office’s Trademark Applications and Registrations Retrieval (TARR) system at http://tarr.uspto.gov/

For general and other useful information about trademarks, you are encouraged to visit the Office’s web site at http://www.uspto.gov/main/trademarks.htm
FOR INQUIRIES OR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS OFFICE ACTION, PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSIGNED EXAMINING ATTORNEY.
Thank you for your request. Here are the latest results from the TARR web server.

This page was generated by the TARR system on 2005-10-20 15:17:26 ET

Serial Number: 99582592

Registration Number: 9215212

Mark:

THE STUDIO VOICE

(words only): THE STUDIO VOICE

Standard Character claim: Yes

Current Status: Registered.

Date of Status: 2005-04-12

Filing Date: 2004-03-25

Transformed into a National Application: No

Registration Date: 2005-04-12

Register: Principal

Law Office Assigned: LAW OFFICE 103

If you are the applicant or applicant’s attorney and have questions about this file, please contact the Trademark Assistance Center at TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov

Current Location: 900 – File Repository (Franconia)

Date In Location: 2005-07-12

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LAST APPLICANT(S)/OWNER(S) OF RECORD

1. Radio Software Company, LLC

Address:
Radio Software Company, LLC  
219 Computational Drive  
Chicago, IL 60652  
Legal Entity Type: Corporation  
State or Country of Incorporation: Delaware

GOODS AND/OR SERVICES

International Class: 009  
digital audio system comprising of hardware and software intended to play music for use with radio broadcasting applications.  
First Use Date: 1998-06-01  
First Use in Commerce Date: 1998-06-01

Basis: 1(a)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

(NOT AVAILABLE)

MADRID PROTOCOL INFORMATION

(NOT AVAILABLE)

PROSECUTION HISTORY

2005-04-12 - Registered - Principal Register  
2005-01-18 - Published for opposition  
2004-12-29 - Notice of publication  
2004-11-08 - Law Office Publication Review Completed  
2004-11-08 - Assigned To LIE  
2004-10-29 - Assigned To LIE  
2004-10-26 - Approved for Pub - Principal Register (Initial exam)  
2004-10-22 - Teas/Email Correspondence Entered
2004-10-11 - Communication received from applicant
2004-10-11 - TEAS Response to Office Action Received
2004-10-09 - Non-final action e-mailed
2004-10-09 - Non-Final Action Written
2004-10-09 - Case file assigned to examining attorney
2004-04-05 - TEAS Preliminary Amendment Received
2004-04-01 - New Application Entered In Tram

CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

Correspondent:
Office of General Counsel
RADIO SOFTWARE COMPANY, INC.
219 COMPUTATIONAL DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60652

Phone Number: 312-555-1632
Fax Number: 312-555-9521
TO: Able Associate
FROM: Pretentious Partner
  Cease & Desist Letter & Preparation of Opposition Filing

Thanks for cleaning up that messy Office Action – I trust that after your response, the PTO will register the mark in due course. Right now, though, it looks like we may have another problem on our hands. One of the paralegals has just stumbled upon a mark that raises some issues with respect to one of VoxSoft’s recently registered marks. I have attached the Watch Notice for your review. I will talk to VoxSoft’s general counsel sometime within the next couple of weeks to get a sense of how they would like to proceed. In the meantime, I think we should be prepared for a fight.

Can you please prepare a cease & desist letter to the applicant of the new mark? The letter should be no more than two full pages and explain the basis of the request to cease and desist and lay out the basics of our legal arguments against the applicant.

Also, though I don’t know if we will go down this road or not, please prepare an opposition filing to the PTO. Your opposition should be consistent with PTO standards, including the rules set forth in the Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure § 1503. Please limit your opposition filing to six double-spaced pages.

In both the letter and opposition, please be sure to cite to appropriate authority to support your propositions.
**WATCH NOTICE**

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<th><strong>Mark Reported</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>VOX 6</td>
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**Watched registers:** United States  
**Register:** United States  
**Intl. Classes:** 41  
**Goods/services:** Consulting services, namely installation, maintenance, and support of computer networks, hardware, and software related to electronic media distribution.

**Applicant:** Computer Data Networks  
201 Central Processor Drive  
Overland Park, KS 66062

**Attorney of Record:** Robert Stilton, Esq.

**Filing No:** 99/638,332  
**Filing Date:** 14 Oct 2005  
**Publication Date:** 07 Mar 2006  
**Publication Page:** 12102

**OPPOSITION PERIOD CLOSE DATE:** 07 APR 2006
You may remember from VoxSoft’s initial memo to you at the beginning of the semester that one of the company’s offerings is a certification program that allows radio information technology professionals that attest to their competencies with certain VoxSoft products. After taking certain training courses and associated standardized tests, participants earn the right to call themselves either a VoxSoft Certified Professional, Certified Expert, and Certified Trainer, depending on the level of achievement that is accomplished.

Although the program has been underway for several months now, VoxSoft has not been formally marketing it. In preparation for expanding the program and promoting it through more mainstream channels, VoxSoft wants to take steps to ensure that the trademarks related to its certification are used properly. Specifically, VoxSoft’s general counsel has asked us to draft trademark usage guidelines for the marks as well as a trademark license agreement that successful candidates will be asked to sign as a prerequisite to their certification. For simplicity, VoxSoft would like one set of guidelines and one agreement that cover the use of all three marks. Despite the desire for a uniform agreement, the language must be crafted in such a way that only individuals properly certified at a particular level will be allowed to use the mark for that certification (e.g., Certified Professionals may not use the Certified Trainer mark).

Please annotate your agreement with a short explanation of each clause and the reasons you chose to draft it the way you did. While you are welcome to use formbooks, sample agreements, and any other resources you desire in drafting the usage guidelines and associated agreement, the work you submit must be substantially original. In cases where you reasonably believe that a formbook or sample agreement provides the best way of drafting a particular clause, you may use it, provided, however, that you justify your use of such clauses in the annotations.

Students seeking a discussion of the basic principles of contract drafting are urged to obtain Kenneth A. Adams, A MANUAL OF STYLE FOR CONTRACT DRAFTING (ABA Pub. 2004).

Your agreement must be no more than five (5) single-spaced pages, including annotations; your trademark usage guidelines should be in the form of an attachment and no more than one (1) single spaced page.