

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE DIRECTOR**

In re: )  
 )  
Mandy Valentin, )  
 )  
Respondent )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**FINAL ORDER FOR SANCTIONS**

In a Show Cause Order dated August 8, 2023 (“Show Cause Order” or “Order”), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO” or “Office”) required Mandy Valentin (“Respondent”) to show cause as to why the USPTO should not immediately issue sanctions pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §11.18(c), based on Respondent’s violation of the regulations regarding practice in trademark matters before the USPTO (“USPTO Rules”) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office Trademark Verified USPTO.gov Account Agreement (“Verified Account Agreement”).<sup>1</sup> See *generally* 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051 *et seq.*; 37 C.F.R. Parts 2, 11; 73 Fed. Reg. 47650, 47653 (Aug. 14, 2008); 87 Fed. Reg. 431 (Jan. 5, 2022); Verified Account Agreement (July 2022) *available at* <https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/TM-verified-account-agreement.pdf>.

As noted in the Show Cause Order, all submissions to the USPTO in trademark matters are governed by the USPTO Rules. See *generally* 37 C.F.R. Parts 2, 11. Further, all parties who sign or present documents to the USPTO are bound by the USPTO Rules. See 37 C.F.R. § 2.193(f) (“The presentation to the Office (whether by signing, filing, submitting, or later advocating) of any document by any person, whether a practitioner or non-practitioner, constitutes certification under §11.18(b) of this chapter.”); *Lewis Silkin LLP v. Firebrand LLC*, 129 USPQ2d 1015, 1020 n.8 (TTAB 2018); TMEP §611.01(a).

To access electronic forms or file documents through the Trademark Electronic Application System (“TEAS”) trademark owners, their attorney, and any support staff must register for and use a USPTO.gov account and must comply with the Verified Account Agreement.

Misuse of trademark systems that consist of unauthorized submissions under USPTO Rules or constitute violations of the Verified Account Agreement may result in immediate termination, suspension, and/or revocation of all related USPTO.gov accounts. See Verified Account Agreement at pp. 3, 5-6.

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<sup>1</sup> Links to orders issued under the authority of the Commissioner for Trademarks are available at <https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/trademark-updates-and-announcements/orders-issued-commissioner-trademarks>.

On August 3, 2023, the Show Cause Order was sent to Respondent's email addresses of record, and copies of the Order were uploaded into all relevant trademark application records. A response to the Show Cause Order was timely received on August 14, 2023, and has been considered in determining the sanctions set forth below.

As noted in the Show Cause Order, Respondent's correspondence repeatedly served the improper purposes of delaying USPTO operations, needlessly increasing the cost of the proceedings involving these applications before the Office and making unfounded and harassing accusations against USPTO personnel. By engaging in such conduct, Respondent violated USPTO Rules under 37 C.F.R. §§2.192, 11.18(b)(2), as well as the Verified Account Agreement.

### **I. Overview of Respondent's USPTO Rule and USPTO.gov Verified Account Agreement Violations**

The Show Cause Order describes the misconduct that forms the basis for imposing sanctions and is incorporated by reference in this Final Order. However, the following summary of the facts is provided for background.

On March 28, 2021, Respondent signed and submitted U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 90608020 for the mark FAMEOZ<sup>2</sup> as president of Fameoz Inc., a Pennsylvania corporation. Respondent filed 17 formal TEAS submissions in this trademark application between December 20, 2021 and March 3, 2022. Throughout the course of prosecution Respondent also sent at least 33 email messages to various USPTO email addresses regarding this application, not including correspondence related to the Show Cause Order. Despite the consistently courteous and professional nature of the responses by USPTO personnel to these inquiries, Respondent's submissions and email communications frequently contained vulgar remarks, disparaging statements about USPTO personnel, and, in several cases, apparent threats against USPTO personnel and their families.

On January 9, 2023, the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy issued an email notice to Respondent. This notice informed Respondent that because she had continually violated the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §2.192 to conduct business with decorum and courtesy, any future communication between Respondent and the USPTO with respect to U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 90608020 would need to be submitted in formal, written communications filed via TEAS to be considered.<sup>3</sup>

In response to this notice – and despite being instructed to file future correspondence through TEAS – Respondent replied in an email on January 10, 2023, which included vulgar statements and personal attacks directed at USPTO personnel.

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<sup>2</sup> The public may view and print images of the contents of trademark application and registration records through the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) database on the USPTO website at <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/>.

<sup>3</sup> Letter from Amy Cotton, Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, to Mandy Valentin (Jan. 9, 2023) (on file in U.S. Application Serial No. 90608020).

Respondent has failed to offer any persuasive explanation for Respondent's repeated and voluminous harassing submissions, which the USPTO had deemed to have violated the USPTO Rules. *See Respondent's Resp. to Show Cause Order* (Aug. 14, 2023) (on file with the USPTO's Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy). By Respondent's own admission, Respondent "did not even bother reading all the garbage you put in this show [] cause document." *Id.* Instead, Respondent dismissed the merits of the Show Cause Order by stating, without additional explanation, that there is no evidence to suggest that she violated any of the USPTO's terms or policies.

Respondent also failed to address why Respondent had proffered numerous unsupported accusations regarding outstanding issues with respect to Serial No. 90608020, and instead merely repeated these unfounded accusations and made unrelated statements related to Respondent's USPTO.gov account verification status. *See id.*

Respondent also claimed to not be subject to the Verified Account Agreement "BECAUSE MY ACTIONS WERE PERFORMED [] UNDER THE CAPACITY OF A COMPANY FAMEOZ INC AND NOT AS AN INDIVIDUAL." *Id.* The submitted response otherwise failed to address why the USPTO should not impose sanctions. As set forth in the Verified Account Agreement, however, USPTO.gov accounts are issued to individual users, not corporations, and as such the actions of the individual user are governed by the Agreement. Although Respondent filed documents as an officer on behalf of a juristic entity, she did so through TEAS using her individual Verified Account, and in doing so, violated USPTO Rules.

On January 10, 2024, Respondent responded again, arguing that "AN INDIVIDUAL CANNOT BE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY A COMPANY." *See Respondent's Resp. to Show Cause Order* (Jan. 10, 2024) (on file with the USPTO's Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy).<sup>4</sup> Respondent, however, is mistaken. As set forth in the Show Cause Order, the proposed sanctions were directed at Respondent, not Fameoz Inc. Respondent also again repeated general accusations regarding alleged discrimination and retaliation without citing specific examples or evidence to support these claims. *See id.*

The evidence relied upon in the Show Cause Order, as well as the continued abusive communication in the responses, clearly demonstrate that Respondent violated 37 C.F.R. §2.192 by continually failing to conduct business before the USPTO with decorum and courtesy. Respondent also violated 37 C.F.R. §11.18(b)(2) by filing voluminous harassing submissions containing numerous unsupported accusations and submitting papers submitted for an improper purpose. In violating these USPTO Rules, Respondent has also failed to comply with the Verified Account Agreement, specifically, by making "submissions that the user is not authorized to make under the relevant laws, regulations,

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<sup>4</sup> On January 10, 2024, Respondent was provided notice that the August 8, 2023 Show Cause Order was added to the records of Ser. No. 97205894 and Reg. No. 7162225. Upon further review of Respondent's filings, Respondent was discovered to have also personally conducted business before the Office with respect to these files. These applications are owned by Fameoz Inc. and Monie Leads Inc., respectively, whereas the previously-identified applications are all owned by Fameoz Inc.

or policies of the USPTO,” by not using Respondent’s account in accordance with “the laws, regulations, or policies of the USPTO,” and engaging in “activities or operations that cause or result in a denial or diminution of services to other customers, whether generated automatically or manually.” See Verified Account Agreement at p. 6.

In sum, Respondent willfully and repeatedly violated the USPTO rules and the Verified Account Agreement, and has made no indication that Respondent will refrain from such behavior in the future.

## **II. Sanctions Ordered**

The Director has authority to sanction those filing trademark submissions in violation of the USPTO Rules and has delegated to the Commissioner for Trademarks the authority to impose such sanctions and to otherwise exercise the Director’s authority in trademark matters. 35 U.S.C. § 3(a)-(b); 37 C.F.R. §11.18(c); *see also In re Yusha Zhang*, 2021 TTAB LEXIS 465, at \*10, \*23-24 (Dir. USPTO Dec. 10, 2021). The authority to issue administrative sanctions orders has been further delegated to the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy. Accordingly, based on Respondent’s rule violations as discussed in further detail below, the following sanctions and additional actions under the Verified Account Agreement are warranted and are hereby imposed.<sup>5</sup>

In determining appropriate sanctions, the USPTO considers many factors, including any response to the issued Show Cause Order, whether the conduct was willful or negligent, whether it was part of a pattern of activity or an isolated event, whether it infects the entire record or is limited to a single submission, whether the conduct was intended to injure a party, what effect the conduct has on the agency, and what is needed to deter similar conduct by others. See 73 Fed. Reg. 47650, 47653 (Aug. 14, 2008); 87 Fed. Reg. 431 (Jan. 5, 2022).

In this case, Respondent knowingly, willfully, and repeatedly harassed USPTO personnel via email and trademark filings, including making unfounded accusations and apparent threats against USPTO personnel and their families. Respondent continually made arguments that are not relevant to the prosecution of a trademark application, even after being formally warned against doing so by USPTO personnel on multiple occasions. The majority of Respondent’s conduct served only to harass and delay USPTO operations. The available evidence demonstrates that Respondent’s conduct and rule violations have continued, despite numerous attempts by USPTO personnel to help Respondent avoid the sanctions set forth in this Final Order.

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<sup>5</sup> As noted below, proceedings as to U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 90608020 are hereby terminated. Sanctions (3), (4), and (5) are imposed as to any trademark applications or registrations in which Respondent personally conducts business before the Office. This includes, but is not limited to, U.S. Trademark Registration No. 7162225 and application Serial Nos. 90608020, 90852416, 90859585, 90859627, 90861675, 90864334, 90864448, 97193648, 97194215, 97195302, 97196181, 97198033, 97198272, 97198712, 97199430, 97199724, 97199769, 97200056, 97205894, and 97225150.

Given the significant and unnecessary burden Respondent's conduct has had on USPTO's resources, and to the compelling need to stop continued harassment of USPTO personnel and to deter similar conduct in the future, USPTO will be taking ongoing actions to preclude Respondent from directly submitting any trademark-related documents to the USPTO on Respondent's own behalf or on behalf of any company of which Respondent is an officer.

Accordingly, the misconduct and USPTO rule violations described in the Show Cause Order are found to be accurate. Effective immediately, the USPTO is imposing the following sanctions under 37 C.F.R. §11.18(c):

- (1) The USPTO gives no weight to any amendment or response submissions filed by Respondent in U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 90608020.
- (2) The USPTO hereby terminates the trademark application proceeding in U.S. Trademark Application Serial No. 90608020.
- (3) Respondent is permanently precluded from directly submitting any trademark-related documents to the USPTO on Respondent's own behalf or on behalf of any company of which Respondent is an officer. That is, Respondent must be represented by a qualified attorney. Accordingly, the USPTO's Trademark Register Protection Office will deactivate any USPTO.gov accounts registered in the name of Respondent, or those in which Respondent's contact information appears, including both Respondent's current account(s) and any future account(s) Respondent may attempt to establish.
- (4) Respondent must be represented in any pending or future trademark matter before the USPTO by an attorney qualified to practice under 37 C.F.R. §11.14(a).
- (5) The USPTO will continue to strike documents, remove information, deactivate accounts, and terminate proceedings containing any subsequent submissions found to have been filed directly by Respondent, as appropriate.

The sanctions ordered herein are immediately effective and are made without prejudice to the USPTO taking any subsequent appropriate actions to protect its systems and users from Respondent's continued improper activity, including issuing additional orders or referring Respondent's conduct to relevant state and federal law enforcement agencies.

So ordered,

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Amy P. Cotton  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Trademark Examination Policy

January 17, 2024  
Date

on delegated authority by

Kathi Vidal  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent & Trademark Office

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on January 17, 2024, the foregoing Final Order was emailed to Respondent at the following addresses:

Mandy Valentin  
PO Box 1279  
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Email: **mandyvalentin@ymail.com;fameoz@yahoo.com;  
monieleads@yahoo.com**

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