

Beware of Fraudulent Trademark and Patent Notices Mimicking Official Communications

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PRACTICES Intellectual Property

Companies and business owners should be wary of notices that claim to originate from official trademark offices and vendors, because these notices may be illegitimate. Unscrupulous companies that send such notices prey on trademark (and patent) registrants by using information from actual governmental registrations in an attempt to deceive registrants into paying for unneeded or fraudulent services, or for duplicative services already performed at no additional charge by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) or counterpart agencies in other countries. This article discusses an example of one such illegitimate scheme, and provides some tips on how to avoid similar ones.

[Read the full article.](#)