

Don't Get Scammed: Warning For IP Applicants and Registrants

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We would like to warn our readers of several ongoing scams targeting [patent](#), [trademark](#), and [copyright](#) applicants and registrants. Although each scam varies slightly, they all generally involve notices intended to look like they are coming from an official government office such as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The notices, sent by unscrupulous entities and organizations, are designed to solicit fees from applicants. In fact, they may often be called “invoices.”

To give the appearance of legitimacy, they usually contain publically available information about the application or registration and use names and logos that resemble official entities like the USPTO or, the case of an international application, the World Intellectual Property Organization.

In one recent case, a client received a notice from an entity calling itself the “United States Trademark Registration Office.” The “invoice” requested payment in the amount of \$375 for registration with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and trademark monitoring services.

Despite what this mailing may lead one to believe, trademark monitoring and customs registration are not part of the official trademark application process. Although they are legitimate services, this notice clearly employed deceptive advertising to sell its services.

The bottom line—the United States Patent and Trademark Office is the only government agency that will contact you about your U.S. patent or trademark registration or application. If you receive an official looking document in the mail from someone else, it could be a scam.

How Can We Help?

While some of the correspondence you receive regarding your intellectual property may be legitimate, we encourage our readers to consult with us before enrolling in these services or sending any money.



About Sheldon Mak & Anderson

At [Sheldon Mak & Anderson](#), we recognize that innovation is your competitive edge – and it needs protection. As a full-service intellectual property firm with more than two decades of

experience, we provide local, regional, national, and international legal services in the following areas: patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, IP

*[Contact](#) our knowledgeable intellectual property attorneys today at **1-855-UR IDEAS (1-855-874-3327)** to find out how we can provide a powerful defense of your unique ideas.*