



February 9, 2026

VIA EMAIL

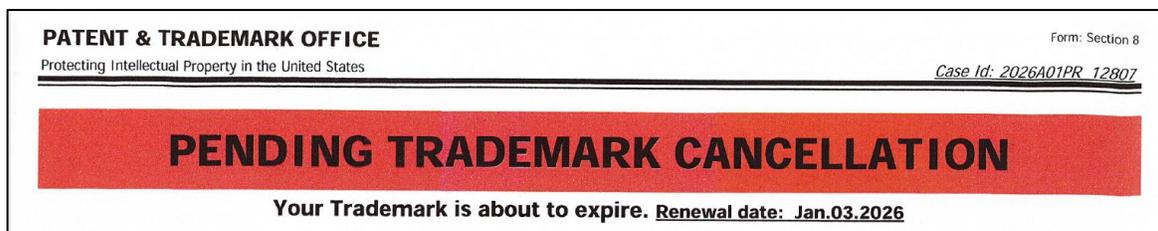
Chris Mufarrige, Director
Bureau of Consumer Protection
Federal Trade Commission
cmufarrige@ftc.gov

Re: Patent & Trademark Office Impersonation Scam

Dear Mr. Mufarrige:

A recent Truth in Advertising, Inc. (“TINA.org”) investigation has found that a company called Patent & Trademark Office (also doing business as Patent & Trademark Resource Center, LLC and Patents & Trademarks Office) is violating the FTC’s Trade Regulation Rule on Impersonation of Government and Businesses,¹ as well as the FTC Act, by falsely posing as the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The company, which is based in Washington state,² sends misleading and threatening mailings to U.S. trademark owners falsely claiming that their trademark registrations are about to expire and face imminent cancellation unless a substantial payment is made. These notices resemble official government correspondence, with the name “PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE” displayed in the top left corner, a fabricated “Case Id” number shown in the top right corner, and a red banner across the center warning, in bold capital letters, “PENDING TRADEMARK CANCELLATION.”



While the notices include accurate public information about the recipient’s trademark – such as the trademark name, registration number and registration date – they contain false and misleading statements regarding the trademark’s expiration status and renewal deadline.³ Recipients are instructed to sign and return the form with payment to “empower Patent & Trademark Office to conduct and perform the renewal process on your behalf.”

The notice also includes a website, www.pto-us.com, which closely resembles the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's official web address (www.uspto.gov), further reinforcing the false impression that the mailing originates from a government agency.

The sole disclosure that the sender is a private company – and not part of the U.S. government – appears in a single sentence buried in the midst of a dense paragraph of text in the middle of the document.

9. IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ

In order to renew your trademark, please sign and return this document in the enclosed prepaid envelope. Once your signed form and payment has been received and processed by us, the renewal process will start. **The trademark stated on this document will be renewed for another period of five (5) years. The renewal fee for the 5-year period is \$ 1250 including one class. Each subsequent class is debited with a fee of \$ 650. Note: if not renewed in time, your exclusive rights to that mark may be terminated.** By signing this document, you place an order for filling the renewal of the identified trademark registration for the classes identified in this form and confirm that you comply with the Terms and Conditions of the order form. By returning and signing this document, you also empower Patent & Trademark Office to conduct and perform the renewal process on your behalf. You will receive a confirmation from us once the trademark renewal is completed. This is an optional offer. This document is not a bill. Patent & Trademark Office is a private company, not associated with any official governmental organizations. Patent & Trademark Office provides the expertise that modern businesses need to navigate the Patent and Trademark Office's registration and renewal process. If you have any questions regarding the renewal of your trademark, please contact Patent & Trademark Office renewal department via e-mail: info@pto-us.com or telephone: (800) 983-4701

This disclosure is plainly insufficient and does not comply with the FTC's disclosure requirements.

An example of such a notice is attached in its entirety as Exhibit A.⁴

Compounding the deception, these notices are mailed in envelopes prominently labeled "IMPORTANT" and urging recipients to "OPEN IMMEDIATELY,"⁵ heightening fear and creating a false sense of urgency.

The notices also seek to extract excessive fees from trademark owners, often exceeding \$1,000 per trademark.⁶ By way of example, four notices sent to TINA.org in December 2025 each claimed that the cost of renewal was \$1,250 – more than *double* the actual government filing fees required to maintain a registered trademark.⁷ The resulting financial harm can be substantial, particularly for small business owners, who appear to be the primary targets of this scheme.

Although efforts have been made to warn trademark owners of this type of scam,⁸ this company was formed nearly a decade ago,⁹ has targeted trademark holders for many years¹⁰ and continues to operate largely unabated to this day.

We respectfully urge the FTC to act swiftly and take appropriate enforcement action. Doing so would not only halt this company's ongoing deception and protect small business owners and others from further harm, but also send a clear and powerful message that impersonating government agencies and engaging in such deceptive

practices will not be tolerated and will result in significant civil penalties.

Sincerely,



Laura Smith, Esq.
Legal Director
Truth in Advertising, Inc.



Bonnie Patten, Esq.
Executive Director
Truth in Advertising, Inc.

Cc via email: Laura Clinton, Consumer Protection Division Chief
Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division
Laura.Clinton@atg.wa.gov

Joseph Kanada, Team Lead
Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division
Joe.Kanada@atg.wa.gov

Trademark Scams, USPTO, TMScams@uspto.gov

Patent & Trademark Office, info@pto-us.com

¹ 16 CFR Part 461.

² The address listed on the company’s website, <https://pto-us.com/>, is 19125 North Creek Parkway, Suite 120, Bothell, WA 98011.

In addition, two entities—one named Patent & Trademark Office LLC and another named Patent & Trademark Resource Center LLC—are registered with the Washington Secretary of State.

Corporations and Charities Filing System
Business Information

BUSINESS INFORMATION	
Business Name: PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE LLC	UBI Number: 604 485 055
Business Type: WA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY	Business Status: ACTIVE
Principal Office Street Address: 906 W 2ND AVE STE 100, SPOKANE, WA, 99201-4540, UNITED STATES	Principal Office Mailing Address: 906 W 2ND AVE STE 100, SPOKANE, WA, 99201-4540, UNITED STATES
Expiration Date: 07/31/2026	Jurisdiction: UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON
Formation/ Registration Date: 07/17/2019	Period of Duration: PERPETUAL
Inactive Date:	Nature of Business: OTHER SERVICES

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Registered Agent Name: NORTHWEST REGISTERED AGENT, LLC
Street Address: 906 W 2ND AVE # 100, SPOKANE, WA, 99201, UNITED STATES
Mailing Address: 906 W 2ND AVE # 100, SPOKANE, WA, 99201, UNITED STATES

Corporations and Charities Filing System
Business Information

BUSINESS INFORMATION	
Business Name: PATENT & TRADEMARK RESOURCE CENTER LLC	UBI Number: 603 606 215
Business Type: WA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY	Business Status: ACTIVE
Principal Office Street Address: 12345 LAKE CITY WAY NE # 3152, SEATTLE, WA, 98125-5401, UNITED STATES	Principal Office Mailing Address: 12345 LAKE CITY WAY NE # 3152, SEATTLE, WA, 98125-5401, UNITED STATES
Expiration Date: 03/31/2026	Jurisdiction: UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON
Formation/ Registration Date: 03/31/2016	Period of Duration: PERPETUAL
Inactive Date:	Nature of Business: OTHER SERVICES, PATENT&TRADEMARK SERVICES

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Registered Agent Name: AMERICAN CORPORATE SERVICES INC
Street Address: 17200 153RD AVE SE, YELM, WA, 98597-0000, UNITED STATES
Mailing Address:

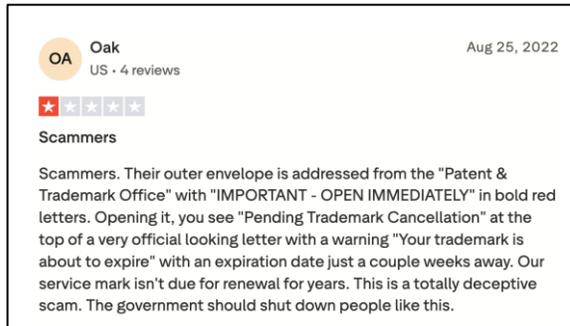
Of note, the Better Business Bureau’s profile page for the company also lists a Washington state address and identifies Oleg Popko as its Manager. *See* BBB Business Profile for Patent & Trademark Resource Center, LLC, available at <https://www.bbb.org/us/wa/bothell/profile/patent-agent/patent-trademark-resource-center-llc-1296-1000032252>.

Regulators in the state of Washington are copied on this letter.

³ In December 2025, TINA.org received four such notices for four different trademark registrations, each one falsely claiming that the registration is “about to expire” on January 3, 2026 when, in reality, TINA.org’s trademark registrations at issue are not due for renewal until 2028.

⁴ The notices sent to TINA.org are consistent with those reportedly received by others. *See, e.g.*, Pending Trademark Cancellation letter from Patent & Trademark Office pto-us.com, Reddit, https://www.reddit.com/r/TRADEMARK/comments/1loonw0/scam_pending_trademark_cancellation_letter_from/ (which links to the notice this consumer received, available at <https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/PTO%20%28Bothell%2C%20WA%29%20%28color%20red%29%20%28redacted%29.pdf>).

⁵ Aug. 25, 2022 consumer complaint, Trustpilot profile page for pto-us.com, available at <https://www.trustpilot.com/review/pto-us.com>.



⁶ See, e.g., <https://www.bbb.org/us/wa/bothell/profile/patent-agent/patent-trademark-resource-center-llc-1296-1000032252>; <https://www.trustpilot.com/review/pto-us.com>.

⁷ Trademark Fee Information, United States Patent and Trademark Office, <https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/trademark-fee-information>.

⁸ See, e.g., FTC Consumer Alert, *Scammers are impersonating the United States Patent and Trademark Office*, Sept. 9, 2025, <https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2025/09/scammers-are-impersonating-united-states-patent-and-trademark-office>; *Recognizing common scams*, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, <https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/protect/recognizing-common-scams>.

⁹ According to the Washington Secretary of State's website, Patent & Trademark Resource Center, LLC was formed and registered on March 31, 2016, and Patent & Trademark Office LLC was formed and registered on July 17, 2019.

¹⁰ See, e.g., *Legalforce Rapc Worldwide, P.C. v. ITP Service et al.*, Case. No. 19-1528, N.D. Cal., Mar. 25, 2019 Complaint; Nov. 3, 2021 consumer complaint, Trustpilot profile page for pto-us.com, available at <https://www.trustpilot.com/review/pto-us.com>; Mar. 27, 2023 consumer complaint, BBB profile page for Patent & Trademark Resource Center, LLC, available at <https://www.bbb.org/us/wa/bothell/profile/patent-agent/patent-trademark-resource-center-llc-1296-1000032252>.

EXHIBIT A

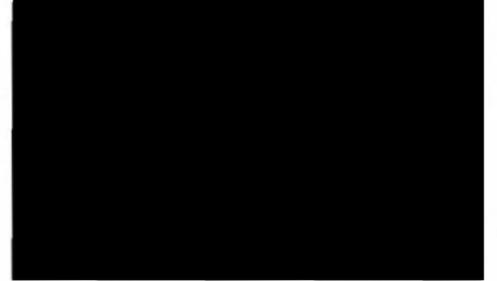
PENDING TRADEMARK CANCELLATION

Your Trademark is about to expire. Renewal date: Jan.03.2026

1. Correspondence address:



2. Graphic representation:



TRADEMARK RENEWAL OFFER UNDER DECLARATION SECTION 8

3. Trademark Name: [REDACTED]	6. Registration Number: [REDACTED]
4. Type: Service Mark	7. Number of Classes: 1
5. Registration Date: [REDACTED]	8. Classes: 035

9. IMPORTANT INFORMATION -PLEASE READ

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10. Declaration of Incontestability:

Please check box if you are interested in filing a Trademark Incontestability (15 U.S.C. § 1065) for an extra Fee \$ 400 per class

11. Section 8 Filing Fees:

One class renewal fee: \$ 1,250
 Subsequent class(es): \$ 0
TOTAL: \$ 1,250

12. SIGN AND RETURN IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE:

 Name and Title (Enter appropriate title or nature of relationship to the owner/holder).

 _____ (e-mail) required

 _____ (Date and Signature) required

