Six Redskins Trademarks Canceled - Here's The Cover Letter That The Government Thought Was "Too Technical" For You!

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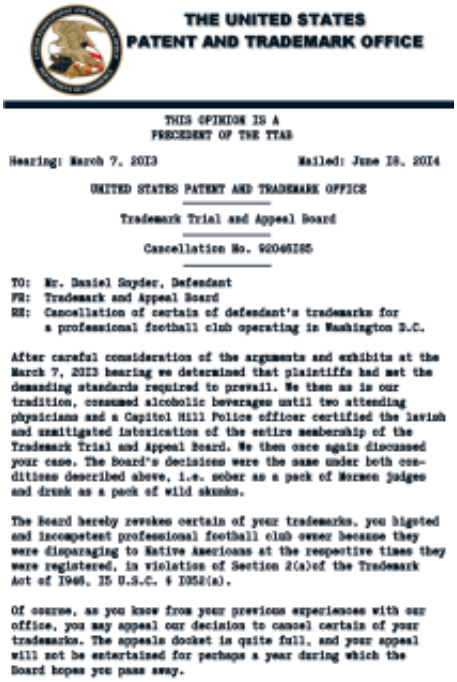

THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

THIS OPINION IS A
PRECEDENT OF THE TTAB

Hearing: March 7, 2013 Mailed: June 18, 2014

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Trademark Trial and Appeal Board

Cancellation No. 92046185

TO: Mr. Daniel Snyder, Defendant
FR: Trademark and Appeal Board
RE: Cancellation of certain of defendant's trademarks for a professional football club operating in Washington D.C.

After careful consideration of the arguments and exhibits at the March 7, 2013 hearing we determined that plaintiffs had met the demanding standards required to prevail. We then as is our tradition, consumed alcoholic beverages until two attending physicians and a Capitol Hill Police officer certified the lavish and unmitigated intoxication of the entire membership of the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. We then once again discussed your case. The Board's decisions were the same under both conditions described above, i.e. sober as a pack of Mormon judges and drunk as a pack of wild skunks.

The Board hereby revokes certain of your trademarks, you bigoted and incompetent professional football club owner because they were disparaging to Native Americans at the respective times they were registered, in violation of Section 2(a)of the Trademark Act of 1946, 15 U.S.C. § 1052(a).

Of course, as you know from your previous experiences with our office, you may appeal our decision to cancel certain of your trademarks. The appeals docket is quite full, and your appeal will not be entertained for perhaps a year during which the Board hopes you pass away.

Michael Matthew Bloomer, June 19, 2014.

The sports world and the other parts of the world learned today that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington D.C. cancelled six of the Washington Redskins' trademarks. The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) determined that the trademarks "were disparaging to Native Americans at the respective times they were registered, in violation of Section 2(a) of the Trademark Act of 1946, 15 U.S.C. Sec. 1052(a)." The trademark statutes prohibit "registration of marks that may disparage persons or bring them into contempt or disrepute." Click here for the official TTAB opinion, a .pdf that may take a few moments to load in a new tab.)

The cover letter accompanying the opinion was not released to the public, and many organizations will file Freedom of Information Act petitions to get the letter released. I, however, came into a copy of the letter through reportorial chutzpah and outright theft. It makes interesting and revealing reading about how the TTAB ponders and crafts its major trademark cancellation decisions.

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

THIS OPINION IS A
PRECEDENT OF THE TTAB

Hearing: March 7, 20I3 Mailed: June I8, 20I4

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Trademark Trial and Appeal Board

Cancellation No. 92046I85

TO: Mr. Daniel Snyder, Defendant
FR: Trademark and Appeal Board
RE: Cancellation of certain of defendant's trademarks for a professional football club operating in Washington D.C.

After careful consideration of the arguments and exhibits at the March 7, 20I3 hearing we determined that plaintiffs had met the demanding standards required to prevail. We then as is our tradition, consumed alcoholic beverages until two attending physicians and a Capitol Hill Police officer certified the lavish and unmitigated intoxication of the entire membership of the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. We then once again discussed your case. The Board's decisions were the same under both conditions described above, i.e. sober as a pack of Mormon judges and drunk as a pack of wild skunks.

The Board hereby revokes certain of your trademarks, you bigoted and incompetent professional football club owner because they were disparaging to Native Americans at the respective times they were registered, in violation of Section 2(a)of the Trademark Act of I946, I5 U.S.C. § I052(a).

Of course, as you know from your previous experiences with our office, you may appeal our decision to cancel certain of your trademarks. The appeals docket is quite full, and your appeal will not be entertained for perhaps a year during which the Board hopes you pass away.

(The Board's carefully crafted bifurcated deliberative process, by the way, has been *status quo* throughout the government since the Reagan Administration, particularly in the 21st Century U.S. House of Representatives.)