

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to provide practitioners with basic information generally useful for litigating cases before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. It is not meant to modify, amend, or serve as a substitute for any existing statutes, rules, or decisional law. Rather, it is intended to describe current practice and procedure thereunder, as of the date of preparation of the manual.

Practitioners should bear in mind that statutes, rules, decisional law, and practice and procedure thereunder are subject to frequent change (albeit not by means of statements in this manual). Moreover, the manual is not binding upon the Board, its reviewing tribunals, the Commissioner, or the PTO. Cf., *In re Wine Society of America Inc.*, 12 USPQ2d 1139 (TTAB 1989).

The bulk of the manual relates primarily to the two most common types of inter partes proceedings before the Board, namely, opposition and cancellation proceedings. However, the first chapter includes general information useful for all proceedings, and the latter part of the manual contains chapters devoted specifically to interference and concurrent use proceedings, as well as a chapter pertaining to ex parte appeals to the Board.

The manual will be updated periodically. Suggestions for improving the content of the manual are welcome. They should be addressed as follows:

Assistant Commissioner for Trademarks
Box TTAB No Fee
Attention: Chief Administrative Trademark Judge
2900 Crystal Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22202-3513

The title of the manual is abbreviated as "TBMP". A citation to a section of the manual may be written as "TBMP §_____" (e.g. "TBMP §110.01," "TBMP §113.06," etc.).