

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

In the 37 years since the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) was established by Congress, the body of trademark law has grown substantially. So, too, has the complexity of administrative practice before the TTAB.

The TTAB's practice and procedure are governed by the Lanham Act and other statutory provisions, the Trademark Rules of Practice, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence, and reported cases. But there are elements of TTAB practice and procedure that are not easily extracted from those several sources, particularly by practitioners who represent parties before the TTAB only occasionally. And there are certain elements of TTAB practice and procedure that are not to be found in those statutes, rules, and cases.

With the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Manual of Procedure (TBMP), we aim to provide, in one publication, a comprehensive statement of our administrative procedures. We intend this manual to be a dynamic document that will be changed and supplemented, on a regular basis, as TTAB practice changes.

Although many people were involved in the numerous discussions that attended the writing of this volume, the TBMP is essentially the work of one person: TTAB Administrative Trademark Judge Janet E. Rice. Without her encyclopedic knowledge of TTAB practice and her indefatigable effort as reporter, publication of the manual, in its present form, would not have happened.

J. David Sams
Chief Administrative Trademark Judge
Trademark Trial and Appeal Board

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