

FRAUDULENT TRADEMARK SOLICITATIONS

By
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I often receive telephone calls from clients who have received a document through the U.S. mail that looks like official correspondence from a government agency. This correspondence tells the client that there is a deadline to file a document with the Trademark office or offers to manage their trademarks. These solicitations are scams.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (U.S.P.T.O.) has been fighting fraudulent trademark solicitations for years. In December 2016, the U.S. Department of Justice announced that two California men pled guilty in a mass mailing scam that targeted owners of U.S. trademark applications. The men admitted to stealing approximately \$1.6 million from trademark registrants and applicants of U.S. trademarks through companies called Trademark Compliance Center (TCC) and Trademark Compliance Office (TC). See [the article by clicking HERE](#).

If you have a pending trademark application or you own trademarks that are registered through the U.S.P.T.O. be careful to read any correspondence you may receive pertaining to the application or registration. Trademark applications and registrations are public records that anyone may review. There are numerous companies that try to trick trademark owners and applicants into paying fraudulent fees for unnecessary services. See *INTA Fact Sheet on Unsolicited Offers for Trademark Related Services in the United States – Trademark Basics Fact Sheet*

The services offered are often duplicate services provided by the USPTO or they offer to manage the trademark under false pretenses. Some examples of fraudulent entities that send out these solicitations are:

1. Patent & Trademark Resource Center
2. Patent and Trademark Organization
3. Trademark Office, Ltd.
4. U.S. Trademark Compliance Office

For a more extensive list go to [Non-USPTO Solicitations](#).

Tips to trademark owners:

- Before paying any trademark related fees, verify that the invoice is from an authorized entity.
- Make sure the document is from the USPTO, no other government entity will contact you regarding your trademarks.
- If you have trademark counsel forward the document to them for review and advise.
- Read the USPTO warning on non-USPTO Solicitations.

**[Intellectual Property in the
Press]**
Who Owns the Rights to Songs by The Beatles ?



"56 Years Later, Paul McCartney Wants His Beatles Songs Back..."

"The U.S. Copyright Act of 1976 states that pre-1978 tracks writers can reclaim their U.S. publishing rights 56 years after signing said rights away. In court documents obtained by DMN, Paul McCartney is taking advantage of that law as he filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Sony/ATV to reclaim The Beatles songs."

—Digital Music News.com

For full story access, please click [HERE](#).



[About Crystal T. Broughan](#)

Crystal T. Broughan is an Intellectual Property Law Attorney with Marks Gray, P.A. Her practice primarily focuses on matters such as trademark, patent and copyright infringement cases. She prepares and files trademark and copyright applications, licensing agreements, non-compete and non-disclosure agreements for a wide variety of clients. In addition, she represents clients before the Trademark Trials and Appeals Board on trademark disputes.

For more information, please visit her profile on the [Marks Gray website](#) or connect with her on [LinkedIn](#).

[Intellectual Property: Community Calendar]

Jacksonville Women's Network

**Jacksonville Women's Network:
18th Annual Speaker's Forum,
featuring Heather Knight**

Robots and Humans: The Intersection

**Adam W. Herbert University Center UNF
February 2, 2017
5:30pm-8:30pm**

Heather Knight is a Ph.D candidate at Carnegie Mellon and founder of Marilyn Monrobot. Her current research involves human-robot interaction, non-verbal machine communications and non-



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March 2, 2017-- Haydn's Miracle**

anthropomorphic social robots. She was named to the 2011 Forbes List for 30 Under 30 in Science and Innovation and is featured for her Robot Comedy performances on TED.

Her work includes: robotics and instrumentation at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, interactive installations with Ssyn Labs, field applications and sensor design at Aldebaran Robotics. She is an alumna from the Personal Robots Group at the MIT Media Lab.

The Speaker's Forum is open to the public. You can register at: www.jaxwomensnetwork.com

This 60 minute concert event begins at 5:30pm with complimentary happy hour refreshments.

General admission for concert seating begins at 6:30pm with a post party to follow. Features include a meet and greet with the musicians and complimentary beverages.

For a program description, or to purchase tickets, please click [HERE](#).



**Women's Business Luncheon:
Legal Panel and Networking Event
featuring Crystal Broughan, Allison
Sausaman and Jill Bechtold of Marks
Gray**

Join us for a lunch and a legal panel on February 23rd, featuring insights on IP, employment and business law.

Networking begins at 11:30am with introductions and legal panel at noon. Moxie Kitchen is located at 4972 Big Island Drive, Jacksonville, FL (near St. John's Town Center). For more information visit [Women's Business Luncheon](#).

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Let Our Team of Experts Protect your Business

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