

[Attachment - 36](#)

[Attachment - 37](#)

[Attachment - 38](#)

[Attachment - 39](#)

[Attachment - 40](#)

[Attachment - 41](#)

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)
OFFICE ACTION (OFFICIAL LETTER) ABOUT APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION**

APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 85020085

MARK: LIKE

85020085

CORRESPONDENT ADDRESS:

LAURI S. THOMPSON
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP
3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY STE 400N
LAS VEGAS, NV 89169-5956

CLICK HERE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER:
http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response_forms.jsp

APPLICANT: Facebook Inc.

CORRESPONDENT'S REFERENCE/DOCKET

NO:

114713 45

CORRESPONDENT E-MAIL ADDRESS:

lvpto@gtlaw.com

OFFICE ACTION

STRICT DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER

TO AVOID ABANDONMENT OF APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION, THE USPTO MUST RECEIVE APPLICANT'S COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER **WITHIN 6 MONTHS** OF THE ISSUE/MAILING DATE BELOW.

ISSUE/MAILING DATE: 8/26/2011

On February 11, 2011, action on this application was suspended pending the disposition of Application Serial No. 78936428. The referenced pending application has abandoned and is no longer a potential bar to the registration of applicant's mark.

On the aforementioned date, action on this application was suspended pending the disposition of Application Serial No. 78981806. The referenced prior-pending application has since registered. Therefore, registration is refused as follows.

Trademark Act Section 2(d) Refusal to Register

Registration of the applied-for mark is refused because of a likelihood of confusion with the mark in U.S. Registration No. 3849036. Trademark Act Section 2(d), 15 U.S.C. §1052(d); *see* TMEP §§1207.01 *et seq.* See the enclosed registration.

Trademark Act Section 2(d) bars registration of an applied-for mark that so resembles a registered mark that it is likely that a potential consumer would be confused or mistaken or deceived as to the source of the goods and/or services of the applicant and registrant. *See* 15 U.S.C. §1052(d). The court in *In re E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 476 F.2d 1357, 177 USPQ 563 (C.C.P.A. 1973) listed the principal factors to be considered when determining whether there is a likelihood of confusion under Section 2(d). *See* TMEP §1207.01. However, not all the factors are necessarily relevant or of equal weight, and any one factor may be dominant in a given case, depending upon the evidence of record. *Citigroup Inc. v. Capital City Bank Grp., Inc.*, ___ F.3d ___, 98 USPQ2d 1253, 1260 (Fed. Cir. 2011); *In re Majestic Distilling Co.*, 315 F.3d 1311, 1315, 65 USPQ2d 1201, 1204 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *see In re E. I. du Pont*, 476 F.2d at 1361-62, 177 USPQ at 567.

In this case, the following factors are the most relevant: similarity of the marks, similarity of the goods and/or services, and similarity of trade channels of the goods and/or services. *See In re Dakin's Miniatures Inc.*, 59 USPQ2d 1593 (TTAB 1999); TMEP §§1207.01 *et seq.*

Taking into account the relevant *du Pont* factors, a likelihood of confusion determination in this case involves a two-part analysis. *See In re E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.*, 476 F.2d 1357, 1361-62, 177 USPQ 563, 567 (C.C.P.A. 1973); *In re 1st USA Realty Prof'ls Inc.*, 84 USPQ2d 1581, 1584 (TTAB 2007); *see also In re Dixie Rests. Inc.*, 105 F.3d 1405, 1406-07, 41 USPQ2d 1531, 1533 (Fed. Cir. 1997). The marks are compared for similarities in their appearance, sound, connotation and commercial impression. TMEP §§1207.01, 1207.01(b). The goods and/or services are compared to determine whether they are similar or commercially related or travel in the same trade channels. *See Herbko Int'l, Inc. v. Kappa Books, Inc.*, 308 F.3d 1156, 1164-65, 64 USPQ2d 1375, 1380 (Fed. Cir. 2002); *Han Beauty, Inc. v. Alberto-Culver Co.*, 236 F.3d 1333, 1336, 57 USPQ2d 1557, 1559 (Fed. Cir. 2001); TMEP §§1207.01, 1207.01(a)(vi).

The applicant's mark, LIKE, is similar to the registrant's mark, ILIKE. The only difference in the marks is the initial letter "I" in the registered mark. This difference does not alter the commercial impression of the marks.

The goods and/or services of the parties need not be identical or directly competitive to find a likelihood of confusion. *See Safety-Kleen Corp. v. Dresser Indus., Inc.*, 518 F.2d 1399, 1404, 186 USPQ 476, 480 (C.C.P.A. 1975); TMEP §1207.01(a)(i). Rather, it is sufficient to show that because of the conditions surrounding their marketing, or because they are otherwise related in some manner, the goods and/or services would be encountered by the same consumers under circumstances such that offering the goods and/or services under confusingly similar marks would lead to the mistaken belief that they come from, or are in some way associated with, the same source. *In re Iolo Techs., LLC*, 95 USPQ2d 1498, 1499 (TTAB 2010); *see In re Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe, Inc.*, 748 F.2d 1565, 1566-68, 223 USPQ 1289, 1290 (Fed. Cir. 1984); TMEP §1207.01(a)(i).

If the goods and/or services of the respective parties are "similar in kind and/or closely related," the degree of similarity between the marks required to support a finding of likelihood of confusion is not as great as would be required with diverse goods and/or services. *In re J.M. Originals Inc.*, 6

USPQ2d 1393, 1394 (TTAB 1987) (emphasis added); *see Shen Mfg. Co. v. Ritz Hotel Ltd.*, 393 F.3d 1238, 1242, 73 USPQ2d 1350, 1354 (Fed. Cir. 2004); TMEP §1207.01(b).

The applicant's services, "social introduction, networking and dating services; providing social services and information in the field of personal development, namely, self-improvement, self-fulfillment, charitable, philanthropic, volunteer, public and community services, and humanitarian activities; identification verification services, namely, providing authentication of personal identification information," are related to the registrant's goods and services, which include the essentially identical services "Internet based introduction and social networking services" and the closely related services "computer services in the nature of customized web pages featuring user-defined information, personal profiles and information." The goods/services of both parties travel through the same channels of trade to the same classes of purchasers. Accordingly, because confusion as to source is likely, registration is refused under Trademark Act Section 2(d) based on a likelihood of confusion.

The trademark examining attorney has attached evidence from the USPTO's X-Search database consisting of a number of third-party marks registered for use in connection with the same or similar services as those of both applicant and registrant in this case. This evidence shows that the services of both parties are of a kind that may emanate from a single source under a single mark. *See In re Davey Prods. Pty Ltd.*, 92 USPQ2d 1198, 1203 (TTAB 2009); *In re Albert Trostel & Sons Co.*, 29 USPQ2d 1783, 1785-86 (TTAB 1993); *In re Mucky Duck Mustard Co.*, 6 USPQ2d 1467, 1470 n.6 (TTAB 1988); TMEP §1207.01(d)(iii).

The question is not whether people will confuse the marks, but whether the marks will confuse people into believing that the goods and/or services they identify come from the same source. *In re West Point-Pepperell, Inc.*, 468 F.2d 200, 201, 175 USPQ 558, 558-59 (C.C.P.A. 1972); TMEP §1207.01(b). For that reason, the test of likelihood of confusion is not whether the marks can be distinguished when subjected to a side-by-side comparison. The question is whether the marks create the same overall impression. *See Recot, Inc. v. M.C. Becton*, 214 F.3d 1322, 1329-30, 54 USPQ2d 1894, 1899 (Fed. Cir. 2000); *Visual Info. Inst., Inc. v. Vicon Indus. Inc.*, 209 USPQ 179, 189 (TTAB 1980). The focus is on the recollection of the average purchaser who normally retains a general rather than specific impression of trademarks. *Chemetron Corp. v. Morris Coupling & Clamp Co.*, 203 USPQ 537, 540-41 (TTAB 1979); *Sealed Air Corp. v. Scott Paper Co.*, 190 USPQ 106, 108 (TTAB 1975); TMEP §1207.01(b).

The overriding concern is not only to prevent buyer confusion as to the source of the goods and/or services, but to protect the registrant from adverse commercial impact due to use of a similar mark by a newcomer. *See In re Shell Oil Co.*, 992 F.2d 1204, 1208, 26 USPQ2d 1687, 1690 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Therefore, any doubt regarding a likelihood of confusion determination is resolved in favor of the registrant. TMEP §1207.01(d)(i); *see Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Packard Press, Inc.*, 281 F.3d 1261, 1265, 62 USPQ2d 1001, 1003 (Fed. Cir. 2002); *In re Hyper Shoppes (Ohio), Inc.*, 837 F.2d 463, 464-65, 6 USPQ2d 1025, 1025 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Although applicant's mark has been refused registration, applicant may respond to the refusal(s) by submitting evidence and arguments in support of registration.

Response Guidelines

To expedite prosecution of the application, applicant is encouraged to file its response to this Office action online via the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), which is available at

<http://www.uspto.gov/teas/index.html>. If applicant has technical questions about the TEAS response to Office action form, applicant can review the electronic filing tips available online at <http://www.uspto.gov/teas/eFilingTips.htm> and email technical questions to TEAS@uspto.gov.

/Matthew J. Pappas/
USPTO Examining Attorney, Law Office 107
HELP LINE: 800-786-9199
Email: matthew.pappas@uspto.gov
Tel: 571-272-9206

TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER: Go to http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response_forms.jsp. Please wait 48-72 hours from the issue/ mailing date before using TEAS, to allow for necessary system updates of the application. For *technical* assistance with online forms, e-mail TEAS@uspto.gov. For questions about the Office action itself, please contact the assigned trademark examining attorney. **E-mail communications will not be accepted as responses to Office actions; therefore, do not respond to this Office action by e-mail.**

All informal e-mail communications relevant to this application will be placed in the official application record.

WHO MUST SIGN THE RESPONSE: It must be personally signed by an individual applicant or someone with legal authority to bind an applicant (i.e., a corporate officer, a general partner, all joint applicants). If an applicant is represented by an attorney, the attorney must sign the response.

PERIODICALLY CHECK THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION: To ensure that applicant does not miss crucial deadlines or official notices, check the status of the application every three to four months using Trademark Applications and Registrations Retrieval (TARR) at <http://tarr.uspto.gov/>. Please keep a copy of the complete TARR screen. If TARR shows no change for more than six months, call 1-800-786-9199. For more information on checking status, see <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/status/>.

TO UPDATE CORRESPONDENCE/E-MAIL ADDRESS: Use the TEAS form at <http://www.uspto.gov/teas/eTEASpageE.htm>.