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#### IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91225933
Party	Plaintiff The Coca-Cola Company
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Attachments	2018.08.15 Response to Order.pdf(24753 bytes )



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

THE COCA-COLA COMPANY,	)
Opposer,	) OPPOSITION NO. 91225933
V.	)
REPLANET HOLDINGS, INC.,	)
Applicant.	)

## OPPOSER'S RESPONSE TO ORDER DATED JULY 10, 2018

Opposer The Coca-Cola Company ("TCCC"), by and through its undersigned counsel, files this response to the Board's July 10, 2018 order (TTABVUE 26) denying without prejudice the parties' consent motion, filed on July 3, 2018 (TTABVUE 25), to extend the testimony periods in this proceeding. For the reasons stated below, TCCC requests that the Board approve the extension that was the subject of the parties' July 3 consent motion.

## ARGUMENT AND CITATION OF AUTHORITIES

In its order dated March 24, 2018 (TTABVUE 24), the Board granted a consent motion, filed on March 19, 2018, to extend the discovery period. In that order, the Board imposed "a condition on the approval of all future motions to suspend or extend *for settlement*" (24 TTABVUE 1)(emphasis added), requiring that the parties must include in any such motion "a status report on the parties' settlement efforts." The order further stated that "the parties may no longer use the ESTTA 'Consent Motions'



forms to submit motions to extend or suspend dates for settlement." *Id.* at 2 (emphasis in original). The order also made clear, however, that the requirement to use the general filings option and provide such a status report "is *limited to consent motions based on settlement discussions*, and *does not prohibit the use of ESTTA consent forms for other filings.*" *Id.* (emphases added).

Based on the above language, TCCC believed that it was proper for the parties to use the ESTTA consent motion form for the July 3 motion. Unlike several earlier consent motions submitted in connection with this proceeding, the July 3 motion was not "for settlement" and the form did not so indicate. *Compare* TTABVUE 25 (grounds for request were "Parties are unable to complete discovery/testimony during assigned period") *with* TTABVUE 17, 19, 21 (grounds included that "Parties are engaged in settlement discussions").

Following receipt of the Board's March 24 order, the parties had discontinued their settlement discussions and, during the months of April and May, had been actively engaged in discovery. More specifically, TCCC served written discovery requests on Applicant rePlanet Holdings, Inc. ("rePlanet") in April, and rePlanet served responses to those requests in May. As of the date of the July 3 motion, the parties were engaged in discussions regarding outstanding discovery issues that had not been completed, and the July 3 motion was filed in order to provide the parties the time needed to resolve those issues and complete discovery. While the parties had discussed the possibility of reopening their past discussions and resolving this proceeding through a settlement, no settlement discussions were actively ongoing at the time the consent motion was filed and the extension was not sought for purposes of pursuing settlement.



In view of the above, TCCC respectfully requests that the use of the ESTTA consent motion form was proper at the time it was used on July 3, and that the Board, consistent with the clear language of its March 28 order, should have approved that motion without requiring "a status report on the parties' settlement efforts."

Approximately one week after the July 3 motion was filed, however, the parties did in fact resume discussions regarding possible settlement of this matter. On July 11, 2018, counsel for TCCC sent to rePlanet's counsel an e-mail message outlining the terms on which TCCC would be willing to resolve this matter. rePlanet's counsel provided a preliminary response with respect to which the parties' counsel had a further e-mail exchange that same day (July 11) and, on August 2, 2018, rePlanet provided a written substantive response to each of the terms proposed by TCCC. On Sunday, August 12, counsel for the parties spoke by telephone. Based on that conversation, TCCC believes that the parties have reached an agreement in principle regarding settlement of this matter. TCCC's counsel is now preparing a draft agreement between the parties that reflects that agreement in principle, and expects to forward that draft to rePlanet's counsel within the next few days.

Under the current schedule, TCCC's testimony period is scheduled to close on August 17, 2018. The consent motion submitted on July 3 would extend that date until September 16, 2018. In view of the current status of this matter and the parties' most recent discussions, as outlined above, TCCC's undersigned counsel expects that the parties will be able to finalize and consummate their settlement prior to that extended September 16 date.



## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, TCCC respectfully requests that the Board approve the consent motion filed on July 3, 2018 that was previously denied without prejudice and extend, to and including September 16, 2018, TCCC's testimony period in this matter, as requested in the July 3, 2018 consent motion.

Respectfully submitted,

KING & SPALDING LLP

Date: August 15, 2018 /Bruce W. Baber/

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