

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



USPTO Hour: combating trademark fraud and threats

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FY25 RPO priorities

Clear invalid inventory

- Sanctions orders
 - Reopen registrations
 - Signature policy
- Misassignments

Enhance filing security

- Form authentication
- Role-based access controls

Increasing efficiency

- Case management
- Sanctions attorney user platform and automated workflow
- Predictive analytics

Reopening registrations for reconsideration

Sellergrowth orders and notices

- Show Cause Order
- Notice of proposed reopening for reconsideration

What's significant here?

- We have launched a new process whereby we are reopening registrations for reconsideration of the registration decision based on evidence of widespread rule violations and fraud
 - In previous sanction orders, registrations found to be invalid were identified as "sanctioned" but not actually removed from the register

What do the Rules say about signatures?

All documents must be personally signed by the named signatory

- A person cannot delegate authority to sign trademark-related submissions
- A person cannot sign for another or enter the name of another on their behalf

Defective signatures

- Ability to perfect defective signature if signatory truthfully identified themselves; can follow procedure provided in Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure (TMPE) 712.03
- Cannot correct signature if:
 - Serious defect
 - Not born out of exercise of reasonable care



Stelcore Order for Sanctions

Stelcore orders

- Show cause order
- Order for sanctions
 - Engaged in unauthorized practice of law
 - Submitted documents with invalid signatures that cannot be corrected or perfected

What's significant here?

- Improper signatures made with the intent to circumvent the USPTO rules invalidate the submission and may result in termination of ongoing application and registration proceedings.

USPTO response to hijacking attorney credentials

Get declaration
from hijacked
attorney

Remove
attorney name
from records

Suspend
accounts

Block credit
cards

Misassign
applications

Administrative
orders

USPTO response to hijacking applications and registrations

Hostile change of
correspondence
address or
representative (CAR)
forms

Slow bulk CAR form
uploads

Suspend accounts and
implement name filter

Remove hostile data
from records

Pilot program to
authenticate forms

Additional authorization



Forms Withdrawal of **Attorney**

Section 7 **Surrender**

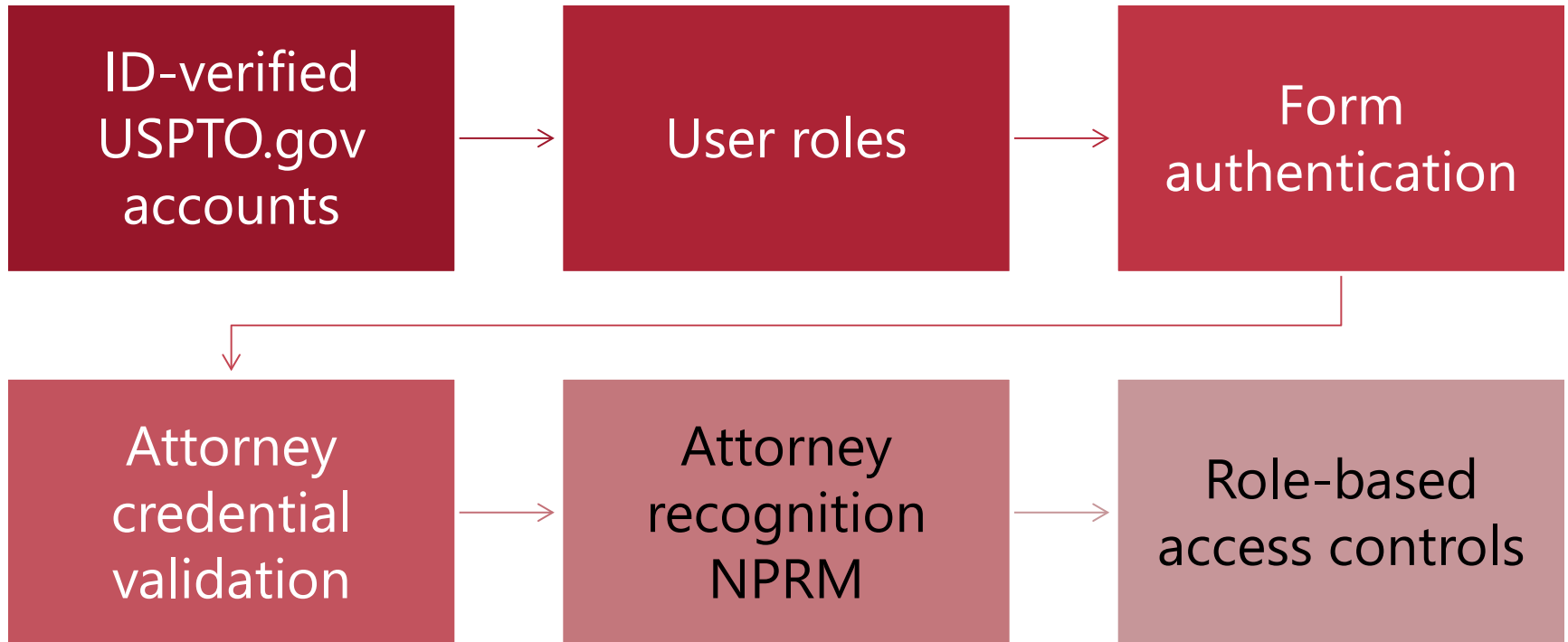
Request for Express Abandonment

Change of **Address or Representation**

Voluntary Amendment

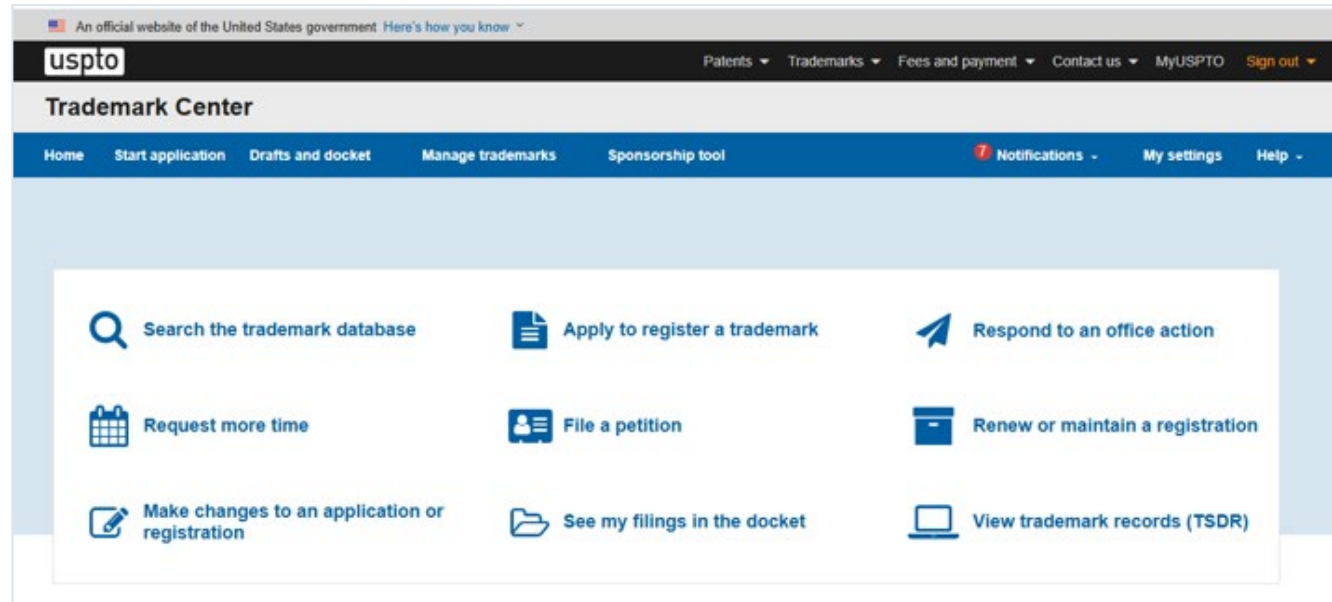


The road to role-based access controls



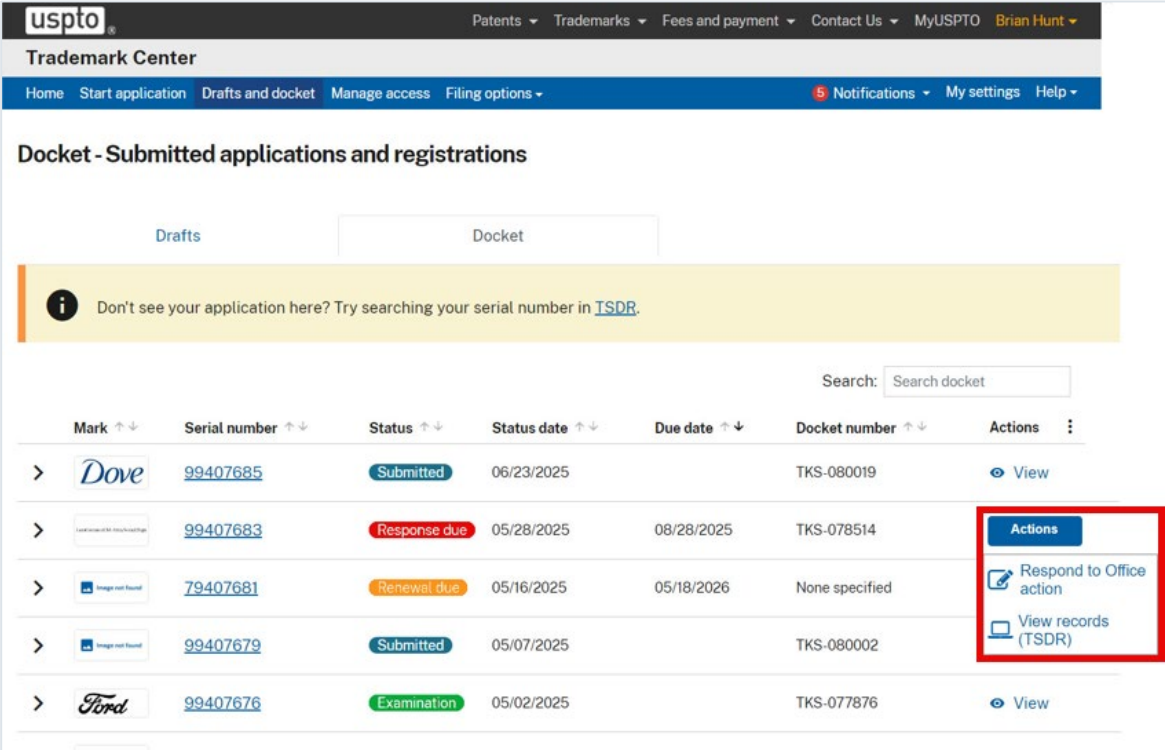
June's testing design

- Key tasks and guided form tools drive the design



Positive results from June's tests






- Customers easily found the "Actions" column and intuitively understood how to access a form or guided tool



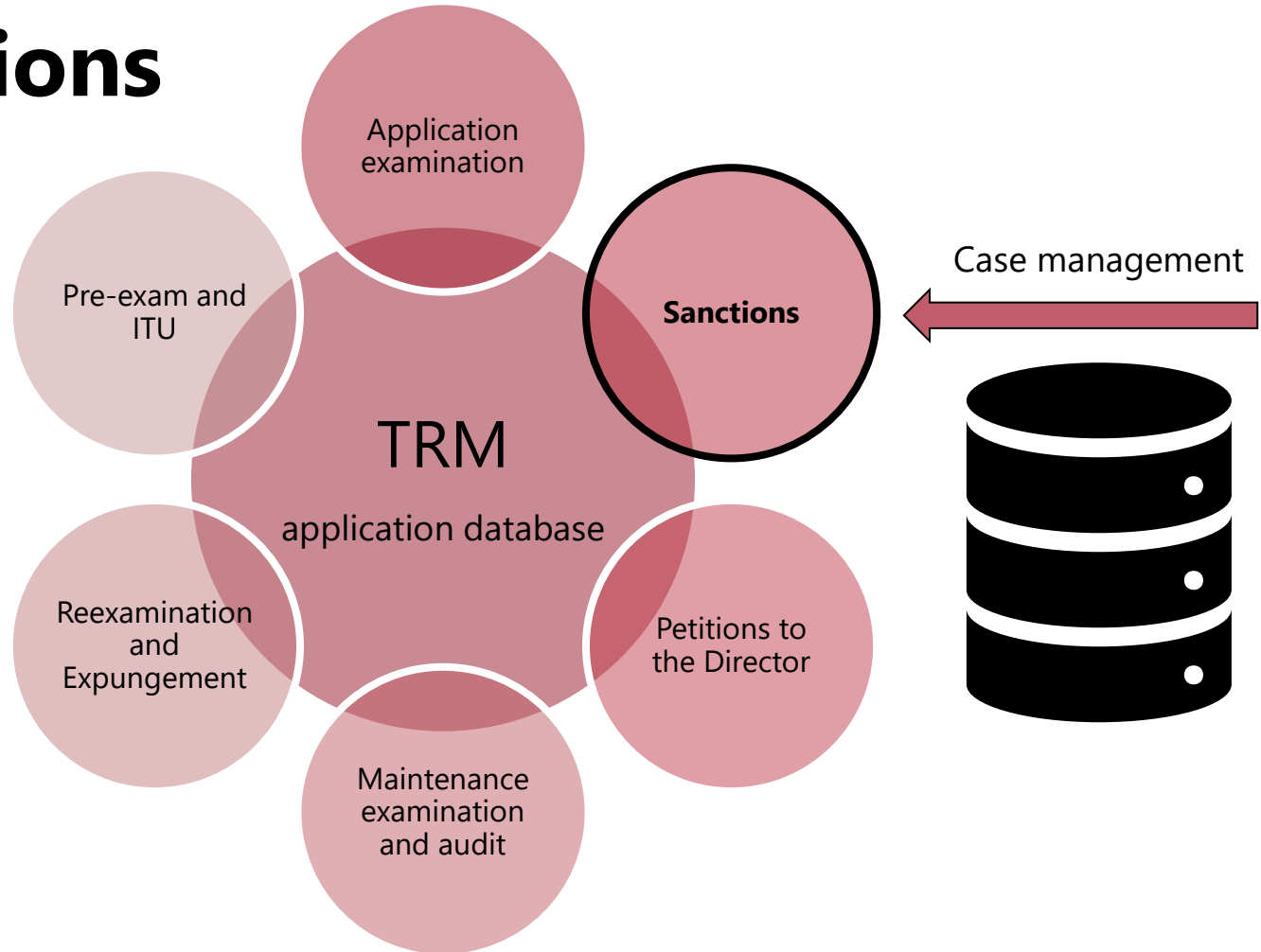
The screenshot displays the USPTO Trademark Center interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Patents, Trademarks, Fees and payment, Contact Us, MyUSPTO, and a user profile for Brian Hunt. The main header is 'Trademark Center' with sub-links for Home, Start application, Drafts and docket, Manage access, and Filing options. A notification bell icon and links for Notifications, My settings, and Help are also present.

The page title is 'Docket - Submitted applications and registrations'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Drafts' and 'Docket'. A yellow informational banner states: 'Don't see your application here? Try searching your serial number in [TSDR](#).'.

A search bar labeled 'Search: Search docket' is located above the table. The table has columns for Mark, Serial number, Status, Status date, Due date, Docket number, and Actions. The 'Actions' column is highlighted with a red box, showing a dropdown menu with options: 'Respond to Office action' and 'View records (TSDR)'.

Mark	Serial number	Status	Status date	Due date	Docket number	Actions
> 	99407685	Submitted	06/23/2025		TKS-080019	View
> 	99407683	Response due	05/28/2025	08/28/2025	TKS-078514	Actions Respond to Office action View records (TSDR)
> 	79407681	Renewal due	05/16/2025	05/18/2026	None specified	
> 	99407679	Submitted	05/07/2025		TKS-080002	
> 	99407676	Examination	05/02/2025		TKS-077876	View

New workflow for sanctions transactions



We are hiring!

Trademarks is hiring examining attorneys. You can hear more about this exciting opportunity by joining the information webinar that follows this USPTO Hour. Please use the QR codes to access the vacancy announcement and to join the webinar.

Vacancy announcement



Webinar link





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