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Response to Combined Notice and Show-Cause (issued [Nov. 4, 2025])

Title: Social Networking Content Supplemented Web Page Linker — **Pro Se**

Re: Application No. 18/973,067

Dear Director:

I acknowledge that micro-entity status was claimed in error. As a Pro-Se applicant I made a mistake and was unaware that continuation applications and divisionals count toward the four-application limit under 37 CFR 1.29(a)(2). The certification was made in good faith and, upon discovery, I took prompt corrective action.

I hereby assert **Small Entity** status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27 and correct the record accordingly. I rescind the prior micro-entity certification for this application and request the record be updated accordingly.

Deficiency Paid & Form Attached. I have paid the full fee deficiency of **\$1,412** and attach **PTO/SB/143** (itemized) and the payment receipt.

In view of the good-faith error and immediate cure, I respectfully request waiver or mitigation of any penalty and closure of the Notice so that processing may continue.

For clarity, I will pay all future fees in this application at the Small Entity rate.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Torres (Pro Se)
Customer # 195408 •
Date: [11/11/2025]

Response to Notice of Payment Deficiency & Show Cause Order – Options II & III

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Fee Deficiency Payment (cont'd)

If you owe a fee deficiency, you must enclose payment for the total fee deficiency amount for prior payments erroneously made in the micro entity amount in this application or patent. Do NOT combine fee deficiency payments with fine payments. Do NOT combine payments for multiple applications or patents. If you owe a fee deficiency in multiple applications or patents, you must submit a separate form and payment for each application or patent. Failure to pay the total deficiency will result in abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

Please check the applicable box for the form of payment, and follow the corresponding instructions for submitting this form and payment. Note, this section should only be used for the fee deficiency payment and not the fine payment.

- A check or U.S. Postal Service money order is enclosed. Please make payable to "Director of the USPTO," and mail this form with the check or money order to:

Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patent
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

- Payment by credit card. Do NOT provide credit card information on this form. Instead, include a completed Credit Card Payment Form (Form PTO-2038), which is available at www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/PTO-2038.pdf. Submit this form and Form PTO-2038 by facsimile to (571) 273-8300, or by mail to the address shown above.

- The Director is hereby authorized to charge \$ _____ to USPTO Deposit Account No. _____. If you select this option, this form must be signed by someone who is an authorized user of the deposit account, and who is permitted to sign in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. If you are paying by deposit account, you may submit this form via the USPTO's patent electronic filing system (Patent Center), by facsimile to 571-273-8300, or by mail to the address shown above.

For more information on accepted payment methods, please see www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/fees-and-payment/accepted-payment-methods. Payment must be made in U.S. dollars, and if payment is made from a foreign country, the payment must be payable and immediately negotiable in the United States for the full amount of the fee required.

Penalty Payment Offer

- The entity offers to pay the fine once assessed by the USPTO.
- Payment of the penalty up to ____ times the total deficiency payment is authorized from deposit account _____.

Signature

This form must be signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33. See 37 CFR 1.4(d) for signature requirements and certifications.

If applicant or patentee is a juristic entity (e.g., an LLC or corporation), this form must be signed by a registered practitioner. See 37 CFR 1.31.

If applicant or patentee is a person or persons, this form may be signed by either a registered practitioner, or the applicant or patentee. Note that if multiple people together are the applicant or patentee (e.g., there are joint inventors who together are the applicant), then a signature is required from each person who is an applicant or patentee. *Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.*

Signature /Terry Torres/	Date 11/11/2025
Name (Print/Type) Terry Torres	Practitioner Registration Number (if applicable)

* Total of _____ forms are submitted



**Notice of Payment Deficiency &
Show Cause Order: Penalty
Determination – Micro Entity**
(page 1 of 3)

Application No.

18/973,067

Applicant(s)

Torres, Terry Lee

Examiner

Central Docket

Art Unit

PFMU

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the
correspondence address --**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has made a preliminary determination that the above-identified application contains a micro entity status error that resulted in the payment of at least one fee in an unentitled reduced amount. The USPTO's basis for this preliminary determination is set forth below.

Preliminary Determination and Notice of Payment Deficiency

The above-identified application contains a certification of micro entity status. Status as a micro entity is proper only if each applicant qualifies for micro entity status under 37 CFR 1.29, and any other party holding rights in the invention qualifies for small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27. See 37 CFR 1.29(h). The record, including this notice and any attachments, establishes a prima facie case that the submitted certification is in error because one or more of the following are not met.

- The patent application filing requirements of 37 CFR 1.29(a)(2) and (b).
- The gross income requirements of 37 CFR 1.29(a)(3) and (4).
- The institution of higher learning requirements of 37 CFR 1.29(d)(2).
- The small entity status requirements of 37 CFR 1.27 and 1.29(a)(1), (d)(1) or (h).

Reasons:

Applicant has submitted a certification of micro entity status based upon the gross income basis and paid fees in the above-identified application based upon this certification. In order to qualify for micro entity status under the gross income basis, 37 CFR 1.29(a)(2) requires the applicant to certify "[n]either the applicant nor the inventor nor a joint inventor has been named as the inventor or a joint inventor on more than four previously filed patent applications, other than applications filed in another country, provisional applications under 35 U.S.C. 111(b), or international applications for which the basic national fee under 35 U.S.C. 41(a) was not paid." As explained in MPEP 509.04(a)(1)(B), previously filed applications count against the filing limit even if the previously filed applications did not claim micro entity status. Further, it does not matter how long ago the previous applications were filed or whether the previously filed applications are pending, patented, or abandoned. When the above identified application was filed, an applicant, inventor, or joint inventor was named on more than four previously filed patent applications. This is *prima facie* evidence the submitted certification is in error because the filing limit of 37 CFR 1.29(a)(2) was exceeded.

Accordingly, the payment(s) made in this application based upon the apparently erroneous certification are deficient. The application has been removed from the examiner's docket (if assigned), or formalities review for the application has been paused, pending resolution of the apparent entity status error.

**Notice of Payment Deficiency;
Show Cause Order: Penalty Determination – Micro Entity**

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Show Cause Order: Penalty Determination

The USPTO has statutory authority to assess a fine when the Director determines an entity has falsely certified micro entity status that resulted in the payment of a fee in an unentitled reduced amount, unless the entity shows that the certification was made in good faith. The amount of the assessed fine shall be not less than three (3) times the amount the entity failed to pay due to the false certification. See 35 U.S.C. 123(f).

In view of its preliminary determination, the USPTO is issuing an order to show cause as to why it should not assess a fine pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 123(f).

A. Options for responding

The applicant is reminded of their duty of candor and good faith under 37 CFR 1.56 and the certifications made under 37 CFR 1.4 and 11.18. The applicant must timely respond in one of the following three ways. Failure to respond will result in abandonment of the application.

I. If the certification was not falsely made, a reply must be submitted that includes an explanation supported by sufficient evidence to rebut the preliminary determination that the application contains a false certification. Relying upon the previously submitted certification or providing a recertification are **NOT** satisfactory responses. When responding, please use document description MES.JUST.

II. If the certification was falsely made, but in good faith, an itemization of the total deficiency owed must be provided under 37 CFR 1.29(k)(1), along with payment for the total deficiency under 37 CFR 1.29(k)(2), and include an explanation supported by sufficient evidence that the certification was made in good faith. Failure to pay the total deficiency will result in abandonment of the application. When submitting the itemization, fee deficiency payment and explanation, please use the Response to Notice of Payment Deficiency & Show Cause Order – Options II and III form available on the USPTO Forms page.

III. If the certification was falsely made and a good faith explanation is not submitted, an itemization of the total deficiency owed and payment for the total deficiency must be provided, along with, as appropriate, an offer to pay any fine once assessed. Failure to pay the total deficiency will result in abandonment of the application. When submitting the itemization, fee deficiency payment, and offer to pay the fine, please use the Response to Notice of Payment Deficiency & Show Cause Order – Options II and III form available on the USPTO Forms page.

B. Additional information

A complete written response is due **two (2) months** from the mailing date of this communication. **Extensions of time are available under 37 CFR 1.136(a).** Failure to respond will result in abandonment of the application.

The USPTO will issue a subsequent notice with a final determination of whether a fine is being assessed and the fine amount based on the record as a whole. Note that a failure to pay any assessed fine will result in referral to the U.S. Treasury for collection of any outstanding fine. Additionally, failure to pay any assessed fine when it is due, after expiration of the time period to pay, may result in sanctions under 37 CFR 11.18 including termination of the proceedings.

Only a registered practitioner authorized by the applicant or the applicant who is not represented by a practitioner can sign a response or make changes to the application. Note that an applicant who is a juristic entity must be represented by a registered practitioner. See 37 CFR 1.31. While the USPTO cannot recommend a registered practitioner, the USPTO provides a searchable list of registered practitioners at oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI/.

This order is issued without prejudice to the USPTO taking any other appropriate action(s).

Questions about the contents of this notice and order should be directed to the Office of Petitions (OPET) at 571-272-3282.

11/3/2025
Date

/Jacob F B  tit/
Director (Acting), Fraud Mitigation Unit

Attachment(s)



* For patent applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and granted special status under the prioritized examination (Track One) program, the applicant is reminded that any request for an extension of time, including an extension of time for the purpose of responding to this notice, will cause the application to be ineligible for further treatment under the prioritized examination program. In addition, a request for an extension of time prior to a decision on a request for prioritized examination status will prevent such status from being granted. See MPEP 708.02(b), subsection (I)(B)(4).

Deficiency Notice and Show Cause Order: Penalty Determination – Micro Entity (page 3 of 3)