





Levi's Ruled Not Well-known Enough To Unseat Namesake TM Used Elsewhere

李维斯在华折戟"LEVIS"商标权属之争

he seven-year trademark dispute over LEVIS between Levi Strauss & Company and Guangzhou Baifu Plastics Company has finally come to an end recently. According to the final judgment made by the Beijing High People's Court, Levi Strauss failed to stop Guangzhou Baifu from registering the LEVIS trademark on unprocessed plastic products, although the *LEVI'S* and *LEVI'S* and its figure have been registered by Levi Strauss &Co., and certified to be used on jeans.

The trademark in question was No.7714607 *LEVIS*, which was filed for registration by Guangzhou Baiofu to the Trademark Office (TMO) under the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC) on September 21, 2009, certified to be used on Class 1 products including polypropylene, unprocessed plastic and synthetic resin. On September 13, 2010, the trademark in question was preliminarily approved and published by TMO.

Nearing expiration of the publication opposition period, Levi Strauss filed an opposition request with the TMO citing that its NO.1489308 *LEVI'S* and No.1497177 *LEVI'S* and figure trademarks were famous ones on clothes and jeans. It also cited that similarity was constituted when the

trademark in question was used on similar products. In parallel, the trademark in question had damaged the prior right of Levi Strauss, which was an act of squatting of its prior trademark. The registration and use of trademark in question would mislead consumers, undermine market order and cause ill effect. Levi Strauss requested TMO to revoke its registration.

On June 19, 2012, TMO upheld the registration of the trademark in question. The disgruntled Levi Strauss then brought the case to the Trademark Review and Adjudication Board (TRAB), also under SAIC. On February 10, 2014, TRAB decided to side with TMO.

Levi Strauss & Company then brought the case to Beijing No.1 Intermediate People's Court.

After hearing, the court held that the products on which the trademark certified to be used are of very wide range. Even if the cited trademarks were ruled well-known, the privileged protection scope granted could not extend to the classes allowed for the trademark in dispute. In parallel, Levi Strauss failed to prove that prior to the filing date of the trademark in dispute, LEVI'S had certain reputation in the products of the trademark in dispute.



Even if the registration of trademark in dispute was malicious, the trademark itself and its elements did not produce harmful effect on politics, economy, culture, religion and ethnic groups of China. Besides, the jean products on which the cited trademarks certified to be used and that of the trademark in dispute are not the same or similar products, and Levi Strauss failed to prove that its products had enjoyed reputation on unprocessed plastic products.

Accordingly, Beijing No.1 denied the complaint of Levi Strauss, which would later seek the last resort at Beijing High People's Court.

Unfortunately, it had to eat the same punch. As said earlier, Beijing High rejected the appeal of Levi

Strauss and upheld the decision of the first instance. (by Wang Guohao)

本报记者 王国浩

围绕着"LEVIS"5个英文字母,美国知名牛仔裤品牌"Levi's(李维斯)"与中国一家主营工程塑料产品的企业展开了长达7年的权属争夺。近日,双方纠纷有了新的进展。根据北京市高级人民法院日前作出的终略,美国利惠公司(Levi Strauss & Co.,下称利惠公司)最终未能凭借其在先核准注册在牛仔裤等商品上的"LEVI'S"与"LEVI'S及图"商标,阻止广州百富塑料有限公司(下称百富公司)在未加工塑料等商品上注册"LE-VIS"商标。

据了解,招致此番纷争的为第 7714607号"LEVIS"商标(下称系争商 标),由百富公司于2009年9月21日 向国家工商行政管理总局商标局(下称商标局)提出注册申请,指定使用在聚丙烯、未加工塑料、未加工合成树脂等第1类商品上。2010年9月13日,商标局对系争商标通过初步审定并公生

在系争商标初审公告期限将满之际,利惠公司于2010年12年10日向商标局提出异议申请,请求认定其在先确权的第1489308号"LEVI'S"商标与第1497177号"LEVI'S及图"商标(下统称引证商标)在服装、牛仔裤等商品上为驰名商标,并主张系商品上为驰名商标,并主张系商品上的近似商标,而且系争商标损未到。据公司的在先商号权益,是对利利惠公司商在先使用并有一定影响商标用在关联商品上利惠公司在先使用并有一定影响商标用表导消费者,破坏市场秩序,从而产生不良影响。据此,利惠公司请求商标局不予核准系争商标的注册。

2012年6月19日,商标局裁定系 争商标予以核准注册。利惠公司不 服,于同年8月9日向国家工商行政管 理总局商标评审委员会(下称商评 委)申请复审。2014年2月10日,商 评委作出对系争商标予以核准注册 的复审裁定。

利惠公司不服商评委所作上述 裁定,随后向北京市第一中级人民法 院提起行政诉讼。

北京市第一中级人民法院经审理认为,系争商标指定使用商品与引

证商标核定使用商品跨类较大,即便 引证商标构成驰名商标,也不能跨类 保护到系争商标指定使用的商品上; 同时,利惠公司提交的证据不足以证 明在系争商标申请注册日前,其已经 在系争商标指定使用的商品上使用 "LEVI'S"商标并使其具有一定影响; 即使系争商标的注册存在恶意,但系 争商标本身及其构成要素未对中国 政治、经济、文化、宗教、民族等社会 公共利益和公共秩序产生消极的、负 面的影响;此外,利惠公司主张的在 先商号所使用并据以产生知名度的 服装等商品与系争商标指定使用商 品不构成相同或类似商品,利惠公司 提交的证据亦不足以证明其商号在 系争商标指定使用的未加工塑料等 商品上具有一定市场知名度。

综上,北京市第一中级人民法院 判决驳回利惠公司的诉讼请求。利 惠公司不服一审判决,继而向北京市 高级人民法院提起上诉。

经审理,北京市高级人民法院作 出终审判决,认定利惠公司的主张不 能成立,驳回了利惠公司上诉,维持 一审判决。

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