

ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

Corning Incorporated v. Victor Moore
Case No. D2024-4545

1. The Parties

The Complainant is Corning Incorporated, United States of America ("United States"), represented by Gowling (UK) LLP, Canada.

The Respondent is Victor Moore, United States.

2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <corninginc.tech> is registered with Hostinger Operations, UAB (the "Registrar").

3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on November 5, 2024. On November 6, 2024, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain name. On November 7, 2024, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the disputed domain name which differed from the named Respondent (Privacy Protect, LLC) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on November 7, 2024, providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar, and inviting the Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. The Complainant filed an amendment to the Complaint on the same day.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amendment to the Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Policy" or "UDRP"), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Rules"), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Supplemental Rules").

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on November 8, 2024. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was November 28, 2024. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent's default on December 5, 2024.

The Center appointed Kathryn Lee as the sole panelist in this matter on December 10, 2024. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

4. Factual Background

The Complainant is an American publicly traded multinational technology company founded in 1851. The Complainant specializes in specialty glass, ceramics, and related materials and technologies including advanced optics, primarily for industrial and scientific applications, and generated USD 11.29 billion in revenue in 2018. The Complainant is the owner of over 300 CORNING and CORNING-based trademarks worldwide including the following registered in the United States for the CORNING trademark: Trademark Registration Number 618649 registered on January 3, 1956, Trademark Registration Number 918421 registered on August 17, 1971, and Trademark Registration Number 1682729 registered on April 14, 1992.

The Respondent appears to be an individual with an address in the United States.

The disputed domain name was registered on November 5, 2024, and resolves to a landing page provided by the Registrar.

5. Parties' Contentions

A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the disputed domain name.

Notably, the Complainant contends that the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the CORNING trademark in which the Complainant has rights since the disputed domain name incorporates the CORNING trademark in its entirety and only includes the word "inc" which does nothing to diminish confusion, but rather, increase confusion, as consumers are misled to believe that the disputed domain name resolves to a website which is operated by, or otherwise connected to, the Complainant.

The Complainant also contends that the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name and confirms that it has not authorized or licensed rights to the Respondent in any respect.

Finally, the Complainant contends that the disputed domain name was registered and is being used in bad faith. The Complainant contends that the disputed domain name was registered and used to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users to a website by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's mark as to source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement.

B. Respondent

The Respondent did not reply to the Complainant's contentions.

6. Discussion and Findings

A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

It is well accepted that the first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between

the Complainant's trademark and the disputed domain name. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition ("[WIPO Overview 3.0](#)"), section 1.7.

The Complainant has shown rights in respect of a trademark or service mark for the purposes of the Policy. [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 1.2.1.

The entirety of the mark is reproduced within the disputed domain name. Accordingly, the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the mark for the purposes of the Policy. [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 1.7.

Although the addition of other terms – here, “inc” – may bear on assessment of the second and third elements, the Panel finds the addition of such a term does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity between the disputed domain name and the mark for the purposes of the Policy. [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 1.8.

The Panel finds the first element of the Policy has been established.

B. Rights or Legitimate Interests

Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy provides a list of circumstances in which the Respondent may demonstrate rights or legitimate interests in a disputed domain name.

Although the overall burden of proof in UDRP proceedings is on the complainant, panels have recognized that proving a respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in a domain name may result in the difficult task of “proving a negative”, requiring information that is often primarily within the knowledge or control of the respondent. As such, where a complainant makes out a prima facie case that the respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests, the burden of production on this element shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain name (although the burden of proof always remains on the complainant). If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 2.1.

Having reviewed the available record, the Panel finds the Complainant has established a prima facie case that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name. The Respondent has not rebutted the Complainant's prima facie showing and has not come forward with any relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name such as those enumerated in the Policy or otherwise.

Further, panels have found that a domain name composed of a trademark plus an additional term cannot be considered fair use if it falsely suggests affiliation with the trademark owner. [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 2.5.1. Here, the disputed domain name suggests that it is the website of the trademark owner, the Complainant.

The Panel finds the second element of the Policy has been established.

C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

The Panel notes that, for the purposes of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy, paragraph 4(b) of the Policy establishes circumstances, in particular, but without limitation, that, if found by the Panel to be present, shall be evidence of the registration and use of a domain name in bad faith.

In the present case, the Panel first notes that the registration of the disputed domain name, which is confusingly similar to the Complainant's famous CORNING trademark, by the Respondent, who is unaffiliated with the Complainant, creates a presumption of bad faith. [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 3.1.4.

Further, based on the fame of the Complainant and the Complainant's mark, the Panel finds that it is highly unlikely for the Respondent to have registered the disputed domain name without any knowledge of the Complainant. The Respondent has not provided any explanation for having registered the disputed domain name, and with no response to claim otherwise, the Panel finds that the Respondent more likely selected the disputed domain name in order to benefit from the fame and good will associated with the Complainant's trademark.

Panels have found that the non-use of a domain name would not prevent a finding of bad faith under the doctrine of passive holding. [WIPO Overview 3.0](#), section 3.3. Having reviewed the available record, the Panel notes the distinctiveness or reputation of the Complainant's trademark, the composition of the disputed domain name, the failure of the Respondent to submit a response or to provide any evidence of actual or contemplated good-faith use, the Respondent's concealing its identity (noted to be in breach of its registration agreement), and the implausibility of any good faith use to which the domain name may be put, and finds that in the circumstances of this case the passive holding of the disputed domain name does not prevent a finding of bad faith under the Policy.

The Panel finds that the Complainant has established the third element of the Policy.

7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain name <corninginc.tech> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Kathryn Lee/

Kathryn Lee

Sole Panelist

Date: December 24, 2024