

January 25, 2013

United States Patent and Trademark Office
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Via email: saurabh.vishnubhakat@uspto.gov

Re: Comments on: "Changes to Implement the First Inventor to File Provisions of
The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act" 77 Fed. Reg. 43732 (July 26, 2012)

Comments on: "Notice of Roundtable on Proposed Requirements for Recordation of
Real-Party-in-Interest Information Throughout Application Pendency and Patent Term"
77 Fed. Reg. 70385 (Nov. 26, 2012)

To the United States Patent and Trademark Office:

Article One Partners, LLC ("AOP") respectfully submits its comments on the "Notice of Roundtable on Proposed Requirements for Recordation of Real-Party-in-Interest Information Throughout Application Pendency and Patent Term" 77 Fed. Reg. 70385 (Nov. 26, 2012).

Article One crowdsources patent research. Our platform is the world's largest patent research community. Our global community is 25,000 plus researchers from 160 countries. The AOP global crowd reflects an advancement in patent research aligned with the America Invents Act's ("AIA") recognition of the globalization of the U.S. patent system. The AOP crowd accomplishes this based on reviewing technology descriptions in AOP research requests and finding prior art with the same technology descriptions. The community works on a technical mapping basis; AOP does not practice law.

We at Article One are honored to work members of the public who have self-selected to research on our platform. AOP feels fortunate to represent the unique view of researchers worldwide. We interact with our researchers on an educational level about the patent system and the identification of prior art globally, as well as the technical mapping of claim language to prior art. Thus, we strongly support that the AIA amendments serve to clarify and simplify legal standards and their application, so that both patent industry members and the public can better understand and access the patent system.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), with former Director Kappos' leadership, is commendable for its ongoing mission to improve the patent system with a focus on patent quality. As a stakeholder in the patent industry, we appreciate the opportunity to respond to the PTO's request for comments.

The ability of members of the public to clearly and timely become made aware of the ownership status of pending patent applications is absolutely critical to effectiveness of the patent system. Accordingly, a requirement that any change in ownership status trigger an immediate notice provision to the USPTO, with penalties for any intended or unintended delay, is strongly supported by Article One. The patent system includes stakeholders which choose to participate in the system by filing patent applications as well as members of the public who are exposed to the patent system based on an action taken by a third party; such as a notice of infringement letter or patent litigation.

There also are entities which consistently purchase patents for the purpose of asserting them in litigation. In sensitive technology areas, the ability of the public to track patents based on recent acquisitions by certain entities will enable a monitoring function to manage risk. On the other hand, there is not policy or legal standard which supports an obfuscation of ownership data, whether by the patent owner or due to delay in the processing of the data at the USPTO. It seems that this is a clear area for the USPTO to provide a new level of support to the public including all stakeholders.

Article One supports the immediate execution of clear standards to ensure the most expeditious recordation of ownership, with full responsibility being placed on the new owner and penalties applied for an intentional and unintentional delay in providing the data to the USPTO. We also support an update to any processing systems at the USPTO which enable the fastest dissemination of this data to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

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Article One Partners, LLC