Assistance to the Inventor Community

John J. Calvert
Administrator, Inventor Assistance Program

April 14, 2011
Customer Interaction

- Inventor Assistance Center
  - 800 number
- Independent Inventor e-mail
  - Special e-mail account
- Inventors Eye eNewsletter
- On-line chats
  - Bi-monthly
    - Experts answer questions
    - Transcripts on-line
Inventors Eye

Inventors Eye | articles

CommerceConnect Helps Businesses Become More Competitive and Create Jobs
By Dennis Alvord : CommerceConnect

Trademarks Litigation Tactics Study
By Toni Hickey : Office of the Under Secretary

spark of genius
The Step 'N Wash
By John Calvert : Inventors Assistance Center

advice
Working with a Patent Practitioner

events
Where Independent Inventors Meet

network
Organizations for Inventors

recent issues

January 2011
November 2010
September 2010
July 2010
April 2010
February 2010
all issues

CommerceConnect Helps Businesses Become More Competitive and Create Jobs

CommerceConnect is a U.S. Department of Commerce initiative launched by Secretary Gary Locke in October 2000 to make businesses more competitive and to create jobs by bringing the department’s more than 70 business-focused technical assistance, grant and information-based programs together under one roof.

Read more
spark of genius

The Step 'N Wash

Joi Sumpton and her retracting step stool
Web Assistance

- Inventor Resource Page
  - General questions answered
  - Invention marketing complaints
  - Links to other agencies and inventor organizations

- Computer based training
  - Training videos
    - Limited to 20 minutes
    - 508 compliant
Inventors Resources

Inventors Eye Newsletters (previous issues)

Programs and Policies for Independent Inventors and Small Businesses

Welcome to the Inventor Resources Web site

Is the Inventor site for me?

PATENTS

- What is a Patent?
- Who can apply for a Patent?
- What can and cannot be patented?
- How do I know if my invention is patentable?
- How long does patent protection last?
- How much does it cost to get a patent?
- What is a PCT application?
- Frequently asked questions about patents
- Computer Based Training

COMPLAINTS

- Complaints
- Complaints Forms
Electronic Media

- **iTunes**
  - 4 direct links with USPTO produced video
  - Multiple university links

- **YouTube**
  - At least 4 university made videos
  - USPTO videos to come
    - Short – less than 5 minutes
    - Directed to specific topics

- **Others to come**
Inventor Conferences

- Annual conference
  - 15th annual held in Alexandria November, 2010

- Congressional outreach
  - Working with representatives
    - One day event highlighting federal, state and local resources

- Regional conferences
  - USPTO sponsored
  - Inventor group, non-profit sponsored
Campus Visits

- **Academic year 2008-09**
  - 74 universities and colleges
  - 11,000 students

- **Academic Year 2010-11**
  - 22 universities and colleges
  - 3,600 students

- **Faculty and staff contacts**
  - IP presentations
  - Individual Q&A
  - Technology Transfer discussions
Virtual Visits

- New in academic year 2009-10
  - Contact was made at approx 100 schools
  - Video teleconference format
  - Live presentations with Q&A