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Comments and suggestions are welcome by e-mail to ruth.nyblod@uspto.gov.

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Note: The next online issue of USPTO TODAY will be July-August combined.

The Magazine of the United States Patent and Trademark Office



In Touch

With the Under Secretary for IP

Nicholas P. Godici
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Although we're only half way through the year, 2001 has been an active time on the legislative and policy front for the USPTO. With a new administration and a new Congress, this pace will likely continue for the remainder of the year. Let me briefly highlight some of the action that has taken place so far.

First, some budget news. In early April, the president released the proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2002. For the USPTO, the budget calls for a total funding level of \$1.139 billion, an increase of approximately 10 percent over the current year. The budget would consist of \$857 million from the \$1.224 billion in fees we project to collect next year, as well as \$282 million from prior years' fee collections. The president's budget request would allow us to hire to cover attrition in our patent and trademark operations, maintain our current automated systems and information technology infrastructure, and invest in e-government to continue to automate the patent and trademark application filing processes. The budget and appropriations process will continue through this summer.

On the policy front, a number of USPTO-related legislative activities are underway in the House and Senate. For example, in March, the House passed the "Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2001," which makes miscellaneous technical and clerical changes to the U.S. Code to clarify provisions of the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA). The Senate passed a similar version of the bill in February, and the two measures are now being reconciled.

In addition to fine-tuning the AIPA, business method patents and expanding reexamination have also been a focus of activity. In April, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing on business method patents. I testified at that hearing along with representatives of AIPLA {American Intellectual Property Law Association}, IPO {Intellectual Property Owners Association}, and Travelocity.com. Around the same time, Congressman Berman (D-CA) and Congressman Boucher (D-VA) introduced two business method-related bills: (1) H.R. 1332, which would, in part, require all business method applications to be published at 18 months, permit any party to submit prior art for the record or petition for a pre-grant opposition

proceeding, and create a post grant opposition panel and procedure; and (2) H.R. 1333, the “Patent Improvement Act of 2001,” which would establish a post-grant opposition procedure to challenge patents within nine months after issuance.

The introduction of these two bills was followed in April by a House Judiciary Intellectual Property Subcommittee oversight hearing on possible improvements to patent law and the introduction by Subcommittee Chairman Coble of two bills dealing with reexamination: H.R. 1886, which would provide for appeals by third parties in certain reexamination proceedings; and H.R. 1866 which would clarify the basis for granting requests for reexamination by overturning the 1997 *In Re Portola Packaging* decision. The Subcommittee passed both measures on May 22.

On June 5, Chairman Coble introduced a bill to authorize the operations of the USPTO for fiscal year 2002. While H.R. 2047 would authorize the USPTO to retain all of its fees, we would remain subject to the annual appropriations process. The measure would also require the agency to develop an all-electronic system for filing and processing patent and trademark applications and to submit a strategic plan spelling out how the office will raise quality and reduce pendency.

Patents have not been the only focus on Capitol Hill this year. For example, in March, the House passed legislation to implement the Madrid Protocol, which will dramatically simplify the process for U.S. trademark owners in obtaining and maintaining protection for their trademarks in foreign countries. Senators Leahy and Hatch have also introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

Finally, just last week, on June 7, I testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property at the annual USPTO oversight hearing. Other representatives included Ron Myrick, on behalf of Intellectual Property Owners (IPO); Nils Montan, on behalf of the International Trademark Association (INTA); and Ron Stern, representing the Patent Office Professional Association (POPA).

We look forward to working with Congress and the Bush Administration in the coming months to ensure that the USPTO has sufficient resources, financial flexibility, and appropriate oversight to meet our operational challenges and to provide first-rate service to our customers.

Former Congressman Nominated to Head USPTO

President Bush has nominated James E. Rogan, a former two-term California Congressman, as his choice for Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Former Rep. Rogan represented California’s 27th district and served as a member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property. Most recently, Mr. Rogan has been a partner with the Venable, Baetjer, Howard &

Civiletti law firm in Washington, D.C.

Before being elected to Congress in 1996, Mr. Rogan served in the California Assembly, as a Los Angeles district Attorney, and as a Glendale Municipal Court Judge. He is a graduate of the University of California-Berkeley and earned a law degree from UCLA.

Three Libraries Join PTDL Network Depositories Disseminate Patent and Trademark Information to All

by Claudine Jenda, Fellowship Librarian, PTDL Program

Three more libraries recently joined the network of Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries (PTDLs). The newly designated libraries are the University of Puerto Rico-Bayamón, Dunbar Library at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, and the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office relies on a nationwide network of academic, public, state, and special libraries designated by the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to serve as Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries to ensure that every American has ready access to patent and trademark information. Depository libraries agree to offer to the public free access to over six million U.S. patents and two and half million trademarks. Since 1871, the USPTO has designated 88 libraries that are strategically located in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia as patent and trademark depositories.

PTDLs offer patent and trademark information in a variety of formats that include paper, microfilm, CD-ROM, DVD-ROM, and the USPTO's Web site at: www.uspto.gov. Some libraries offer access to the USPTO's online patent system. In addition three PTDLs, that have partnership status, also offer videoconferencing capability with the USPTO for patent examiner interviews and educational seminars on intellectual property.

Open access to patent and trademark information is important to businesses, scholars, researchers, and all members of the public. Open access to information contained in patents and trademarks contributes to the growth of new businesses, a competitive economy, the discovery of new products and processes, and the creation of new scientific and technological knowledge, theories and breakthroughs.

Trained librarians and information professionals guide patent and trademark patrons through the search process. PTDLs maintain the latest information on fees, forms, rules, procedures, and legislation of which patent and trademark researchers need to be aware.

PTDL Librarians are a Vital Link

Keeping patent and trademark collections and PTDL services vibrant and useful to their local customers are a group of energetic, resourceful, and informed PTDL librarians and information professionals. PTDL librarians and information professionals host as well as attend professional meetings, inventor workshops and conferences where they showcase USPTO information products and PTDL services. They give lectures and presentations on patent and trademark information and its role in science, technology, business, and research and instruction. They teach patent and trademark research techniques to classes of students, inventors, and small business owners at inventor meetings, to colleagues and various audiences at professional meetings, and to individual inventors and researchers in one-on-one sessions.

PTDL librarians cultivate close working relationships with inventor groups, patent and trademark attorneys and agents, Small Business Development Centers, corporate firms, science and engineering faculty and students, elementary school teachers, science fair organizers, university technology transfer offices, incubator centers, state government offices, federal laboratories and research institutions, and local chambers of commerce. They actively network with these user groups and engage in a variety of outreach activities to disseminate and promote the use of patent and trademark information.

A Model Network Worldwide

The PTDL network of libraries, administered by the PTDL Program at the USPTO, is indeed a model network that is regarded and looked upon highly by the rest of the world. Since 1990, the European Patent Office has studied and copied the U.S. PTDL Program model as the best way of disseminating intellectual property information and empowering inventor and business communities, through the creation of PATLIB Centers. China, Germany, Canada, and the World Intellectual Property Organization are among the other countries and governmental bodies that have engaged in a close study of the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, its services, and network.

Learning, Exchanging Ideas

Week-long annual PTDL training seminars are an important time when PTDL librarians and information professionals visit the USPTO in Crystal City, Virginia, to learn firsthand about new rules, procedures, or legislation. PTDL librarians also spend time acquainting themselves with patent and trademark information systems used by the USPTO.

24th Annual PTDL Training Seminar

USPTO hosted the 24th Annual PTDL Training Seminar March 18-23, 2001 at the Crystal City Marriott and was a huge success! Close to 100 PTDL librarians and information professionals representing 78 PTDLs attended the training seminar. Also in attendance, as observers, were special guests that included representatives

of the Canadian Intellectual Property Office, the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China, and faculty from the Catholic University of America, George Washington University, and Miami University in Ohio.

During the director's reception and designation ceremony, Anne H. Chasser, commissioner for trademarks, on behalf of Acting Under Secretary and Director Godici, and Ron Hack, then acting chief information officer, presented the newly designated PTDLs with designation certificates. Clockwise from top: Ramon Castro, Director, Learning Resources Center, and Mildred Perez, University of Puerto Rico-Bayamón, with Anne Chasser and Ron Hack; Randall Raider, Wright State PTDL-Dayton, with Ron Hack; and Venice Beske, Casper, Wyoming PTDL with Anne Chasser and Ron Hack.



Ten Inventors to be Inducted Into National Inventors Hall of Fame

courtesy of the National Inventors Hall of Fame

On May 11, at Stanford University, the National Inventors Hall of Fame announced the ten inventors who will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in Akron, Ohio, during a formal ceremony in September.

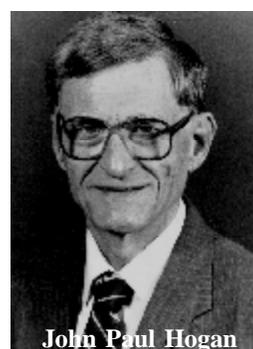
From modern-day processes and products to 18th century discoveries, the achievements of these inventors, and those of the 158 previous inductees, have contributed to the welfare of the world. A permanent exhibit at the National Inventors Hall of Fame's museum in Akron recognizes the important role of inventors and inventions in our daily lives. In making the announcement, David Fink, president and CEO of the Hall, said "The achievements that came from the imaginative minds of these inventors have contributed to the advancements in industry, commerce, health, and lifestyle that we enjoy. While we seldom give thought to the products and systems that make our lives better, they never would have been created without the inventive genius that we honor today."

The inventors to be inducted and their accomplishments are:

Robert L. Banks (1921-1989) and John Paul Hogan (1919-) for high-density polyethylene (HDPE), Patent #2,825,721, March 4, 1958. Their discovery has led to the production of many of the products consumers take for granted today ranging from the baby bottles to milk jugs and from toys to tools.



Phillips Corporate Archives



Phillips Corporate Archives

Herbert Wayne Boyer (1936-) and Stanley Norman Cohen (1935-) for Recombinant DNA technology/genetic engineering, Patent #4,237,224, December 2, 1980. Genetic engineering has many practical applications in medicine and agriculture. For example, insulin taken by diabetics, human growth hormones and other human gene products, and improved crops.



Genentech



Stanley Cohen

It also can be used to help understand the mysteries of cell biology.

Oliver Evans (1775-1819) for high-pressure steam engine, Patent #X519, February 14, 1804. Evans' steam engine advanced transportation, propelling steamboats up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.



Hagley Museum and Library

Thomas J. Fogarty (1934-) for balloon catheterization for vascular surgery, Patent #3,435,826, April 1, 1969. The Fogarty Balloon Embolectomy Catheter revolutionized the way surgeons remove clots from blood vessels without major surgery. The first balloon angioplasty using a Fogarty catheter was conducted in 1965. Today, more than 650,000 such procedures are done annually.



Fogarty Research

Elijah J. McCoy (1844-1929) for automatic lubricator for machinery, Patent #29,843, July 23, 1872. Adapted for use in steam locomotives, the system saved time and money because locomotives no longer needed to be stopped to lubricated. Today, refinements of his invention lubricate machines worldwide on ships, oil rigs, and mining and construction equipment. As his lubricator became widely used and highly admired, propel asked for the “real McCoy” over imitations.



Burton Historical Collection
Detroit Public Library

Christopher Latham Sholes (1819-1890) for a type-writer, Patent #79,263, June 23, 1868. Sholes sold the rights to the type writing machine to the Remington Arms Company. An associated invention--the keyboard with the letter arrangement known as QWERTY--remains as the standard layout for American English keyboards today.



State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Patsy O’Connell Sherman (1930-) and Samuel Smith (1927-) for SCOTCHGARD. This household product has become the most important repellent of stains and dirt used on clothes, carpets, upholstery, draperies, leather, and other household fabrics.



Patsy Sherman



Samuel Smith

The National Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 1973 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the National Council of Intellectual Property Law Associations. Originally housed at the USPTO, the current museum facility opened in 1995 in Akron and has since hosted more than 700,000 visitors.

Anyone can nominate an inventor for induction into the Hall of Fame. The nominated inventor must hold a U.S. patent, and their invention must have contributed to the welfare of mankind and have promoted the progress of science and the useful arts. Nomination forms and criteria are located on the Web at www.invent.org.

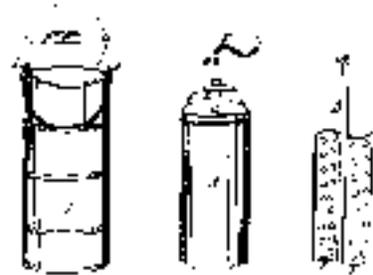
Ice Cream Exhibit Opens in Redesigned Patent and Trademark Museum Museum Under New Management

by Ruth Ann Nyblod, Office of Public Affairs

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503
FURTHER: Dept. 5 221

The Patent and Trademark Museum reopened on May 22 with a new look, a new exhibit, and under new management. ***“Ice Cream: The Real Scoop”*** is the first periodic exhibit to open in the USPTO’s museum under the management of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

America consumes more ice cream than any other nation--about 15 quarts per person each year. Thomas Jefferson was so taken by vanilla ice cream while in Paris that he brought back to the United States the recipe written in his own hand. The popularity of this cool confection was made possible by the intellectual property systems that protect the inventor and entrepreneur. From Nancy Johnson’s 1843 invention of the paddle ice cream freezer to today’s latest novelty treats, patents, trademarks, and copyrights have helped to make ice cream a multi-billion dollar industry.



Jefferson’s recipe, along with various inventions related to ice cream are on display. Visitors will learn such facts as why eating ice cream was considered a sin in the 1890’s and how the people behind the famous brands made their mark on the world.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office and the National Inventors Hall of Fame have joined forces in another project to educate the public about the patent and trademark systems and the important role intellectual property protection

plays in our nation's social and economic health. The redesigned museum is better able to showcase and highlight the nation's intellectual property history and creativity through, for example, a permanent exhibit on patent and trademark history. It features some of the 250,000 patent models that were once displayed in the old Patent Office, a major tourist attraction in the 19th century.

A new museum shop is now open featuring a selection of USPTO logo merchandise and other items. Proceeds from the sale of merchandise in the museum store support a variety of joint USPTO and National Inventors Hall of Fame educational outreach activities. These include Project XL/Camp Invention, the National Collegiate Inventors Program, exhibits, and television programming. The store is located in the museum at Crystal Park 2, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington (Crystal City), Virginia. It is open Monday through Friday, except federal holidays, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.



OPM Approves Patent Professionals Pay Increase

by Richard Maulsby, Director, Office of Public Affairs

The Office of Personnel Management has approved a request for a special pay scale for patent examiner and patent examiner-related positions. This agreement provides the USPTO with the flexibility necessary to recruit highly skilled professionals and retain experienced employees who will help the agency move forward toward enhancing customer service and quality.

This special pay scale, which affects about 3,500 employees and increases pay by about 10 percent for those approved positions, is part of a larger agreement between the USPTO and the Patent Office Professional Association. Along with the special pay scale, the agreement also includes moving to an electronic environment by the phased elimination of most of the paper search files, improving automation tools, establishing a work-at-home pilot, and adding a customer service element to employees' performance plans.

Trilateral Technical Meetings Held

*by Tod Preston, Cherie Kazenske, and Eleanor Meltzer
Office of Legislative and International Affairs*

Since 1983, the Trilateral Offices of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) have been working on a number of initiatives to enhance and streamline intellectual property protection. Ongoing activities of the Trilateral include exchange of information and proposals regarding patent documentation, classification, and examination, as well as automation programs. This collaboration among the USPTO, EPO, and JPO is essential not only for maintaining U.S. economic growth, but also for moving toward global harmonization of intellectual property rights.

At last month's Trilateral Technical Meeting in Arlington, Virginia, the Trilateral offices focused their efforts on standardizing electronic filing systems, developing biosequence processing procedures, and harmonizing the International Patent Classifications system. Among the developments in these and other areas were:

- **Electronic Filing:** the offices agreed on a number of technical issues related to the finalization of a WIPO {World Intellectual Property Organization} standard for electronic filing of applications. The remaining technical issues in developing a harmonized approach to electronic filing will be discussed in subsequent working group meetings this summer.
- **Trilateral Network:** the offices agreed to adopt a four-phase approach for expanding the network's connection to other intellectual property offices. As part of that agreement, work will soon get underway to connect the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) to the Trilateral Network on a pilot basis.
- **Classification:** the Trilateral Offices agreed on a common position on many International Patent Classifications (IPC) in order to advance the goals of creating one common classification system among their respective offices. The intention is to incorporate the best features of the three offices' classification systems into a reformed IPC, and a pilot project in one classification area is now underway.
- **Biotechnology:** the Trilateral Offices are continuing to develop procedures for exchanging priority documents for jumbo applications and for biosequence application processing that will include receipt, determination of filing date, readability, publication of applications, and publication of granted patents.
- **Chemical Compounds:** the Trilateral Offices agreed in principle to commence a comparative study on chemical compounds identified by a screening method. Further work will continue on this effort in the coming months.
- **Concurrent Search:** the Trilateral is conducting a concurrent search project using PCT {Patent Cooperation Treaty} applications, with a focus on business method applications. An analysis of the results of this project will be reported

later this year.

The USPTO is hopeful that developments at the Trilateral Technical Meeting will culminate in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Trilateral Offices at the 19th Annual Trilateral Conference this Fall in San Francisco, California.

Trademark Trilateral Cooperation Meeting

For the first time, on May 22 – 23, 2001, heads of the European Community Trademark Office (The Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market, or OHIM), the JPO, and the USPTO met to discuss trademark issues of mutual interest. The USPTO was host to President de Boer of OHIM and Commissioner Oikawa of the JPO. The Trilateral Meeting agenda included discussion of the Madrid Protocol implementation, work-at-home initiatives, electronic filing, and initiatives to ensure high-quality examination.

It is hoped that, through enhanced understanding and cooperation in key areas of operation of trademark offices, trademark owners and users worldwide will receive the benefits of expedited, high-quality examination and processing. The next Trademark Trilateral Cooperation Meeting is scheduled for May 2002 at OHIM's offices in Alicante, Spain.



To the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am concerned that the number one goal of the USPTO's strategic plan is "reducing allowed applications with significant defects and quality questions." At first glance this is a good goal, however one way to achieve this goal is to not allow any patent applications. While this extreme solution is unlikely to be implemented, the general bias that it is safer not to allow patent applications could easily infect the patent office. A similar concern about harmful medicines has resulted in a ridiculously slow FDA approval process. The patent office must always remember that it has a responsibility to grant patents that meet the legal requirements as well as to protect the public from overly broad patents. Perhaps the best solution to balancing these concerns is to make sure that every patent undergoes the same examination procedure. If too many patents with defects are allowed, then the procedure should be changed. On the other hand if too many patent applications are rejected and overturned on appeal, the procedure should also be adjusted.

Sincerely,
Dale B. Halling

Dear Dale,

I passed on your comments to our acting under secretary and director. This is his response:

Dale, Thanks for your comments and input. You're correct that focusing on only one measure of one of our goals could lead to problems. That's why we use a "balanced scorecard" approach to measuring our performance. The Patent Strategic Plan outlines five over-arching goals, with quality products being one of the five. There are also multiple measures within each goal in order to keep the proper perspective. By tracking all of these measures, we can note where we have made progress and where improvements need to be made. We are ever mindful of our responsibility to those that are affected by the patents that we grant, and timely issuing valid patents serves both our customers and the public.

Nicholas P. Godici

Helpful Hints

for patent practitioners and applicants

Do's and Don'ts for Publication of Patent Applications

What to do?

Do file an application including any priority claim on filing, if there is a priority claim.

Do include any assignment information that you would like reflected on the publication on the transmittal letter or an Application Data Sheet. Mail the assignment documents for recording separately to the USPTO when you file the application.

Do file an application in the condition that you would like to see a publication.

Do file replacement drawings to Box PGPUB - DRAWINGS if the drawings in the patent application on filing are not the quality that you desire for publication, and include the petition and fee.

Do review the filing receipt for the projected publication date.

Do call the USPTO (703/308-6906) if you receive a projected publication date on an application where you included a non-publication request on filing. Do not wait until the publication date is a few weeks away to call.

Do pay the publication fee if you receive a Notice of Publication Fee Due, and pay the publication fee with the issue fee if possible.

Do file a petition for an express abandonment under 37 CFR 1.138(c) if you would like to avoid publication of the application, but any such petition must be received by the USPTO in sufficient time to process the abandonment to avoid the publication. Accordingly, the petition is recommended to be filed no later than two months before the projected publication date.

What not to do?

Do not file an application and then expect to file a non-publication request weeks or months later or even one day later. A non-publication request must be made on filing.

Do not expect amendments to be reflected in a publication if you did not use the

Electronic Filing System (EFS).

Do not file a paper requesting voluntary publication of an application filed before November 29, 2000. (You must use EFS.)

Do not call the USPTO to ask if your application can be withdrawn from publication because it has been allowed. The USPTO cannot withdraw applications for this reason.

Do not expect to receive a copy of the publication in the mail. Patent application publications are available on the USPTO home page (<http://uspto.gov>).

EFS Do's and Don'ts

A patent application may be filed over the Internet using the Electronic Filing System (EFS). In addition, EFS is required for publication of applications filed before November 29, 2000, or for publication of applications in a redacted form. Lastly, after an application has been published, if applicant would like to have the application republished, so that new claims, for example, can be published, EFS is also required. To assist EFS users in electronically authoring and submitting their pre-grant application publication filing here is a short list of what to do and what to avoid doing when using EFS software.

What to do?

Do submit the patent application specification marked with XML (eXtensible Mark-Up Language) [patent application] tags only.

Do submit Computer Readable Form (CRF) sequence listing attachments as either .app .zip or .txt file format.

Do include each page of the declaration as a separate Black and White TIFF image file.

Do delete brackets around the title of the specification in the specification's XML file.

Do use Group 4 compression on all Black and White TIFF image files.

Do use Times New Roman, Arial or CG Times as the font of source text to be pasted into the Specification template.

What Not to Do?

Do not submit grayscale or color TIFF image files.

Do not open the encrypted, zipped submission file that resides on your computer after submission.

Do not use File, Open, in the Patent Application Specification Authoring Tool (PASAT), to reopen a previously created application specification template. Instead click on File and select Load Specification.

If you have questions or need assistance in using the EFS software, the EBC Customer Support Center can be reached by telephone at 703-305-3028. You can also visit the uspto.gov Web site for further information about filing patent applications online (<http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs/>).

Thank you for using EFS!

provided by: Diane Lewis, EFS Project Manager, Search and Information Resources

USPTO Donates Computers to Local Virginia School

by Kim Byars, Office of Public Affairs

On Thursday, May 31, 2001, Acting Under Secretary Nicholas Godici donated surplus computers to the Cora Kelly Elementary School located in Alexandria, Virginia. The donation is part of the Computers for Learning Program. Since its inception two years ago, federal agencies have donated thousands of computers and computer components to schools and non-profits across the country.

"By participating in the Computers for Learning program, USPTO plays an important part in ensuring that America's children have the technology they need to compete in the 21st century," noted Nicholas Godici.

The program streamlines the transfer of surplus Federal computer equipment to our Nation's classrooms. In addition, it provides a user-friendly, Internet-based system for donating surplus computer equipment to pre-kindergarten through grade 12 schools and educational non-profits, which gives special consideration to those with the greatest need.

Through the Computers for Learning Web site (www.computers.fed.gov), schools and educational nonprofit organizations can register to request surplus Federal computer equipment. Federal property personnel can then use the Web site (www.computers.fed.gov) to select those schools and non-profits in most need from the database of registrants, and can arrange for donation via e-mail.

Faces of the USPTO



Douglas Bourgeois, the Chief Information Officer, joined the USPTO on May 14, 2001.

Bourgeois serves as the principal advisor to the Under Secretary and Director on the application of information technology to support and improve USPTO business processes. He directs the development, implementation, maintenance, enhancement, and operation of USPTO's automated information systems and the development of supporting strategic and operational information technol-

ogy plans. He also serves as the agency's senior information resources management official.

Before joining the federal service and the USPTO, Bourgeois was the managing director of customer service technology at Federal Express, managing the computer application and telephony network environments at the company. His varied experience also includes working as an engineer and program manager of aerodynamic testing at Allied Signal Aerospace Company where he won numerous awards for customer service enhancements.

A native of New Orleans, Bourgeois earned a B.S. degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, California, and an M.B.A. in Finance and Marketing from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is married and the father of two children.

It all begins with an idea.....but where do you go from there?

by Richard J. Apley, Director, Office of Independent Inventor Programs

So you have this great idea. A one-of-a-kind, thought-provoking idea. Throughout the history of technology and innovation, it has been the independent inventor, usually working alone, who has been on the cutting edge of new products and technologies. The question to ask yourself is: "Where do I go with my idea?"

If you're lucky and smart enough to avoid those "overnight success" invention promotion firms, you are already a successful inventor. Those companies exist solely to take your money up-front and never provide the success they promise. Independent inventors should be visiting the official Web site of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at www.uspto.gov for their patent and trademark information. A wealth of free information is available.

If you visit the Web site, click on the Independent Inventor Resources page located under the Patents button or the first time visitors window. If you do you will discover the USPTO's Office of Independent Inventor Programs is sponsoring the **6th Annual Independent Inventors Conference** on August 3 and 4, 2001. The conference will be held at the home of the USPTO here in Arlington, Virginia, at the Doubletree Hotel. Tours of the USPTO will be given on the afternoon of August 2. Whether you are a novice inventor or an seasoned patent holder, this conference will have information for you.

This two-day conference will have workshops about basic patent and trademark information, patent and trademark searching techniques, hints on the proper way to prepare responses to an examiner's office action, hands-on training in the new electronic application filing system, and hot new technologies. In addition to the staff of supervisory patent examiners that will teach at the workshops, we have many outstanding experts from around the country to assist you in your product development and marketing efforts. There will be an array of presenters that will share their stories with you on how they did it. Learn from such experts as Ronald Docie, Richard Levy, J. Mark Davis, Joanne Hayes-Rines, and Dan Lauer. This is going to be the best Conference you can attend.

If that isn't enough to entice you to attend, how about two days of networking with your fellow independent inventors. Lastly, you will be located in an area minutes from our nation's capital along with all the sights surrounding it. What more reason do you need?

For more information e-mail us at inven.conf@uspto or visit our Web site at <http://www.uspto.gov/go/iic2001>. You can contact the Office of Independent Inventor Programs at 703-306-5568. See you at the conference!!

need more info?

www.uspto.gov/go/lie2001

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Office of Independent Inventor Programs

6th Annual INDEPENDENT INVENTORS CONFERENCE

celebrating national inventors month

Conference Sessions to be held at
The DoubleTree Hotel
300 Army Navy Drive
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it all begins with an idea...

Ronald Doole - successful inventor and author of The Inventor's Bible

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CONFERENCE
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but where do you go from there?

Application Preparation - what needs to be included, how to comply with 35 USC 112, 113, 115 & drawings

Claim Construction - analysis and writing, means & function, Meaning of Field & Doctrine of Equivalents

Patent Searching - hands on searching for prior art with the guidance of patent professionals

Invention Promotion Firms - Watch out! How to identify the hooks and lures that may cost you \$\$\$\$

Trademarks and Domain Names - what's the difference and how to register them

Prosecuting Patent Applications - responding to examiner's office actions, new rules relate to amendments & petitions. After final protest and RCEs

Going Global - the merits of filing a national and how strategy for doing so. What's needed to file a PCT 371 application.

Patent Electronic Filing System - EFS - filing your application electronically. You'll receive the software needed and instructions on how to go electronic!

Hot Technologies! - Hear from patent experts in the fields of Business Methods, Software, Biotechnology, and more!

Session topics subject to change without notice.

Check <http://www.uspto.gov/go/lie2001> for updates

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