



World-Class Brands, Products, People

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Honorable James E. Rogan
Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
2001 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 203
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Honorable James E. Rogan:

I have been reading, with alarm, the proposal of the U.S. PTO to replace certain paper patent and trademark files now in the public search rooms with an electronic search facility. Since I first began as a patent searcher in 1967, I have come to regard the paper collections of the Patent and Trademark Office as an essential research and legal tool. I have followed the development of electronic searching media throughout my career. Although electronic searching is possible, it is slow and incomplete.

To conduct a serious novelty, validity, or infringement search, there is no substitute for hand searching in Washington. The community of search firms available in the Washington, D.C. area offers important and valuable services to the corporate and private bar, and to the independent inventors and small companies alike.

Particularly useful electronic improvements that have been provided in the Patent Office search room are application locator files, and class and sub-class integrity checks. But I assure you there is no substitute for hand searching in the shoes.

I speak for myself and for the Gillette Company, and I implore you to recommend keeping the paper files available in both the patent and trademark search rooms.

Respectfully submitted

Donal B. Tobin
Reg. 25,711

DBT/ph

PS The undersigned attorneys practicing in my office join in this letter.

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