

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Comments Regarding The Electronic Availability of the Official Gazette of the U.S.
Patent and Trademark Office - Patents on the USPTO Web Site with Proposed
Enhancements

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Box Comments - Patents

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Sir:

In reply to the Official Gazette Notice published June 20, 2000, Sterne, Kessler,
Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C. submits the following comments. Consideration of these
comments is respectfully requested.

The present search capabilities of the text version of O.G. materials made
available by the USPTO on the Internet are limited. In particular, obtaining information
concerning the issuance of Reexamination Certificates does not appear to be available.
Because of the delays in the reexamination scanning unit, public access to status
information and papers filed in reexaminations is delayed, on occasion for months.

In addition to the proposed images in PDF format, what is need is enhanced
O.G. search capabilities enabling access public information about reexamination
proceedings, such as timely postings of Notices of Intent to Publish Reexamination
Certificates and the issuance of Reexamination Certificates. Thus, searching for
"reexamination status" based on patent number and reexamination control number
would be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox P.L.L.C.

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