To Whom this may Concern.

As a U.S. citizen, I'd like to put my advice towards guidance as to which patents should and should not be granted.

I believe the USPTO needs to take much stronger stand against software patents. Software patents truly hinder the free flow of innovation and proper use of technology to help our citizens. Instead, patents are used in endless litigation battles between software giants at the expense of consumers. We end up paying more for software. We end up having to pick specific companies artificially created ecosystems to gain certain software features & techniques.

These patents hurt individuals by taking away the ability to control devices that exert strong influence on personal freedoms including how we interact with each other. We're seeing this being played out on Facebook, Apple's iTunes, Apple's OS-X/iOS ecosystem, Oracle Sun, Google Android, EULA agreements, & many other software/web companies & services. Today's computers are so ubiquitous, it's much easier for individuals to create or modify software to perform the tasks that individual end users want done. It is critical more than ever that end users be allowed this ability to create and modify software on the fly.

The Supreme Court of the United States has never ruled in favor of the patent-ability of software. Bilski v. Kappos demonstrates that the Supreme Court expects the boundaries of patent eligibility to be drawn more narrowly than at the case's outset. The point of the decision is that the machine or transformation test shouldn't be the only test for drawing boundaries. The USPTO can & should exclude software from patent eligibility on other legal grounds: because software consists only of mathematics, which is not patentable, & the combination of such software with a general purpose computer is completely obvious.

These guidelines has the potential to affect so many cases, not just a small few. The Supreme Court's decision shows that the previous USPTO's guidelines were granting way too many software patents & this needs to be limited in its scope. The USPTO should consider what harm generous software patent guidelines will have on education, freedom of expression, innovation, harmful to already set standards, & the continuing rise of patent trolls who seek only monetary gain at the expense of consumers & businesses. I strongly believe the USPTO needs to stand strong & severely limit the scope of software patents.

Thank you for you time.

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