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Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2012 1:00 AM

To: micro_entity

Subject: Patent Examiners abusive use of "Obvious to anyone skilled in the art" to deny a patent

Dear USPTO

Anything you can do to help the small inventor is a big help to the country as a whole. Therefore your micro entity concept is a good start however taxing the small inventor with any "Maintenance fees" is brutal to all small inventors when many inventions take ten to fifteen years to develop fully and become profitable. It took me 6 years just to get a plumbing standard developed, It took another 10 years to get the states to adopt the standard, all so I could START selling my invented product.

I am deeply concerned with the Patent Examiner's abusive use of the term "Obvious to anyone skilled in the art" as a tool to disallow a patent claim. I have roughly 40 patents, and the need to prevent obviousness is readily apparent to all, however, recently "Obvious" can be referenced by combining multiple patent concepts. For the Patent office to assume that combining multiple concepts in multiple patents is somehow obvious makes me realize that the people making the rules for the patent office have never invented a thing in their life. You would be surprised just how non obvious most things are. It was not obvious that telephones had any value. It was not obvious that airplanes had any value. It was not obvious that Xerox had any value. It was not obvious that Typewriter correcting fluid, White Out, had any value. The list goes on and on. Obvious is a term used after the fact.

I had a patent application rejected for "Obvious to anyone skilled in the art" based upon six different cited patents, two of which were my own patents. How on earth can it be obvious to anyone skilled in the art if I am the expert in the art with two patents and did not see this new patent concept at the time I invented the other two patents. All patents become "Obvious" after they are explained.

The current use of the term "Obvious" is not only destroying the small and large inventor, but it is allowing overseas companies to manufacture products that were invented here but not protected. This is a great drain on our ingenuity, profitability and our economy. Stop giving good ideas to other countries.

Regards,

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