

From: Arna McCorkle
Sent: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 3:01 PM
To: SoftwareRoundtable2013
Subject: FW: U.S. Patent Office - Concerns over Patent Assertion Entities
Importance: High

Good Afternoon:

I am contacting you to express concern over Patent Assertion Entities (PAEs). PAEs are in the business of purchasing patents with little or no interest of developing the patent. Their primary purpose is to send out demand letters to unsuspecting businesses claiming patent infringement on the patents they have purchased and asking for licensing fees.

One PAE has gone after 13,000 small businesses, mainly motels and cafes, where Wi-Fi is offered to their customers. These small businesses, like many of the Fort Stockton Chamber members, can't afford the legal costs of a protracted legal case. There is no alternative but to pay the "demand" and that PAE knows what the outcome will be long before the letter is sent.

The word flaw doesn't really describe that situation adequately. Here in Texas we all know what it is called and I hope the *U.S. Patent Office* will help clean this up with some updated patent litigation laws that puts a stop to this type of mess.

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