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Discretion to Institute Trials Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board

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Comment from Mark Kilbourne

Submitter Information

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General Comment

I am the President of a small, limited liability corporation called Mr. Butler LLC. Patent Link:

<https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/f1/75/35/691716a9aad77d/US7373795.pdf>

I exclusively invented the worlds first system for retrofitting pre-existing deadbolt locks effectively converting such locks for remote control as opposed to a manual key. I patented the retrofitting device in 2008, and began selling commercial (albeit small scale since marketing budget was thin). My sales were climbing each year for several years. Finally, my biggest sale was with Microcenter (a nationwide electronic chain).

I trusted that my invention technology was protected, as I diligently paid my patent maintenance fees when due. I began showing my invention at numerous reputable trade shows, including several shows in Las Vegas: National Hardware Convention and Consumer Electronic Show for several years. Eventually, my technology was noticed on either my own website or the trade shows (or both). Once discovered, August Home copied it, while Apple Inc. integrated it into their Smart Phone, and Home Kit bundling it and SELLING IT

nationwide through Apple Brick and mortar stores as well as online.

Naturally, this diminished my sales as my device didnt have the: 1.)marketing presence, 2.) Bells and Whistles, 3.)Expensive Metal parts mine were plastic because of cost. I was unable to sustain meaningful sales, although my device still sells on Amazon and EBay after being bumped from brick and mortar stores in favor of Apples more expensive version. Where was the letter requesting permission to use my patented technology? Apparently, Apple hired lawyers which had much deeper pockets than mine. So I lost in court as well as loosing my entire business.

Attachments

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