

Comments on Patent Subject Matter Eligibility

The fact that the United States Patent and Trademark Office is a part of, and therefore commissioned by, the Department of Commerce, establishes the legal requirement of the conduct of commerce as a defining function, i.e. putting goods and services into the product markets. This, and our commerce with other countries, is vital to the economy of the United States of America.

If an invention solves a problem for enough people, it will likely become a successful product or service, if professionally developed, marketed, distributed and sold. Anything that impedes that conduct of business cannot take precedence.

I have been an independent inventor (manufacture) since 1991 and was a corporate inventor (process) for six years prior to that (intermittently 1976-1984), four of those years with the Department of Commerce, National Weather Service, Silver Spring, Maryland. I have a United States patent pending at this time. The independent inventor faces the lack of corporate identity and the resources that relationship provides, such as funding for professional product or service development, legal staff, confidentiality or security of their work, benefits and working for themselves rather than being a salaried employee.

The America Invents Act hasn't been an improvement to me as an independent inventor. It is paperwork, format oriented and gives less recognition to the merits of the invention, which significantly, and unnecessarily, increases the length of time required for the examination of the application. Most importantly, it denigrates intellectual property, which already suffers in comparison to real property. It's only an idea!

I was unable to attend the October meeting in Alexandria and won't be able to attend the San Francisco meeting of December 5, 2016, as I am physically challenged and don't know anyone who's attending. I have searched, without success, the USPTO website for a link to the agendas for the October meeting and the upcoming December meeting. Please provide those links as I want to continue my input into this very important issue of Patent Subject Matter Eligibility.

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