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Setting and Adjusting Patent Fees During Fiscal Year 2020

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General Comment

Small entities, especially independent technological innovators, are often under huge financial stress, or sometimes financial distress, and the more patents they file, the more financial burdens they have. I as an individual inventor have obtained 30 patents but still need time and resources to commercialize them, but recently I have been forced to stop inventing and to abandon issued patents due to the ever-increasing fees from USPTO, given my very limited funds to support continued invention. I am heavy in debt now, and I sincerely hope that USPTO can be kind enough to small entities or individual inventors. I hope, instead of increasing the fees, USPTO can provide more financial assistance to individual inventors, such as reducing or waiving certain filing and maintenance fees, if they can prove their individual inventor status, such as applicants of patents that are not assigned to any company, etc.

Furthermore, I have a comment on USPTOs tendency to follow or align with other countries patent practice, whether its in the fee structures or other aspects of the patent system. I came to the United States because she was the best country in the world, and I consider this was also because US has the best and time-tested patent system in the world that truly encourages innovation. However, later, especially after AIA, I was very puzzled why the best country with its time-test best system should change itself and follow those countries that are far behind us. I worried that the changes in recent years in the patent systems and practices has started a down trend and caused damages to the countrys position in the world, which is not what we want to see, as I want to contribute to the greatest country in the world that has accepted people like me, but recently I have found it more and more difficult to do so as an individual. I hope the leaders and government agencies of our country can be aware of the long-term consequences of the actions they take.