

Patent Pro Bono Program



United States Patent and Trademark Office

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website, at:

<http://web.wmitchell.edu/intellectual-property/inventors/>

The USPTO is committed to assisting financially under-resourced inventors and small businesses by establishing patent pro bono programs. The Office has dedicated educational and financial resources to helping inventors who lack legal representation so that no invention goes unpatented for lack of money for counsel.

WILLIAM MITCHELL REGIONAL PROGRAM

Regional patent pro bono programs are developing across the United States. The William Mitchell Regional Inventor's Assistance Program launched in 2015. The program is administered by William Mitchell College of Law, in St. Paul Minnesota. The Program works to provide free legal representation to low income inventors for residents in Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

FOR ATTORNEYS

Patent pro bono work provides a unique opportunity for registered patent practitioners to bring their core competency to a worthy set of pro bono clients. Not only does volunteering provide a much needed public service that fosters the principle of equal access to justice for all, but it also helps to reduce USPTO's backlog, which is good for the patent community as a whole and good for the American economy.

FOR INVENTORS

Inventors may receive pro bono assistance if they meet the program's income threshold (proof of income may be required) and other criteria (e.g., if they meet residency requirements).

Once accepted into the program, inventors may be matched with a qualified patent lawyer to assist in the filing and/or prosecution of a patent application. Inventors remain responsible for payment of any USPTO fees.

For up-to-date information about the USPTO's the establishment of new patent pro bono programs, please visit the website at:
<http://www.uspto.gov/inventors/proseprobono/>