

Comments Regarding USPTO's Proposed Fee Adjustments
from
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November 23, 2015

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has engaged in fraud, using a fraudulent fee schedule to create a slush fund of a billion dollars, and it must not be granted any further fee increases. What must be done will be discussed later.

Chrystal Sheppard, a member of the Public Patent Advisory Committee (PPAC), at page 194 in the transcript of a May 22, 2014. PPAC meeting, speaks about there being a “pot of money” and a “slush fund [of] a billion dollars.” And, just a few pages later – at page 200 - Anthony Scardino, the Chief Financial Officer at the USPTO, speaks about “lowering fees and things like that [to] give confidence and assurance to the folks on the Hill that, you know what – [we've] been responsible stewards of fee-setting authority.”

http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/ppac/ppac_transcript_20140522.pdf

Here are several definitions of a slush fund:

- “The term 'slush fund' indicates a fraudulent use of money. Expenses paid for out of a slush fund may be disguised as legitimate expenses, such as salaries, but not be commensurate with the work performed. Other times, no effort is made to disguise the spending, such as when a corporate executive uses a slush fund to purchase luxury vehicles for family and friends.”
<http://www.investopedia.com/terms/s/slushfund.asp>
- “A fund for bribing public officials or carrying on corruptive propaganda; an unregulated fund often used for illicit purposes” <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/slush%20fund>

Mr. Scardino knows that Congress wants Americans to invent, and he knows that Congress wants the threshold cost for entering the patenting process to be low, and, so, Mr. Scardino is speaking about plotting, with Dana Robert Colarulli, the Director of Governmental Affairs at the USPTO, to “give confidence...to” - i.e. “con” - “the folks on the Hill.” And, what they are plotting is to “con” Congress into giving the USPTO permanent fee-setting authority, which would enable them to charge – gouge – inventors whatever the USPTO wants, and they will use a tested-and-proven method, which is to manipulate fees so that, although the cost of filing a patent application goes up, the “filing fee” - the amount Congress looks at to try to find out what the cost of filing a patent application – goes down. In fact, the “filing fee” is now just **\$70***, whereas on December 3, 2004, it was **\$395**. Makes you wonder how they accumulated a slush fund of a billion dollars, doesn't it? It's a tangled web, but read on, and this accounting-trained self-taught inventor will try to explain as best as possible. And, no, it's not through economy-of-scale efficiency, such as mass-producing a commodity at super-low cost at super-high volume. Efficiency has absolutely nothing to do with the USPTO. * Note: This inventor has a USPTO “General Information Concerning Patents” booklet, reprinted June 1977, showing the “Basic fee” as \$65. That's the “filing fee.”

Believe it or not, you will learn as you read that the USPTO – an “intellectual” property agency – uses as part of their fraud the semantic idiocy of claiming that “filing fees” and “fees 'due on filing” are different., i.e. a fee that is “due on filing” is different from a “filing fee,” and, thus, a fee that is “due on filing” can be separately categorized on a fee schedule, yet still be “due on filing,” along with fees that are actually categorized as “filing fees.” That particular, and spectacularly profitable, invention needs a lot of examination.

SEMANTIC FILING FEE TRICKERY AT THE USPTO

or, how \$375 becomes \$140 and \$800

Before 12/8/04, the "Filing Fee" - \$375 on 1/1/03 - covered the cost of filing, as well as the cost of the patent search and the patent examination, but, on and after 12/8/04, what was originally a single "Filing Fee" was trifurcated into three separately-categorized fees that are, nevertheless, all "due on filing": a modified "Filing Fee" and a new Search Fee and a new Examination Fee.

"Filing Fee" - includes cost of Search and Examination

1/1/03 **\$375**

"Filing Fee" trifurcated on and after 12/8/04

modified	<u>"Filing Fee"</u>	<u>Search Fee</u>	<u>Examination Fee</u>	<u>"due on filing"</u>
12/8/04	\$150	\$250	\$100	\$500
10/2/08	\$165	\$270	\$110	\$545
9/26/11	\$190	\$310	\$125	\$625
3/13/13	\$140	\$300	\$360	\$800

WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE FOOLING?

"Filing Fee"	This is called	Fees "due
seems to	juggling	on filing"
go way	the	more than
down.	numbers!	DOUBLE
		in 10 years!

NOTE: This chart was prepared previously, so the fee amounts may not correspond with other text in these Comments. Suffice to say, if you don't watch closely, the USPTO will succeed in their mission to confuse you with their constant number-juggling, and cause you to give up trying to understand what they are doing. This inventor was told that Congressman Harold Rogers had said, regarding the USPTO, at the time of The American's Can't Afford To Invent Act, "there needs to be more transparency." The only thing transparent at the USPTO is the atrium.

Fraud can take several forms. There's simple fraud, such as what happened to this inventor: the USPTO sent him a fee schedule that was designed to deceive, and he was deceived and sent the USPTO money, and they won't give it back. And, there can be a complex, three-way fraud, which is what happens to all inventors: the USPTO produces a fee schedule that is designed to deceive, and Congress is deceived into thinking that the cost of filing a patent application is much lower than it really is, and they cast their votes which obligates inventors to pay, unbeknownst to Congress, exorbitant fees that Congress, this inventor believes, would not have approved, had they known the truth. Congress only knows something is wrong if an inventor complains, and then they ask the USPTO, and the USPTO lies and smarts-off to Congress, so the USPTO has stolen the money.

A fee schedule is a financial document, just as is a corporation's annual report, both being used to make decisions about disbursing money; and, these documents being complex, and people being people, attention tends to focus on one simple, most-significant thing: in the case of a financial statement, it is the net income, also known as the “bottom line;” and, in the case of the fee schedule, it is the “filing fee,” which is the top line of the fee schedule. And, of course, fraudsters being fraudsters, they know this, and manipulate, or falsify, these things that people tend to focus on – the net income on the “bottom line,” or the “filing fee” on the top line – so as to trick people into disbursing money they otherwise might not.

Documents A and B that follow show that the USPTO's fee schedule deceived a technology writer at Politico – Document A - and two researchers at the Congressional Research Service – Document B - one of those researchers being John R. Thomas, who is actually a professor of patent law at Georgetown. Wonder if the USPTO would lie and smart-off to somebody like Professor Thomas. The thing is that these three people are all smart and well-educated, so, they, culturally, almost instinctively, know what a “filing fee” is, and, despite reporting and academic rigor that requires that you always check and double check, they had no qualms at looking at the top number on the USPTO's fee schedule, and looking at the “filing fee,” and then reporting that what they saw as the “filing fees” was the “cost of filing” a patent application. The world would stop if we had to check on a “filing fee.”

A staffer for Senator Rockefeller told this inventor that the Congressional Research Service was “Congress's Google.” What does it tell you that Michelle Lee, the head of the USPTO, who came from Google, does nothing about this problem, which this inventor has raised so much Hell about that surely she knows about it? She needs to take her particular “algorithm” and just leave.

When this inventor tried to tell the USPTO that their fee schedules were deceptive they denied it, and, when he produced these documents, the USPTO pretended like they didn't exist, as did the PPAC. It seems clear now that they are operating so as not to incriminate themselves, because the wrongdoing is so obvious and massive, which means that the USPTO must absolutely not be allowed a fee increase.

A

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For the PTO to live up to the promise envisioned in the America ... At the current fee schedule, the cost for filing for an independent inventor is just \$165 for an ...
www.politico.com/news/stories/0311/090959.html

← WRONG

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... because otherwise they have to refund the \$1300+ filing fee ... everybody that even MS's enemies are asking the PTO ... Intel reinvents the transistor as a 3D Tr-Gate
www.geek.com/articles/news/eolas-906-patent-could-be-ruled-invalid-20031113

It is/was \$545

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\$ 165
270
110

\$ 545

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simply by filing the same Provisional Application for a ... as interpreted by the courts, i.e. not the PTO web ... concedes his invention, the second person who reinvents and ...
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DECEIVING THE PUBLIC AND CONGRESS

Congress, perhaps, reads Politico. If so, Congress was tricked into voting for the Americans Can't Afford To Invent Act because Politico was tricked into telling Congress that "At the current fee schedule, the [small entity] cost for filing for an independent inventor is just \$165." The true contemporaneous cost was \$545.

Did the USPTO do anything to correct this grossly misleading report which occurred because of their intentionally misleading financial document - the Fee Schedule? NO. Why, of course, would they want Congress to know the true cost of filing a patent application?

pto reinvents filing fee

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USPTO Fee-Setting Authority and Funding

The USPTO enjoys certain rulemaking authority provided by law. The USPTO may establish regulations that "govern the conduct of proceedings" before it, for example, as well as regulations that "govern the recognition and conduct" of patent attorneys.⁷⁴ However, the fees charged by the USPTO currently were determined by Congress.

The America Invents Act grants the USPTO additional authority "to set or adjust by rule any fee established or charged by the Office" under certain provisions of the patent and trademark laws.⁷⁵ This appears to provide the USPTO with greater flexibility to adjust its fee schedule absent congressional intervention. The new law requires that "patent and trademark fee amounts are in the aggregate set to recover the estimated cost to the Office for processing, activities, services and materials relating to patents and trademarks, respectively, including proportionate shares of the administrative costs of the Office."

The America Invents Act additionally stipulates fees for patent services provided by the USPTO.⁷⁶ In general, the new law raises the fees slightly. For example, the fees for filing a patent application and for the issuance of an approved application were \$300 and \$1,400 respectively; the new fees are \$330 and \$1,510. As previously discussed, each of these fees would then presumably be subject to adjustment by the USPTO.

← WRONG

The new statute creates within the Treasury a "Patent and Trademark Fee Reserve Fund" into which fee collections above that "appropriated by the Office for that fiscal year" will be placed. These funds will be available to the USPTO "to the extent and in the amounts provided in appropriations Acts" and may only be used for the work of the Office.⁷⁷

They were
\$1,000

The America Invents Act also establishes a new "micro entity" category of applicants.⁷⁸ A micro entity must make a certification that it qualifies as a small entity, has not been named on five previously filed patent applications, does not have a gross income exceeding three times the average gross income, and has not conveyed an interest in the application to another entity with an income exceeding that threshold. Micro entities would be entitled to a 75% discount on many USPTO fees. The USPTO Director is given authority to limit those who qualify as a micro entity if such limitations "are reasonably necessary to avoid an undue impact on other patent applicants or owners and are otherwise reasonably necessary and appropriate." The USPTO must inform Congress of least three months in advance of imposing such limitations.

\$ 300
500
200
\$1,000



DECEIVING CONGRESS

Congress relies on the Congressional Research Service (CRS). Congress was tricked into voting for the American's Can't Afford To Invent Act because the CRS was tricked into telling Congress that "the [large entity] cost of filing a patent application is \$300." The true contemporaneous cost was \$1,000.

Did the USPTO do anything to correct this grossly misleading report which occurred because of their intentionally misleading financial document - the Fee Schedule? NO. Why, of course, would they want Congress to know the true cost of filing a patent application?

This inventor has about three decades of occasional experience with the USPTO: the first two – no problem; this last decade – problem problem PROBLEM. The USPTO, which operates almost completely autonomously, is trying to slither out from under what little control Congress does have over them, and this is being attempted by the use of a fraudulent fee schedule, as described herein. This inventor wants the USPTO returned to full control of the Congress, and he wants this charade known as the Public Patent Advisory Committee (PPAC) to be abolished, as the PPAC members are completely ignorant of and disinterested in the experiences of inventors and the incompetence and malice at the USPTO. This inventor has communicated to the PPAC regarding the USPTO's fraud and conduct as detailed herein, and the response ranges from indifference to arrogance, because, as regards fraud and a slush fund...well, that just means more money for their pet projects.

This inventor embarked on inventing in 1980, by visiting the USPTO, then in Crystal City, in Alexandria, Virginia, and simply going through the stacks of issued patents and studying their format, language, etc. And, through the years, from time to time, this enabled him to prepare and file his own patent applications, and all that was involved was to contact the USPTO, and have them send him the current fee schedule – the “filing fee” tended to go up \$10 or \$20 every year or two, which was always regarded as quite a normal and expected rate – but that changed in 2006, when, much to his surprise – and delight – he got a fee schedule from the USPTO showing that the “filing fee” was \$150, instead of the nearly \$400 he expected, based on his obsolete several-year-old fee schedule.

To regress a bit, in 2000, unexpectedly, this inventor received several nice glossy magazines called “USPTO Today,” and, it must be said that he read with...well, suspicion, in the Summer-Fall 2000 edition of the magazine about the USPTO's planned move from Crystal City, Alexandria, to Old Town, Alexandria. Growing up in Virginia, this inventor knew Crystal City was an office center where people went to work, and he thought of Old Town as an exclusive and expensive area – an across-the-river and maybe-slightly-lower-market version of the famous Georgetown – where, he suspected, nobody went to work, unless they were real estate agents, or restaurant and bar staff, or household domestics. In the course of his investigation of the USPTO, he spoke to a reporter at Politico, who seemed anxious to blurt out his astonishment at the size and opulence of the Commissioner's office, and, he spoke to a Congressional Committee staffer, who said that somebody “went over there” - across the river - and came back and reported that “they have an atrium.” Pictures seem to show a centrally-disposed perhaps ten story glass atrium that probably isn't used to grow top-dollar organic tomatoes for the posh homes and restaurants in Old Town, but, rather, perhaps is just a place for a receptionist to sit, in a huge cavernous glass enclosure that in Washington's brutal 90-100 degree summers would cost a small fortune to keep at 70 degrees, so that the receptionist would be fresh and professional and chirpy in the otherwise filthy stinking soaking humidity in Washington in the summer. The cost of heating in the winter probably wouldn't be much lower, with only perhaps one or a handful of bodies – the receptionist and a maybe a few visitors - to generate heat. But, perhaps this glass atrium was an allusion to the famous Crystal Palace of the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London, where the marvels of the world were assembled, and millions of visitors passed through, these visitors surely providing quite a bit of heat, even in London weather. <http://history1800s.about.com/od/emergenceofindustry/ss/Great-Exhibition-1851.htm> And, continuing the allusion to the wonders of the Crystal Palace, according to the USPTO Today magazine, the new glass-atrium-and-office-campus of the USPTO was proclaimed to provide its own wonders: the wonders of efficiency. “Yeah, right,” as cynics say. To this inventor, this big glass atrium just seems to scream airhead.



In 2006, the USPTO developed a new campus in Alexandria, Virginia. The new campus consolidated employees and resources from the 18 buildings occupied in Arlington, Va., to the new campus saving the federal government money, increasing productivity, and The USPTO main campus in Alexandria, Va. is comprised of several buildings and anchored by the Madison Buildings (East & West).

<http://www.uspto.gov/about-us/uspto-locations/alexandria-virginia-headquarters>

CAPTION COMMENT – It says they are saving money and increasing productivity, but the cost of filing a patent application has doubled. God bless America, what would have happened if they didn't have the efficiencies of this palace to offset costs? Perhaps the cost of filing a patent application might be a million dollars. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU oh wonderful USPTO. (vomit) Wonder which room they keep the slush fund in. Surely not the atrium, where it can be seen.

The fee schedule received in 2006, and what has happened since, proves the suspicion of 2000 correct. The new headquarters and the fee schedule received in 2006 have a relationship, the former providing the waste and extravagance and the latter providing the fraud proceeds to pay for the former. For centuries, the USPTO had surely been located in ordinary office buildings, and it took centuries for the “filing fee” to reach \$395, but, through the wonders of the USPTO's magic new glass-atrium-centric headquarters, it only took the USPTO's “filing fee” - well, the cost of filing – ten years to more than double, to \$800. It seems that the Brits, with their Crystal Palace, were pikers. The USPTO has a Diamond Palace. A diamond mine, really, suitable for De Beers.

For centuries, the USPTO had a single “filing fee,” which included the cost of conducting a patent search and the cost of the examination of the application, and this “filing fee” was the top line of the fee schedule; but, on December 8, 2004, under the ruse that the USPTO would make operational improvements – they were never implemented, of course - the USPTO got a huge increase in the cost of filing a patent application – traditionally a single “filing fee” - which, before December 8, 2004, was \$395; and, after December 8, 2004, as part of these operational improvements that were not made – the USPTO kept the accompanying huge fee increase, of course - the traditional single “filing fee” was replaced by three fees, a “filing fee,” a search fee, and an examination fee, but, these three fees were separated into different categories on the fee schedule, with the “filing fee” portion of the three fees at the top of the fee schedule – where inventors traditionally look for the “filing fee” to determine the cost of filing a patent application – and the other two fees, the search fee and the examination fee, were placed lower down and near the bottom of the fee schedule in separate categories, clearly identifying them as not being a “filing fee” - they were, after all, not in the “filing fee” category on the fee schedule - and, because the search and examination are conducted much later, logic tells you that, since the work is done many months later, and the fees are in separate categories, these fees are due some

time in the future, when the work is done. What happened on December 8, 2004, was that a single “filing fee” of \$395 became a “filing fee” of \$150 and a search fee of \$250 and an examination fee of \$100, these three fees totaling \$500 - a whopping 27% increase – which might, logically, lead an inventor – naively trusting the USPTO to care about inventors – to think that 1) wow, \$150 – a 62% decrease – the USPTO really loves inventors, and they've finally lowered the threshold cost to file a patent application, and 2) wow, look at that, it used to be \$395, but now these fees total \$500 – a 27% increase - but, hey, they are in separate categories, and the work is done much later, so, logically, the fees won't be payable until sometime in the future. This deferral of fees was at a huge cost, but there would be overhead with the change, and maybe there were other improvements to go along with this dramatic change in the “filing fee.”

This inventor, having a provisional application for which the one-year deadline was approaching, decided to file a non-provisional application, believing – knowing, in fact, since he knows what a “filing fee” is – that the “filing fee” was \$150, so he scraped up \$215 (there was an additional \$65 due, for technical reasons) and filed his application, only to be informed by the USPTO that he owed another \$350: the search fee of \$250 and the examination fee of \$100. Needless to say, these fees were not going to be paid, and the fight was on. First, on July 12, 2006, a letter was sent to then-Commissioner for Patents John Doll, and no response was received, so, just out of curiosity, a fee schedule was requested from the USPTO, and, on November 16, 2006, a fee schedule was received bearing this heading:

United States Patent and Trademark Office
FY 2007 Fee Schedule
Effective December 8, 2004* (revisions effective October 14, 2006)
The filing fee (or national fee), search fee, and examination fee are due on filing.

This inventor wants to believe that his letter was responsible for this notice - “The filing fee (or national fee), search fee, and examination fee are due on filing” - which, for some reason, disappeared on subsequent fee schedules, which means that anybody reading those later fee schedules are completely uninformed about this drastic change. As you read further, you will probably think that the USPTO realized they made a mistake – they don't want to make known their plot to deceive Congress – when they put this notice on this fee schedule, because the confusion about the “filing fee” and “fees 'due on filing'” is, literally, worth a fortune to them. Remember the billion dollar slush fund?

Document C is a USPTO Fee Schedule, effective December 8, 2004, which was received March 30, 2006. There is no information about the separate search and examination fees being due on filing.

On July 12, 2006, a letter was written to John Doll about the deceptive fee schedule.

Received on November 16, 2006, Document D is the USPTO Fee Schedule, effective December 8, 2004, with revisions effective October 14, 2006, with this added instruction: “The filing fee (or national fee), search fee, and examination fee are due on filing.” Note: the search fee and examination fee are shown on the back of this page.

Received January 12, 2012, Document E is a USPTO Fee Schedule, effective September 26, 2011, on which the added instructions seen on Document D are nowhere to be seen. This fee schedule is just as deceptive as Document C, which was received March 30, 2006.

It can be seen that the USPTO refuses to produce an accurate, non-deceptive fee schedule.

3/30/06

C

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Effective December 8, 2004*

Any fee amount paid on or after December 8, 2004, must be paid as shown in the revised fee schedule. The fees subject to reduction for small entities that have established status (37 CFR 1.27) are shown in a separate column. For additional information, please call the USPTO Contact Center at (703) 308-4357 or (800) 786-9199.

*The effective date for the fee amounts in 37 CFR 2.6(a)(1) is January 31, 2005.
 The effective date for the fee amounts in 37 CFR 1.492(b)(1), (b)(2), and (c)(1) is February 1, 2005.

Fee Code	37 CFR	Description	Fee	Small Entity Fee (if applicable)
Patent Application Filing Fees				
1011/2011	1.16(a)(1)	Basic filing fee - Utility <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	300.00	150.00
4011†	1.16(a)(1)	Basic filing fee - Utility (electronic filing) <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	N/A	75.00
1001/2001	1.16(a)(2)	Basic filing fee - Utility <i>filed before December 8, 2004</i>	790.00	395.00
1201/2201	1.16(h)	Independent claims in excess of three	200.00	100.00
1202/2202	1.16(i)	Claims in excess of 20	50.00	25.00
1203/2203	1.16(j)	Multiple dependent claim	360.00	180.00
1051/2051	1.16(f)	Surcharge - Late filing fee or oath or declaration	130.00	65.00
1081/2081	1.16(s)	Utility Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets	250.00	125.00
1012/2012	1.16(b)(1)	Basic filing fee - Design <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	200.00	100.00
1002/2002	1.16(b)(2)	Basic filing fee - Design <i>filed before December 8, 2004</i>	350.00	175.00
1017/2017	1.16(b)(1)	Basic filing fee - Design (CPA) <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	200.00	100.00
1007/2007	1.16(b)(2)	Basic filing fee - Design (CPA) <i>filed before December 8, 2004</i>	350.00	175.00
1082/2082	1.16(s)	Design Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets	250.00	125.00
1013/2013	1.16(c)(1)	Basic filing fee - Plant <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	200.00	100.00
1003/2003	1.16(c)(2)	Basic filing fee - Plant <i>filed before December 8, 2004</i>	550.00	275.00
1083/2083	1.16(s)	Plant Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets	250.00	125.00
1014/2014	1.16(e)(1)	Basic filing fee - Reissue <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	300.00	150.00
1004/2004	1.16(e)(2)	Basic filing fee - Reissue <i>filed before December 8, 2004</i>	790.00	395.00
1019/2019	1.16(e)(1)	Basic filing fee - Design Reissue (CPA) <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	300.00	150.00
1009/2009	1.16(e)(2)	Basic filing fee - Design Reissue (CPA) <i>filed before December 8, 2004</i>	790.00	395.00
1204/2204	1.16(h)	Reissue independent claims in excess of three	200.00	100.00
1205/2205	1.16(i)	Reissue claims in excess of 20	50.00	25.00
1084/2084	1.16(s)	Reissue Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets	250.00	125.00
1005/2005	1.16(d)	Provisional application filing fee	200.00	100.00
1085/2085	1.16(s)	Provisional Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets	250.00	125.00
1052/2052	1.16(g)	Surcharge - Late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	50.00	25.00
1053	1.17(i)	Non-English specification	130.00	
Patent Search Fees				
1111/2111	1.16(k)	Utility Search Fee	500.00	250.00
1112/2112	1.16(l)	Design Search Fee	100.00	50.00
1113/2113	1.16(m)	Plant Search Fee	300.00	150.00
1114/2114	1.16(n)	Reissue Search Fee	500.00	250.00
Patent Examination Fees				
1311/2311	1.16(o)	Utility Examination Fee	200.00	100.00
1312/2312	1.16(p)	Design Examination Fee	130.00	65.00
1313/2313	1.16(q)	Plant Examination Fee	160.00	80.00
1314/2314	1.16(r)	Reissue Examination Fee	600.00	300.00
Patent Post-Allowance Fees				
1501/2501	1.18(a)	Utility issue fee	1,400.00	700.00
1502/2502	1.18(b)	Design issue fee	800.00	400.00
1503/2503	1.18(c)	Plant issue fee	1,100.00	550.00
1511/2511	1.18(a)	Reissue issue fee	1,400.00	700.00
1504	1.18(d)	Publication fee for early, voluntary, or normal publication	300.00	
1505	1.18(d)	Publication fee for republication	300.00	

† The 4000 series fee code may be used via EFS at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/efs/>.

PAYMENTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES MUST BE PAYABLE AND IMMEDIATELY NEGOTIABLE IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE FEE REQUIRED



United States Patent and Trademark Office

FEES

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USPTO Fee Information > FY 2007 Fee Schedule (14OCT2006)

*Received
11/16/06*

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
FY 2007 FEE SCHEDULE
 Effective December 8, 2004* (revisions effective October 14, 2006)

The filing fee (or national fee), search fee, and examination fee are due on filing.

The fees subject to reduction for small entities that have established status (37 CFR 1.27) are shown in a separate column. For additional information, please call the USPTO Contact Center at (571) 272-1000 or (800) 786-9199. Payments from foreign countries must be payable and immediately negotiable in the United States for the full amount of the fee required.

Patent	Patent Cooperation Treaty	Trademark
Patent Application Filing Fees	PCT Fees - National Stage	Trademark Processing Fees
Patent Search Fees	PCT Fees - International Stage	Trademark Madrid Protocol Fees
Patent Examination Fees	PCT Fees to Foreign Offices	Trademark International Application Fees
Patent Post-Allowance Fees		Trademark Service Fees
Patent Maintenance Fees	General	Fastener Quality Act Fees
Miscellaneous Patent Fees	Finance Service Fees	
Post Issuance Fees	Computer Service Fees	
Patent Extension of Time Fees		
Patent Appeals/Interference Fees		
Patent Petition Fees		
Patent Service Fees		
Patent Enrollment Fees		

USPTO Fee Schedule, effective December 8, 2004

Fee Code	37 CFR	Description	Fee	Small Entity Fee (if applicable)
Patent Application Filing Fees				
1011/2011	1.16(a)(1)	Basic filing fee - Utility <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	300.00	150.00
4011†	1.16(a)(1)	Basic filing fee - Utility (electronic filing for small entities) <i>filed on or after December 8, 2004</i>	n/a	75.00
1001/2001	1.16(a)(2)	Basic filing fee - Utility <i>filed before December 8, 2004</i>	790.00	395.00
1201/2201	1.16(h)	Independent claims in excess of three	200.00	100.00
1202/2202	1.16(i)	Claims in excess of twenty	50.00	25.00
1203/2203	1.16(j)	Multiple dependent claim	360.00	180.00
1051/2051	1.16(f)	Surcharge - Late filing fee, search fee, examination fee or oath or declaration	130.00	65.00



**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
FEE SCHEDULE
Effective September 26, 2011**

The fees subject to reduction for small entities (SE) that have established status (37 CFR 1.27) are shown in a separate column. Payments from foreign countries must be payable and immediately negotiable in the United States for the full amount of the fee required. For additional information, please call the USPTO Contact Center at (571) 272-1000 or (800) 786-9199.

Note the following fee code changes effective November 15, 2011:

- 1090/2090 – Non-electronic filing fee (Utility application) – Additional fees of \$400/\$200
- 1690/2690 – Non-electronic filing fee (PCT International application) – Additional fees of \$400/\$200

The \$400/\$200 non-electronic filing fee must be paid in addition to the filing, search and examination fees, in each original nonprovisional utility application filed in paper with the USPTO. The only way to avoid payment of the non-electronic filing fee is by filing your nonprovisional utility application via EFS-Web. The non-electronic filing fee does not apply to reissue, design, plant, or provisional applications.

Fee Code	37 CFR	Description	Fee	Small Entity Fee (if applicable)
Patent Application Filing Fees				
1011/20111.16(a)(1)		Basic filing fee - Utility	380.00	190.00
4011†	1.16(a)(1)	Basic filing fee - Utility (electronic filing for small entities)	n/a	95.00
1201/2201.16(h)		Independent claims in excess of three	250.00	125.00
1202/2202.16(i)		Claims in excess of 20	60.00	30.00
1203/2203.16(j)		Multiple dependent claim	450.00	225.00
1051/2051.16(f)		Surcharge - Late filing fee, search fee, examination fee or oath or declaration	130.00	65.00
1081/2081.16(s)		Utility Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets that exceeds 100 sheets	310.00	155.00
1012/2012.16(b)(1)		Basic filing fee - Design	250.00	125.00
1017/2017.16(b)(1)		Basic filing fee - Design (CPA)	250.00	125.00
1082/2082.16(s)		Design Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets that exceeds 100 sheets	310.00	155.00
1013/2013.16(c)(1)		Basic filing fee - Plant	250.00	125.00
1083/2083.16(s)		Plant Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets that exceeds 100 sheets	310.00	155.00
1014/2014.16(e)(1)		Basic filing fee - Reissue	380.00	190.00
1019/2019.16(e)(1)		Basic filing fee - Design Reissue (CPA)	380.00	190.00
1204/2204.16(h)		Reissue independent claims in excess of three	250.00	125.00
1205/2205.16(i)		Reissue claims in excess of 20	60.00	30.00
1084/2084.16(s)		Reissue Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets that exceeds 100 sheets	310.00	155.00
1005/2005.16(d)		Provisional application filing fee	250.00	125.00
1085/2085.16(s)		Provisional Application Size Fee - for each additional 50 sheets that exceeds 100 sheets	310.00	155.00
1052/2052.16(g)		Surcharge - Late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	50.00	25.00
1053	1.17(i)	Non-English specification	130.00	
1090/2090.16(t)		Non-electronic filing fee — Utility (additional fee for applications filed in paper)	400.00	200.00
† The 4000 series fee code may be used via EFS-Web				
Patent Search Fees				
1111/2111.16(k)		Utility Search Fee	620.00	310.00
1112/2112.16(l)		Design Search Fee	120.00	60.00
1113/2113.16(m)		Plant Search Fee	380.00	190.00
1114/2114.16(n)		Reissue Search Fee	620.00	310.00
Patent Examination Fees				
1311/2311.16(o)		Utility Examination Fee	250.00	125.00
1312/2312.16(p)		Design Examination Fee	160.00	80.00
1313/2313.16(q)		Plant Examination Fee	200.00	100.00
1314/2314.16(r)		Reissue Examination Fee	750.00	375.00
Patent Post-Allowance Fees				
1501/2501.16(a)		Utility issue fee	1,740.00	870.00
1502/2502.16(b)		Design issue fee	990.00	495.00
1503/2503.16(c)		Plant issue fee	1,370.00	685.00
1511/2511.16(a)		Reissue issue fee	1,740.00	870.00
1504	1.18(d)	Publication fee for early, voluntary, or normal publication	300.00	
1505	1.18(d)	Publication fee for republication	300.00	
Patent Maintenance Fees				
1551/2551.16(e)		Due at 3.5 years	1,130.00	565.00
1552/2552.16(f)		Due at 7.5 years	2,850.00	1,425.00
1553/2553.16(g)		Due at 11.5 years	4,730.00	2,365.00
1554/2554.16(h)		Surcharge - 3.5 year - Late payment within 6 months	150.00	75.00
1555/2555.16(h)		Surcharge - 7.5 year - Late payment within 6 months	150.00	75.00
1556/2556.16(h)		Surcharge - 11.5 year - Late payment within 6 months	150.00	75.00
1557	1.20(i)(1)	Surcharge after expiration - Late payment is unavoidable	700.00	
1558	1.20(i)(2)	Surcharge after expiration - Late payment is unintentional	1,640.00	

The next step was to demand a refund, and the USPTO's response was to tell this inventor that it was his problem, because he didn't read about the change in the Federal Register. (See Document F below, the Fed.Reg. Being at the center of the page.) This inventor then told the USPTO – who had provided no accurate instructions – that he would be willing to read the Federal Register if they would send it to him, or if they would send him computer and internet service – which he did not have at that time – so he could look it up on-line, but the USPTO, true to their nature, expressed their contempt by their silence.

Further efforts were made to reason with the USPTO through a Congressman and both Senators, but the arrogant USPTO just told them that the USPTO doesn't get their money from Congress – no, they trick Congress into letting them gouge inventors – and the inventor doesn't know what he is doing, so, essentially, go to Hell was their attitude.

Subsequently, another fee schedule was requested, and, this time, it came with a cover letter with the signature of Barry Hudson, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the USPTO, so this inventor tried to call Mr. Hudson, only to find out that the incompetent USPTO hadn't changed their cover letter, and that Mr. Hudson was no longer at the USPTO, and Tony Scardino was now the CFO, so many calls were made in an effort to talk to Mr. Scardino, but he constantly refused, with, at one point, one of his assistants saying “he says he 'can't do anything about it.’” That's right, the Chief Financial Officer said he can't do anything about how the “filing fee” is shown on the fee schedule, which is further evidence of the plot by the USPTO to use the “filing fee” confusion for huge profit, which is accomplished by intentionally deceiving Congress. Refer back to the second paragraph above.

In typical USPTO fashion, Mr. Scardino insisted on passing the buck to the Office of General Counsel, and, eventually, this advice was followed, and a call was made to the Office of the General Counsel – Bernard Knight, at that time – and, miracle of miracles, he actually answered “hello,” whereupon this inventor told him that there was a problem with the fee schedule, and he said to send him some information and he would “give it to one of the lawyers,” which was done, and, subsequently, an extremely ignorant and insulting letter (Document G below) was received from a lawyer – let's suppose – named A. Wade Norman, in which he told this inventor that he could call and write to the USPTO all he wanted to, but the USPTO would not respond, and that he could get a lawyer if he wanted to – that's right, the USPTO wants this inventor to pay a lawyer thousands of dollars to recover \$215 that the USPTO cheated him out of – and, this infuriating letter resulted in further calls to Mr. Scardino to explain to him what a “filing fee” was, and Mr. Scardino responded by making a personal threat.

F



Kent
6/29/07

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

JUN 26 2007

Mr. Kent Murphy
HC 60 Box 314
New Martinsville, WV 26155

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for your letter to the Office of General Counsel at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Your communication has been forwarded to the Office of the Commissioner for Patents for response since it pertains to patent matters.

Your letter indicates that you paid your filing fee, but your application went abandoned because the USPTO failed to update their instructions. The USPTO then evidenced their administrative oversight by revising the fee schedule on October 14, 2006, but did nothing to remedy the damages to you.

A review of your patent application, 11/401,473, shows that there was no administrative error. You filed the "Fee Transmittal For FY 2003" form when you filed your patent application on April 11, 2006. On December 8, 2004, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 revised certain patent fees and provided for a search fee and examination fee that are separate from the filing fee, during fiscal years 2005 and 2006. See Changes to Implement the Patent Fee Related Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, 70 Fed. Reg. 3880 (January 27, 2005). Since you filed an old Fee Transmittal form that did not include the filing fee, search fee and examination fee, the USPTO mailed you the form "Notice To File Missing Parts Of Nonprovisional Application" on May 9, 2006 stating that you owed \$150 for the basic filing fee, a surcharge of \$65, \$250 for the search fee and \$100 for the examination fee. On June 16, 2006, we received from you the \$150 filing fee and \$65 surcharge. You never paid the search fee or the examination fee. On July 5, 2006, another "Notice To File Missing Parts Of Nonprovisional Application" form was mailed to you indicating that you still owed the search and examination fees. Again, you did not pay the required fees. Accordingly, the application is abandoned. The fees are set by statute and cannot be waived by the USPTO.

In order to continue with your application, you first need to revive it. An applicant may revive an application by filing a petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b). If applicant chooses to revive an application under 37 CFR 1.137(b) asserting that the abandonment of the application was unintentional, applicant must provide the following:

- (1) the required reply, i.e., the search fee of \$250 and the examination fee of \$100;
- (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m), which is currently \$750.00 (small entity);

G



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

GENERAL COUNSEL

June 13, 2011

*received
6/16/11*

Kent D. Murphy
HC 60 Box 314
New Martinsville, WV 26155-9504

Re: Correspondence of June 4, 2011

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 4, 2011. USPTO General Counsel Bernard Knight asked me to review your letter and provide you a response. The USPTO's website prominently features a copy of the full USPTO Fee Schedule, which clearly indicates that there is a "basic filing fee," but that various other fees will be charged throughout the patent examination process, depending upon the circumstances of each an individual patent application. This fact is not hidden in "fine print."

The Fee Schedule is not designed to accomplish "trickery"—the various relevant fees to be charged are plainly listed. The USPTO strives to make our processes clear and understandable, even to independent inventors who don't have experience with the patent process. We believe that USPTO's published Fee Schedule is sufficiently clear on this point. USPTO staff members have repeatedly explained our position to you, as well as to Senator Rockefeller's office in June 2010. You may take any legal action you believe would be appropriate, but USPTO staff will not continue to debate this issue with you via phone calls and letters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wade Norman".

Wade Norman
Associate Counsel
Office of General Law

Now, here's something interesting: it has subsequently been learned that Bernard Knight – you remember, he was asked to resolve a very simple accounting matter that anybody, with or without Accounting 101, but only a basic commonplace understanding of an itemized bill, which lawyers know all about, should have able to easily solve - actually...wait for it...he actually...yes, wait for it...had an accounting degree, and had actually worked for the giant accounting firm Ernst and Young. Perhaps he was discovered to be incompetent, or perhaps he wanted to get a bigger paycheck for being incompetent, but, for whatever reason, he turned to law. And, as he was a personal friend of the then-Commissioner for Patents David Kappos, he was given the job of General Counsel, where actually doing his job wasn't really required, was it, what with him knowing good old David, and all? But, at some point, his job did require a trip to pre-ISIS Paris, which, presumably, he managed to execute with some competence. But, even further, it turns out that accounting and law wasn't enough for the too-bored-to-solve-simple-problems Mr. Bernard Knight, and, perhaps in a midlife crisis, he got a degree in developmental psychology, which, although he decided not to put to use his oh-so-old accounting degree training in his job, he, nevertheless, decided that his brand-spanking-new developmental degree applied, so he decided to use the USPTO to modify the behavior of inventors. That's right, with inventors already facing many obstacles and difficulties, they now must worry that their behavior isn't quite right, and must be modified, according to the glorious Mr. Bernard Knight and those paragons of good behavior at the USPTO. If ever there was a group of people who need behavior modification – termination, more like it – it is the people at the USPTO.

The concept that the USPTO should engage in behavior modification is totally ridiculous, but, if you watch PPAC meetings, you will see Tony Scardino, the CFO at the USPTO, whose competence and integrity you should think highly questionable if you have read this far, speak about going around to various departments to see if there is any behavior of the inventing public that they want to try to modify, and, one might believe that, if they do want to modify some sort of behavior...well, Mr. Scardino will simply raise a fee to an exorbitant level that will 1) contribute to the USPTO's slush fund, and 2) create hardship for inventors, as if they don't have any, already.

This inventor has been told that the concept that the USPTO engage in behavior modification originated with a legal opinion – for what reason, who knows? - that told the USPTO that they could do so. Perhaps the first example of the implementation of this offensive idiocy is the notorious “Electronic Filing Incentive” that was incorporated into the Americans Can't Afford To Invent Act, and which forces independent inventors to pay \$200 – yes, \$200 – as a punishment for not being on the internet. But, let's think a bit: you might remember reading two paragraphs back that the Chief Counsel at the USPTO, Bernard Knight, was, perhaps – an insinuation, yes, but possible - keen to use his psychology training, so maybe that explains it, but, we've also read that Bernie was a personal friend of David Kappos, who came to the USPTO from IBM, so one might theorize that Mr. Kappos used his position to try to force people to buy computers, and that his dear friend Bernie helped him out with a legal opinion. Of course, this just shows how out-of-touch somebody like Mr. Kappos was with independent inventors – notwithstanding the fact that they propped him up and had him read lines on the “Everyday Edisons” TV program – because 20% of American households are still off-line <http://www.facethefactsusa.org/facts/20percent-of-American-Households-Still-Offline>, so this “incentive” is really a \$200 punishment that seems to resemble those oft-publicized situations in which cops beat incommunicado people – deaf-mutes, autistics, etc. - for not snapping to attention when the cop shouts as-if-from-Mars orders to these people because they must know the “rules of engagement” that the cops spend weeks getting trained to know that everybody must know and follow. And, IBM hasn't made personal computers for years, so forcing – or trying to force – Americans to buy personal computers wouldn't do anything for Mr. Kappos's IBM stock; but, we also must consider that, somehow, he might have gotten some Lenovo stock as part of the transaction, or maybe IBM is in a

joint partnership with Lenovo...or...well, who knows.

But, now, it is even worse. As part of their effort to trick Congress, the USPTO reduced the cost of filing a non-provisional small-entity patent application from \$800 to \$730 – which enabled them to lower the “filing fee” on the what-people-look-at-top-line to \$70, but this is on the assumption that the application is filing electronically, but if the applicant files using filthy dirty paper, the USPTO tacks the \$200 penalty on to the \$800 amount, not the \$730 amount, which means the penalty is now \$200 + \$70, or \$270, and the cost of filing an application on paper is \$1,000, according to the USPTO. Actually, this is illegal, but it reflects 1) the incompetence of Mr. Scardino, and 2) Mr. Scardino's absolute determination to gouge inventors any way he can, so as to grow his slush fund.

Now, let's do a calculation: based on this illegal \$270 punishment for using paper, if an application is 15-pages long – most independent backyard-type inventors with a tool or kitchen or household gadget might have an application about that long – that means that the USPTO punishes them by charging them \$18 per page – yes, \$18 per page.

And, of course, we see that America's “intellectual” property agency doesn't understand the concept of eccentricity, although eccentricity is often said to occasionally be a characteristic of inventors, and intellectuals, too, and this eccentricity might contribute to them not being on the internet, either through eccentric preference, or an eccentric creative temperament that might make it impossible for them to work with idiots – such as those at the “intellectual” property agency – long enough to accumulate the funds for what might be the luxury of buying a computer, and paying monthly for internet service, and then going through the possibly lengthy learning curve to just be able to use a damned box to do what can be done with a typewriter and pen and pencil and paper and an envelope that can be put in the mail.

And, if anybody reads – or at least scans through beginning to end – the Americans Can't Afford To Invent Act, you might discover that, in one part of the Act is the \$200 “incentive” punishment just discussed, and, in another part of the Act – surely far enough away to keep somebody from thinking...hmm, wait a minute... - you will read that the USPTO will 1) print-out a copy of an issued US patent, and then 2) assemble it, and then 3) provide an envelope, and then 4) stuff it into the envelope, and then 5) provide postage to send it in the US mail to anybody who requests it, presumably only in the United States. Yes, the USPTO won't touch your filthy dirty paper patent application for less than \$200, but they will send you a paper copy of an issued US patent for \$3.

Now, consider this: if somebody isn't on the internet, but they want a copy of an issued patent, they can, most likely, go to a nearby public library, and, without too much difficulty, print-out a copy of that patent; but, if an inventor isn't on the internet, they can't just go to the library and prepare and file their patent application. How would somebody spend hour upon hour upon hour in a public library studying and typing and scanning and calling the USPTO help-line and cursing – yes, there will be some cursing – in a public library, and not lose their patent rights, simply because they are working on confidential material in public? And, if you had a friend who let you use their computer, would that friend peeking over your shoulder and asking “Whatcha workin' on?” compromise your patent rights, or might your friend think that, by letting you use their computer, they have made an in-kind investment, and might they want a share of your patent, particularly if it starts making money?

And, this inventor has a secret to share with you, that he learned from watching a PPAC meeting: although the USPTO doesn't want to touch any filthy dirty paper an inventor might send in, Tony Scardino, the CFO at the USPTO, who implements and administers – and collects, most importantly - this \$200 “incentive” punishment, actually prepares and offers to members of the PPAC 200-page (neat

coincidence, right?) reports that are...wait for it...that's right, ON PAPER.

And wait, there's more: if an inventor does file a patent application electronically, on-line, do you know how the USPTO communicates with the applicant? That's right, ON PAPER AND THROUGH THE MAIL.

So, we can see that the USPTO scams inventors, so much so that they have a “slush fund [of] a billion dollars.” And, since they are wallowing in so much cash, perhaps that explains the recent USPTO scandals that made their way into the Washington newspapers:

Washington Post articles

<http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/page/politics/final-report-by-us-patent-and-trademark-office-on-telework-fraud-allegations/1245/>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/patent-office-filters-out-worst-telework-abuses-in-report-to-watchdog/2014/08/10/cd5f442e-1e4d-11e4-82f9-2cd6fa8da5c4_story.html

Washington Times articles

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/8/patent-office-head-step-down-amid-nepotism-charge/>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jul/29/patent-workers-paid-exercise-shop-do-chores-report/>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jul/11/patent-official-threatened-sue-ig-over-damning-rep/>

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/jul/10/head-trademark-office-accused-nepotism/>

What you see in these articles is that the USPTO just has so much money laying around that they couldn't be bothered making an effort to stop mis-spending it. It's just too much work to try to do proper accounting and management when it is so much easier for them to just gouge gouge GOUGE inventors with more and more ever-increasing fees, thanks to their magical fraudulent fee schedule, with its ever-decreasing “filing fee.”

CONCLUSION

It's obvious that the USPTO has turned into a fee-collection operation, and more and more it seems to resemble the invention-promotion companies – the competition? - that they make so much effort to put out of business.

The USPTO is totally out of control, as they feel confident that, by utilizing their fraudulent fee schedule, with its ever-decreasing “filing fee,” they have Congress conned. And, they know that their pals at the PPAC are nothing to worry about. Nobody's watching, they think. And, here's a mystery: this inventor, who has been watching and commenting on recent PPAC meetings, discovered that, on this past Thursday, November 19, 2015, he could not watch, and only got this message:

One moment please...

When a security message appears, make a selection to

allow java to run and to continue
setting up Event Center.

So, maybe he will have to wait for the Livestream archive video to watch, and wait for the transcript to read, but here's something interesting: in the previous PPAC meeting, on August 20, 2015, this inventor would swear that he heard it mentioned that patent filings were declining – people refusing to be gouged by the USPTO anymore? - but, when the archive video and transcript for this PPAC meeting finally became available on-line, repeated efforts to find this were unsuccessful. Hmm....

Michelle Lee, Tony Scardino, and Dana Colarulli, among others, must be forced out, and the PPAC must be abolished, and Congress must be brought in to control the USPTO, so as to protect their constituents, as well as to bring in expert consultants that can restore the USPTO to competent operation and credibility – which begins with producing an honest fee schedule with an honest “filing fee”, and stopping the \$200 punishment of inventors who use paper, and stopping with their efforts to modify the behavior of inventors - and, the USPTO must adopt the deferred examination system, which is discussed at these links:

<https://ideas.repec.org/p/trf/wpaper/416.html>

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41261.pdf>

The first link shows that deferred examination has been in practice in Europe for decades, and the second link, a report for the Congressional Research Service by the previously mentioned Georgetown professor of patent law John R. Thomas – he who was tricked by the USPTO's fraudulent fee schedule and “filing fee,” as discussed on page three above, and shown on Document B – says it all with this quote, taken from page ten of the report: “Other commentators have expressed concern that a deferred examination system may have a negative impact upon the revenue that the USPTO receives from the fees it charges.”

There you have it: the USPTO is afraid that the USPTO might lose their atrium, and the Commissioner might lose his or her huge office, and the USPTO might have to down-size to responsible offices.

A few years ago, this inventor was discussing the situation with inventors in the US with a Swiss inventor, and he used the word “stodgy.” Well, this inventor, who is an American, won't be so diplomatic: backward, stupid, retarded, incompetent, and corrupt are a few words that spring to mind.

If you refer back to page eight, you will see that this inventor's campaign began when he discovered the USPTO's “filing fee” trickery when, with the one-year deadline approaching, he was tricked into believing that the USPTO had done something favorable for inventors by lowering the threshold cost for entering the patenting system – i.e. lower the “filing fee” - only to discover that, in actuality, they had drastically raised the threshold cost. Had the deferred examination system been in operation in the USPTO, the problem that has lead to an eight-year plus campaign, and this long comment, would have never existed. He would have simply paid the “filing fee,” had his application on file, and could try to commercialize the invention before encountering the huge fees that beset independent inventors.