

SUCCESS Act Public Comment

My name is Deja S. Castro and I am the inventor of the Tear and Toss Trash System and founder of RDC Systems, LLC. As a female patent holder, the SUCCESS Act is very important to me. I have three granted patents in the United States with an additional one pending. I also have 27 patents in three other countries, the United States patents represent the highest potential and value for me and my business.

I support increasing the number of women, minorities, and veterans who hold patents, but it is crucial that we concurrently increase the enforceability of those patents. Patents have become liabilities for independent inventors thanks to the PTAB and lack of strong enforcement in court. If the recommended legislation does not include increased protection of patents, the USPTO and Congress will end up destroying the lives women, minorities, and veterans who attain patents.

I am a full time working nurse and have left all behind and cashed out all savings and even my children's college money in order to invest in the patents I hold. The future of my family and I depend on the licensing of these patents. A fortune 500 who is currently reviewing my idea required, just like most large companies, that I have patents in order to have the idea considered seriously. I have seen cases from fellow inventors such as Josh Malone, Bunch O Balloons and Alex Sevrinsky, Paice, Roman Chistyakov, Zond – Roman who invented a plasma metal thin film deposition technology used for semiconductors and razor go through terrible heartache and stress financially, mentally, and emotionally while companies use the legal system to undo all their hard work and steal their babies. I would have sacrificed nearly a decade of my life to invent, prototype, draft patent applications, and go round after round with the patent office just to have all my work and my family's future torn apart? I would likely not only be very hurt and bitter, but also have to admit to everyone I know personally and publicly that the patents in the United States aren't worth anything and just to keep your day job. People need to know that making the world better is safe, and they will be compensated for all the passion and tears they invested, on top of all the money they scrapped together. I am a micro entity and it has been hell trying to keep up with all the costs in order to not have my future stolen. My kids believe I am protected by these beautiful patents that came to us in the mail. Let's not ruin their trust and belief in that.

Question 4: What social and private benefits to small businesses owned by women, minorities, and veterans would you identify as resulting from increasing the number of patents applied for and obtained by those businesses?

Imagine the United States without our invention shows like Shark Tank. Our society is full of dreamers and they believe anything can happen in the United States, the land of opportunity. In the past when inventors, especially women, were able to secure patents for their businesses it allowed them to secure money and deals and with that comes an extraordinary social opportunity in the public eye to share the story, not only the product. We all know that people are

driven by how they feel. If one minority or woman sees another living the “dream” and they made it, then many more will be brave enough to follow and thus a society shift occurs. Unfortunately, like my story, without valid patents this dream of inventing and reaching the masses via distribution of a large company just doesn’t happen and then the story never reaches others because success is cut short due to no protection. Or worse, if patents can’t be enforced, the idea is stolen and makes it out there without the public ever knowing it was a woman who invented it! I have an unusual name, Deja, and it is interesting in almost every email from around the world I am addressed as Sir, everyone assumes the inventor, the owner is a male! I hope to assign my patents to mega companies to help protect them because as of now the social and private benefits to small businesses from increasing the number of patents obtained are zero, if not in the negative, due to the current state of the patent system. Due to extremely high PTAB invalidation rates, investors are not funding innovative companies built on patented ideas. It is incomprehensible that the Patent Office is attacking inventors in these proceedings – the complete opposite of promoting innovation! A lack of trust in the patent system means that socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals have no chance of success. According to the 2017 AIPLA Report of the Economic Survey, the estimated mean cost of a post-grant proceeding through appeal runs at \$450,000.00. The underrepresented classes being discussed would be ruined by a single IPR. In order to provide patents of value women, minorities, and veterans, the USPTO must stop taking back patents from inventors.

Signature

Deja S. Castro