

From: [Ken Stanwood](#)
To: [successact](#)
Subject: SUCCESS Act Study
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Hello,

I am an inventor on 149 issued US patents primarily in the area of wireless communications. The USPTO has an interesting task gathering data for the SUCCESS ACT. I get stalled by the very first question.

- (1) What public data are available to identify the number of patents applied for and obtained by women, minorities and veterans?

I look at myself and ask what does this question mean? I am of mixed race, white and Native American. Until this email, did the USPTO know? How could the USPTO know? Why would the USPTO know? Why should the USPTO know? In a perfect world, why should the USPTO care?

Another question that arises, since I am of mixed ancestry, is does my Native American ancestry count? Does it pass some threshold that determines it to be a sufficient percentage of my ancestry? This brings up question 5:

- (5) Should the USPTO collect demographic information on patent inventors at the time of patent application, and why?

How would the USPTO collect this information, especially for person of mixed race? Again, are there threshold percentages that matter? What if someone doesn't know the exact answer? I don't know the percentage ancestry because at certain points in history my family's ancestry was not discussed for fear of persecution? That brings up the question of should the data be collected. What if someone doesn't want to answer? Now that my Native American ancestry is public will I be persecuted? Will I be given advantages? Will it be business as usual?

I seem to have only added confusion to the data collection and counting issue. You have an interesting task ahead.

Thanks,
Kenneth Stanwood

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