This topic is presented on behalf of the Section of Intellectual Property Law of the American Bar Association ("ABA"). The views have not been approved by the House of Delegates or the Board of Governors of the ABA and, accordingly, should not be construed as representing the position of the ABA.

Proposal for study: A review of rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101 in bio/pharma applications.

Explanation: There is some inconsistency regarding how rejections are made for failing to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Many rejections do not address the claims as a whole. In addition, many rejections appear to improperly incorporate by clear implication prior art grounds of rejection as part of the utility (§ 101) assessment. Looking at applications in the bio/pharma art units that include utility rejections may identify patterns and allow for training to make rejections more consistent and focused on lack of utility.

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