Dear folks:

I've read hundreds of patents in my work. Many patents in such fields as electronic design and semiconductor processing (my fields) are pathetic, but I've never seen a software patent that wasn't absurd. Software is protected by copyright already; it does not need and should not have patent protection. The huge expansion of patent grants (mostly software now) since the 1980's has not led to any increase in economic growth but it has contributed to economic inequality. You should be working on limiting grants to actual inventions and getting rid of crap, not adding to it.

The remainder from EFF, which I also support:
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I urge the USPTO not to adopt the guidance on subject matter eligibility set forth in the Request for Comments, Docket No. PTO–P–2018–0053. Instead, the USPTO should provide guidance that ensures examiners apply the Supreme Court's Alice v. CLS Bank decision correctly.

The new guidance expands upon a small number of decisions finding patent claims eligible and ignores the far more numerous decisions in which courts have rejected claims as ineligible for patent protection. It distorts the law and will encourage examiners to grant invalid, abstract patents. Such patents wrongly claim basic ideas, increase litigation costs to no benefit, and harm the public interest.

The USPTO's role is not to narrow Supreme Court holdings, it is to apply them. Please abandon revisions to the Patent Subject Matter Eligibility Guidance. >>

Daniel Dobkin