

**From:** [Stephen Hawkinson](#)  
**To:** [Eligibility2019](#)  
**Subject:** Personal views from a small business programmer regarding the need to Reject new guidelines on subject matter eligibility, Docket No. PTO-P-2018-0053  
**Date:** Thursday, February 7, 2019 1:39:32 PM

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I have a small business that is no longer considering writing software due to problems with the current state of the USPTO and its point of view in regards to the Supreme Court case Alice v. CLS Bank. The software that I have decided not to copyright nor methods patented, would have large reaching effects to the whole of our society. Instead, I will have to release anonymously, as open source, hoping that I will not be found and sued for creating something that has NEVER been seen or programmed before. This HAS to stop!

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.