

From: Paul Alpert [mailto:alpert@garlic.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2006 7:54 PM
To: AB93Comments
Subject: My comments on proposed changes to continuation rules

Dear Commissioner Doll

I am a CPA/small business owner and an independent inventor. All of my patent costs come out of my limited budget.

I understand that the proposed rule changes on continuations will drastically increase my costs for obtaining a patent, while at the same time restricting the protection I pay for.

I understand that the proposed rules will force me to appeal all final rejections rather than filing continuations to give the examiners the additional time the need to better understand my invention.

I understand that the proposed rules will force me to file additional applications all on the same day to cover my invention

I understand that the proposed rules will force me to file many additional claims in my applications

I struggle with survival every day and I want you to understand that the proposed rules, if adopted, will ***make my life far more difficult than it is already.***

Rather than the changing the continuation rules, I recommend that you continue to increase rate of hiring of examiners and redirect the fees to training, salaries, and retention. As the examiner force increases, the number of examiners you can hire and train each year will also increase. By your own numbers, the recent increases in examiner hiring has stabilized the time to examine applications. Continuing to hire at the present rate will inevitably drive that time down. Thank you for your consideration of my recommendations

Sincerely

Paul Alpert, CPA

Independent Inventor