

-----Original Message-----

From: Zymurgyme@aol.com [mailto:Zymurgyme@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 03, 2006 3:37 PM

To: AB93Comments; AB94Comments

Subject: Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

I really enjoyed discussing the issues on April 25 and 26 at the USPTO. It was helpful to hear all of the different opinions that the different groups of practitioners have about this "patent reform". You should have all received hazard pay. I have comments from the individual inventor's point of view, because that is what I am.

The ever mounting backlog has forced the patent office to this point, which is unfortunate. I don't want the best patent system in the world to suffer irreparable damage due to a long standing history of USPTO funds being appropriated other places. The USPTO needs to be fixed not scrapped. We need to find a way to have all of the money generated by the USPTO stay at the USPTO. Stop the appropriation of funds elsewhere, at least until the backlog has resolved. Give the examiners an increase in pay or implement a bonus system to help with the retention of the present examiners and hopefully lure some previous examiners back. Mr. Lucas and Ms. Focarino gave a number of 4000 more examiners are needed to catch up. Drastic measures need to be taken to provide them that number and to give the present examiners some much needed relief.

Certain exceptions and allowances need to be made for the individual inventors.

1. No limitation on number of claims. The need for multiple patents will make the patent process unaffordable for most individual inventors.
2. When submitting a patent with more than ten claims, require the applicant to enclose all of the sources. I always have. I didn't realize that I was an exception. This will help the examiner conduct a more thorough search more efficiently.
3. There needs to be a compromise on the continuations. The small inventor needs them and the big companies don't want us to have them. Us against them.

A criteria needs to be developed to determine who will qualify for these exceptions and allowances. Some small business should qualify also. Make a brief and simple appeal process for qualification as an individual inventor. That way smaller entities can present their case of why they should qualify for these allowances. There should be no absolutes.

My last three patents are just over 100 claims each. I could not afford to patent my technology if the present changes were instituted. I am a single parent and every individual inventor has a budget limit. The United States is the most innovative country in the world. We need to support and encourage innovation, not crush it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Lisa Brothers
Zymurgy, LLC