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**From:** Rosemarie Copeland [mailto:rmcopes@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 03, 2006 6:26 PM

**To:** AB93Comments

**Subject:** Comments re: Rule Changes for Continuations

May 3, 2006

Subject: Proposed Rule Changes on Claims Examination

Dear Commissioner Doll,

With all due respect, I am writing to you about the proposed changes (as best that I understand them) to the patent examining rules regarding the "continuation practice" and the "claims practice." I am requesting your patience as you read through my letter and greatly appreciate your time and attentiveness to its content.

When these proposed changes were brought to my attention, they immediately created great concern for me. I automatically realized that, as an independent inventor, my chances of obtaining patents for my inventions and designs would be greatly compromised because of the drastic increase in costs to me plus other imposed limitations. As a young widow at 37 with four children to raise (1978), I have had to wait years to get to where I am today. Meaning, that I now have the freedom to "invent" and hopefully get my inventions approved and patented. I had finally found a way to make the "steps of process & completion" affordable; however, I have no way to climb over the great increases of costs that I would have to pay, or the new restrictions, if these new rule changes become the new law(s).

It is my understanding that the proposed rule changes on "continuations" will greatly increase my costs for obtaining a patent and will also create restrictions on the protection that I pay for.

...that the proposed rules will force me to appeal all final rejections rather than filing continuations to give the examiners the additional time they need to better understand my invention. A truly good invention takes a lot of time and the inventors and examiners need the existing plan so that the process can move ahead ... without all kinds of time delays that appeals would create. (Added work for everyone concerned.)

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

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

...that the proposed rules would force me to abandon my invention. I don't have any other areas that I can pull additional income from. **PLUS, and this is of vital interest to me**....income received from various inventions (to me) is my vehicle towards making a difference in our community where our "homeless" folks are concerned. It takes a lot of

personal income to make a difference on behalf of these people with one person working on a personal project for them. City or State government financial supplement doesn't even begin to scratch the surface for caring for these people, for Satellite housing, or for establishing training centers, etc., and much more for them.

Please understand that if these new rule changes go into effect, I stand a very good chance of not being able to proceed with my invention(s). My present income situation (Social Security benefits) and even with additional monies secured from my mortgage would be much less than I would need to be able to bring my invention to a successful completion.

I am an independent female inventor and (a writer of children's books in process, women's shoe designer in process), and among those thousands of "independent inventors" who have been working on ideas and their designs for many years. My budget is very limited for the development and marketing of my inventions and designs. Funds for my projects come mostly from loans taken against my mortgage with Social Security retirement benefits protecting my home.

I am writing this letter as a petition to ask you, as the Commissioner of Patents, in THE PATENT OFFICE, to do everything that you can to prevent these new rules from becoming law. Most of us struggle financially, but we are fighters and believe in ourselves and in our invention work, and need all the help we can get to be able to continue bringing our inventions to the forefront.

**THE NEW RULES WOULD RESTRICT US TO ONLY ONE CONTINUATION.**

There are so many restrictions wrapped into the new law that it would shut out thousands of inventors because of the increased, astronomical expense involved. Most of us are independent inventors and not a part of any large corporation, thus, we don't have the vast income to support all of the money we need to spend to bring our inventions to completion; the big corporations do not have this concern, yet we produce thousands of great and worthwhile inventions that are of great benefit. Many "Beginning "Inventors" would give up before they even got started! I personally consider that a major loss because inventing is their passion and what they do best!

Considering all of the proposed changes, rather than changing the continuation rules, may I recommend that you continue to increase the rate of hiring of examiners and redirect the fees to training, salaries, and retention. As the examiner force continues, 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.

I know that I am only one voice out of thousands, but I would like to believe that I am also representing thousands of other independent inventors and beginning inventors. Perhaps you won't hear from "thousands," but that might be because in today's society, people have a tendency to think that others are writing; therefore, their voices will be

heard for certain....that they don't need to write a letter to fight for this cause, but that is because they don't realize that it just doesn't work that way.

So, please accept my letter and its contents from my heart, allowing it to represent thousands like me.....**WE NEED YOUR HELP SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO PURSUE PATENTS FOR OUR PRODUCTS...MORE AFFORDABLY.....THE ADDED MONETARY INCREASES AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS WOULD SURELY STOP THOUSANDS OF US.**

Thank you for your time and attention to my long letter.

Most sincerely,

Rose Marie Copeland-Carr  
Independent Inventor  
23408 Erwin Street  
Woodland Hills, CA 91364-1414  
(818) 884-5941 (home)  
(818) 929-3445 (cell)  
(818) 676-0693