

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

From: Reggie Niles [mailto:reniles@earthlink.net]

Sent: Friday, April 28, 2006 3:19 AM

To: AB93Comments

Subject: Continuation Practice

John Doll
Commissioner for Patent

Dear Commissioner Doll:

I am an independent inventor. My funds come from my savings. I therefore have a very limited budget for development and marketing of my invention, which means that my patent costs also come from this 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 they need to better understand my invention.

I further understand that the proposed rules will force me to file additional applications all on the same day to cover my invention, and that the proposed rules will force me to file many additional claims in my applications.

These proposed rules will have the effect of preventing small inventors like myself from being able to bring their inventions to market; only large corporations and well-funded individuals will be able to obtain patents. Doesn't this go against the intent of the Patent Office, which is to encourage invention from as many people as possible so as to keep the United States competitive, etc.?

Rather than the changing the continuation rules, I recommend that you raise filing fees, and that you continue to increase the rate of hiring of examiners. Increases fees can also be used to raise salaries and increase retention of examiners. 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
Reginald E. Niles

Independent Inventor