

**From:** Jeff Federman [e-mail redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2010 2:25 PM  
**To:** Bilski\_Guidance  
**Cc:** [e-mail redacted]  
**Subject:** Bilski Guidance recommendation

Dear USPTO,

Per the USPTO's new guidance on which patent applications will be accepted going forward (in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Bilski v. Kappos*) I'm writing to encourage the USPTO to stop issuing software patents. As both an attorney and a software developer, I'm in a knowledgeable position about these matters.

Software patents hurt individuals by taking away our ability to control the devices that now exert such strong influence on our personal freedoms, including how we interact with each other. Now that computers are near-ubiquitous, it's easier than ever for an individual to create or modify software to perform the specific tasks they want done -- and more important than ever that they be able to do so. But a single software patent can put up an insurmountable, and unjustifiable, legal hurdle for many would-be developers.

The Supreme Court of the United States has never ruled in favor of the patentability of software. Their decision in *Bilski v. Kappos* further demonstrates that they expect the boundaries of patent eligibility to be drawn more narrowly than they commonly were at the case's outset. The primary point of the decision is that the machine-or-transformation test should not be the sole test for drawing those boundaries. The USPTO can, and should, exclude software from patent eligibility on other legal grounds: because software consists only of mathematics, which is not patentable, and the combination of such software with a general-purpose computer is obvious.

Thanks for your consideration of my input, and hope you do the right thing for America by ceasing to issue software patents!

Sincerely,

Jeff Federman