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From: Tom Field

Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2006 10:45 AM

To: DDP.Comments

Cc: adminpro@listserv.piercelaw.edu

Subject: 71 FR 17399

Dear Ms. Kirik:

This concerns the PTO's republished proposal to abolish its disclosure document program (DPP).

I can't help believing that the PTO has continued its DPP for another eight years because of internal rather than external benefits. Internally, it seems that the DPP makes it much easier to deal with amateur-inventors' filings that don't warrant a filing date. Indeed, I'd be very surprised if the number of DPP-retained documents so earmarked initially were not much smaller than those initially filed as patent applications.

External, bottom line benefits to unsophisticated inventors, however, seem more problematic. Such inventors clearly get more from the DPP than from mailing letters to themselves. Yet, most are unlikely to understand (despite clear warning in the program description) that DPP participation does not avoid forfeiting all protection under 102(b) -- or under more strict foreign novelty provisions.

I'm not convinced that provisionals go far in meeting the same need, but I do agree with the apparent consensus in favor of abolishing the DPP.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Field, Jr.

Professor of Law

<http://www.piercelaw.edu/tfield/tgf.htm>