



OUR UPCOMING MEETING IS:

January 10, 7pm-9pm
(2nd Thursday of Each Month)
See www.sdinventors.org
for exact meeting location.

Excellent Food and Refreshments.
\$5 Suggested Donation at the Door, Thank You!

Highlights at this Meeting will Include:

**Two Invention Presentations
and Feedback Sessions:**

Greg Lauren:
Invention Trax: The Invention Organizer

Lensurf:
**Visor and Hood Headgear System for people in the active
outdoors.**

"What I Need NOW!" Session

Announcements

Adjournment



Web Site :

www.sdinventors.org

Useful Links

www.EdwardBalian.com

www.a-squaredtec.com

http://www.legalmarketing.org/images/article_files/Patrick%20Henry.pdf

<http://www.mindsetresearch.com/resources.html>

<http://www.venturechoice.com/glossary>

www.google.com/patents

www.uspto.gov

www.uiausa.org

www.chernowconsulting.com

Messages from Your SDIF President

"I'm excited for your success!"

==Dr. Ed Balian, President, SDIF, 2007-2008

www.EdwardBalian.com

CHANGES IN THIS NEWSLETTER AND MEETING AGENDAS

Instead of taking up precious meeting time, note that the SDIF Newsletters are now going to contain *much more* information relative to "new business" and "old business" which used to be more a part of our meeting agendas. Note that we have gone from a 1 ½ page prior Newsletter to this issue's full multi-page coverage. As a result, I will not normally be covering many of the Newsletter topics at the meetings, as was done in the past.

This means MORE monthly meeting time for fun, interesting and informative activities. But, if you want to stay in the loop regarding SDIF activities, contests, policies, internal projects and etc., **you will now need to read the Newsletters more thoroughly and reply back via email.** Newsletters will be getting to you about two weeks before the next meeting date. Most members are feeling like this is a good change.

INVENTOR'S LEGAL MENTOR

This is the first column of a series that will discuss patent law from the point of view of the individual inventor. The first topic is a general introduction to patents.

The first Congress adopted a [Patent Act](#) in 1790 to reward inventors for their contribution to the advancement of civilization. Since then, innovation has been the spark that has energized the American economic engine. An invention is defined in the US law as "any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent...(35USC101)" Thus an invention must be new and useful.

In addition an invention cannot be obvious: a patent cannot be granted if "the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art" (35USC103a). The issue of obviousness has been refined in a recent court case, *KSR vs Teleflex*. This will be a topic of a future column.

An invention cannot be patented if :

- it was known or used in the US or published anywhere in the world prior to its conception.
- it was patented or has been in public use or for sale in the US, or published anywhere in the world more than one year prior to filing in the US.
- it has been abandoned.
- it has been filed in a foreign country more than one year prior to US filing.
- it was derived from another person's idea.
- it has already been conceived by another person in the US, or any NAFTA or WTO country (35USC102).

Non-patentable items include printed matter (can be copyrighted), naturally occurring substances, scientific principles or laws of nature, and non-functionally interconnected groupings of objects. Pure algorithms cannot be patented. Software can be patented because it can run on a digital computer – that is, software is a method of using a digital computer. Atomic bombs cannot be patented. However, other applications of nuclear technology in areas such as medicine or power generation can be patented.

A patent does not give the patent holder the right to use the invention. It gives him the right to exclude others from using it unless he provides them with a license: "whoever without authority makes, uses, offers to sell, or sells any patented invention, within the United States, or imports into the United States any patented invention during the term of the patent therefor, infringes the patent." (35USC271a).

There are three basic types of patents:

- **Utility patents** are applicable to new or improved machines, processes, methods and compositions. These patents have a life term of 20 years from the date of filing.
- **Design patents** are applicable to ornamentals and artwork and do not refer to the functionality of the patented object. They have a term of 12 years.
- **Plant patents** are applicable for asexually reproduced new plants. These patents last 20 years.

Next month we'll discuss another topic. Stay tuned.

George Levy, Patent Agent

If you have any question you can contact me at (858)258-2226 or email me at glevy@patentsandventures.com. You can find a lot of useful information at my web site: www.patentsandventures.com.

PATENT REFORM DEBATE: GET INVOLVED!

Dear Dr. Balian,

On behalf of Ronald J. Riley (piausa.org) this email is to inform you that three days ago in an online tele-conference two sides of the patent reform debate; namely (a) Corning Inc; AJW Group; attorneys representing corps/manufacturers; lobby groups; the "21st Century Patent Reform Coalition"; Innovation Alliance; Amberwave etc versus (b) www.piausa.org; inventors; inventor group principals all agreed to participate in a joint discussion to be set up and administrated by www.piausa.org originating in the formation of Politics-L.

Carol has already spoken with one of our volunteers Stan Delo and by now she may realize that trying to "amend" the bill will not be in independent inventor's best interests, the solution is to Kill The Bill rather than let the other side add, as a last minute addendum, to their version a couple of changes to appease the inventing community.

We invite members of the San Diego inventors group to participate by asking questions and making suggestions especially as the "other side" are members and will be reading and responding to invention community output in this discussion group.

Politics-L is for discussion of Federal patent related legislative and public policy issues.

Politics-L subscription: http://piausa.org/mailman/listinfo/politics-l_piausa.org

Politics-L E-mail address: Politics-L-request@piausa.org

Regards,
List Assistant
for
Ronald J. Riley,

President - www.PIAUSA.org - RJR at PIAUSA.org

Other Affiliations:

Executive Director - www.InventorEd.org - RJR at InvEd.org

Senior Fellow - www.patentPolicy.org

President - Alliance for American Innovation

Caretaker of Intellectual Property Creators on behalf of deceased founder Paul Heckel

Washington, DC

Direct (202) 318-1595 - 9 am to 9 pm EST

INVENTION PRESENTATIONS at SDIF Monthly Meeting

We are *ALWAYS LOOKING* for quality Invention Presentations from our membership. I'm always being asked about how to go about it, so the following FAQ's have been assembled for your convenience. (These FAQ's will also soon be posted permanently on our website.)

FAQs for SDIF Invention Presentations:

CAN ANYONE PRESENT THEIR INVENTION TO THE SDIF?

Yes, EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO PRESENT, but please follow our very simple rules below. Please note that we have over 250 members with up to 60 or so in attendance at any one meeting. In fairness to all and to best utilize our short time together at monthly meetings, we have assembled the below guidelines. Thanks for your cooperation.

BUT, I'M KIND OF QUIET AND SHY. I'M A LITTLE AFRAID TO GET UP IN FRONT OF THE SDIF.

We understand this emotion. There is no better way to work through your ideas and future product development than to present it in our relaxed atmosphere and hear constructive feedback from fellow inventors and

suppliers. Sooner or later, as an inventor, you will need to present your invention to someone—*there is no better place to start than at SDIF.*

WHAT IF MY INVENTION IDEA GETS STOLEN AFTER I PRESENT IT?

If you have no form of legal protection (e.g., patent/copyright/trademark) *or are in any way uncomfortable* with your intellectual property rights in presenting to SDIF, you should hold off until you feel more comfortable with your situation and submit a proposal at a later date.

OK—I WANT TO PRESENT MY INVENTION AT AN SDIF MEETING—NOW WHAT?

First, submit an informal "Invention Presentation Proposal" via email to the SDIF President. YOU CAN BE AT ANY STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT with your invention.

In this email, please include: your basic idea/invention, your stage of development, a description of media (e.g., PowerPoint, etc.) to be used (if any, but it is not required!), and a brief statement of your current supplier needs on the project.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, AFTER I SUBMIT MY PRESENTATION PROPOSAL BY EMAIL?

You will usually hear back quickly. In most cases, your presentation will be slated for a meeting one to three months in advance. It's OK if your invention or idea naturally evolves between now and your presentation date.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I GET TO PRESENT MY INVENTION?

Due to the large membership of SDIF and a full array of meeting activities each month, invention presentations are limited to approximately 20 minutes with 10-20 minutes of additional time allotted for SDIF group feedback.

The concise 20 minute time frame to present is a great exercise in itself—you need to have an "Elevator Speech" and this is a great way to develop and practice it! Following your presentation, the feedback and q/a session has shown to be extremely valuable to everyone who has ever presented to SDIF.

Your invention presentation will really help move you forward—I guarantee it! There will be **LIMITED TIME SLOTS** in the months ahead, so please submit your Invention Presentation Proposal ASAP to esbalian@gmail.com

MEETING TIMES and PARKING

SDIF monthly meetings will be now starting at 7:00PM, *SHARP.*

Over the last three months, we have been losing, on average, not just 5 or 10 minutes, *but 1/3 of an hour* before we officially begin our meetings—then we run late, over-staying our time in the conference room. The check-in takes up time, too, of course---we could use some additional volunteer help there too, by the way (just email Carol Dobson or me). I know traffic can be nasty, but we must vacate our room by 9PM. We just need all the meeting time together we can get.

As you enter the meeting room in the future, PLEASE take front seats first. This will allow late guests to seat themselves in the rear rows of the room without disturbing the on-going meeting.

Also, please remember to park on the NORTH side of the building—thanks!

NEW WEBSITE

Go Scott!!!! Our new website looks fantastic—with a new chat room design as well. Visit: www.sdinventors.org

GUEST SPEAKERS

We are always looking for great Guest Speakers. Please suggest future speakers (with their contact information) to me via email. The recent survey tells us that SDIF members are most interested in topics of Manufacturing,

Marketing, Market Research, Legal, and Business Plan topics, but other areas will be considered as well.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS, SPEAKERS, PRESENTERS, SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS

Do you want to present your invention to the SDIF and get valuable feedback?

Do you have a suggestion (and email address) for a guest speaker?

Do you have a suggestion for SDIF meetings or activities?

Please email me anytime from the website: www.EdwardBalian.com or at esbalian@gmail.com

==Ed Balian
www.EdwardBalian.com