



SHIMOKAJI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Intellectual Property Lawyers
www.shimokaji.com

NEWSLETTER

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We specialize in the litigation and registration of patent, trademark, and copyright matters. The clients we serve range from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies, government entities, and universities. Though located in the US, our expertise and representation has an emphasis in Asia.

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

USPTO-TIPO Patent Prosecution Highway Seminar

In October 2011 in Taiwan, the firm's founding partner, Michael Shimokaji, will present a seminar on the newly implemented USPTO-TIPO Patent Prosecution Highway. Learn how to accelerate examination and reduce costs through this program.

More information can be obtained at info@shimokaji.com



USPTO Implements New America Invents Act

The America Invents Act recently signed into law includes many changes to US patent law. The most talked about change is moving from the first to invent rule to the first to file rule. Most changes do not take effect immediately, but some do starting 26 September 2011.

The Act can be found at www.uspto.gov/aia_implementation/bills-112hr1249enr.pdf

The effective dates of various provisions can be found at www.uspto.gov/aia_implementation/ais-effective-dates.pdf

Fee Increase

New fees are now in effect. They can be found at www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/qs/ope/fee092611.htm

Prioritized Examination

Upon the filing of a non-provisional application, the applicant may request prioritized examination. The fee is USD4800 for large entities and USD2400 for small entities. This fee is in addition to the regular application official fees.

Presently, the application for which prioritized examination is requested cannot contain more than 4 independent claims or more than 30 total claims. The USPTO can limit the number of requests for prioritization to 10,000 per year. The goal is to complete prosecution within 12 months. Upon the filing of a request for extension of time, prioritized examination will terminate.

Micro Entity

A micro entity will receive a 75% fee reduction. Such an entity is an applicant who has not been named on more than 4 previously filed patent applications, other than applications filed in another country, provisional applications, or international applications. In addition, the applicant did not have in the preceding calendar year gross income exceeding 3 times the median household income in that preceding year. Further, the applicant has not assigned the

application to another who in the preceding calendar year had gross income in excess of 3 times the median household income.

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