

SERVICES OF O'CONNOR & COMPANY

We offer patent-prosecution and intellectual-property consulting services in the chemicals, materials, energy, biotechnology, and related industries. Specific services offered are described below.

INTELLECTUAL-PROPERTY STRATEGY

- Formulate strategies that best capture value from actual and potential IP. Ensure these strategies and efforts interact and align with the business strategy.
- Analyze inventions to help make decisions on patents vs. trade secrets.
- Help deploy IP best practices.
- Identify licensing opportunities emerging from actual or potential inventions.
- Assist in locating prospects for both in-licensing and out-licensing opportunities.
- Estimate the financial value of the client's intellectual capital and define the business value of certain IP *if it were developed*.
- Provide consulting on IP aspects of business deals.

PATENT PROSECUTION

- Prepare, file, and prosecute patents. Representation of clients can include drafting all parts of a patent application by interviewing inventors, performing literature searches, and incorporating disclosures or reports as appropriate.
- Draft patent applications that consider the *current* state of patent law as well as case law (i.e., patents that are defensible in a court of law).
- Identify alternate embodiments that avoid prior art and make stronger patents.
- Assess the patentability of technical and business developments.
- Analyze patents and published applications of competitors that are of interest.
- Draft responses to Office Actions by the USPTO, in cooperation with inventors.
- Conduct interviews with Patent Examiners to propagate client applications.
- Appeal, if necessary, to the USPTO Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences.

PATENT ENGINEERING

- Develop valuable patents by integrating business, technical, and legal strategies and ensuring constant feedback to the process.
- Understand the relevant prior art for the subject matter of interest, in order to define the desired patent position or design around competitor's patents.
- Consult with R&D personnel regarding inventions to support desired claims.
- Create the highest-value patents to best compete in your market(s).
- Avoid α and β errors for patents (α = low-value patents pursued, β = would-be high-value patents not pursued).
- Essentially help you answer "What *should* we do?" rather than "What *did* we do?"

CLIENT EDUCATION

- Provide training to improve inventor knowledge of the process for bringing a concept through the invention process.

EXPERT WITNESS

- If your case goes to trial, we can be retained as an expert witness in patent law or in a technical field of our expertise.

REFERRAL SERVICE

- Refer you to attorneys for legal needs beyond our scope, such as trademark prosecution or litigation.
- Refer you to start-up business resources, such as sources of funding.

Contact us today to discuss how we can assist you!

O'Connor & Company
PO Box 580
Minnetrista, MN 55364-0580
Phone: 1-952-472-9884
Fax: 1-866-586-5349
E-mail: info@oconnorcompanypllc.com
www.oconnorcompanypllc.com

