

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Competitive Fees. We work from a home office in order to keep overhead down. As a result, we are able to offer very competitive rates for legal services. Many clients need to know from the start just what the approximate cost of a project will be, and so we offer flat fees for most projects. Call for an estimate. For work that clients authorized on an hourly rate basis, we charge \$325 per hour.

Quantity Discounts. Multiple applications authorized at the same time result in reduced attorney fees for the preparation and filing of the additional applications. Multiple *trademark* applications, for example, typically result in one-half reduction of attorney fees for the preparation and filing of the additional applications beyond the first. Cost savings for multiple *patent* applications authorized together will be quoted on the basis of case complexity.

Meetings. We offer a free initial conference at your home, business, or other location at times most convenient for you. We can reserve a conference room for our meeting if you prefer.

Preliminary Patentability Searches. We offer a less expensive, abbreviated preliminary patentability search for an initial overview of existing U.S. patents that may affect patentability of the client's invention. After the results of such a search are available, the client may decide to authorize additional patent searching with an expanded patent search, or the client may decide to simply proceed on the basis of the abbreviated patent search.

Further details about preliminary patentability searches are available upon request. Call for more information. We attempt to fully explain various search limitations to each client so that they can make an informed decision as to whether or not to proceed with a patent application in view of the risks involved.

Typical Post Filing Events. After "patent pending" status is achieved by filing a patent application in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Patent Office will assign a filing date and serial number to the application. Then, it will issue a Filing Receipt to you. Next, the application will be reviewed and eventually assigned to a Patent Office Examiner for examination.

If the Examiner considers the application to be in condition for allowance, he will send you a *Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due*. Otherwise, the Examiner will communicate in writing precisely what issues the Examiner is raising so that you can take whatever action is appropriate under the circumstances.

Application Prosecution. It is not uncommon for the Patent Office Examiner, to whom a client's patent application is assigned for review, to issue a communication that raises various issues about the patent application. The Examiner may do so based upon existing patents or other prior art. This sometimes occurs for trademark applications also. We will provide an estimate at that time of the charges involved in responding to the Examiner (typically \$500 to \$1,750 for patent applications).

Patent Maintenance. After the patent is allowed, Patent Office maintenance fees are due at 3.5, 7.5, and 11.5 years after issuance (for a *utility* patent). U.S. *design* patents do not require maintenance fees.

Comments and Suggestions. We welcome all feedback. Please send your comments and suggestions directly to Loyal Hanson by telephone or email for *immediate* consideration and action.

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[What Clients are Saying Link](#)

Loyal McKinley Hanson