

Patenting Made Easy, Protecting Your Ideas and Your Wealth

From great minds comes innovation. Unfortunately, innovation without protection will inevitably lead to a rapid commoditization of the invention and loss of value to the innovator. In the United States today, intellectual property (IP) is the underlying precursor for wealth creation. A common misconception regarding Intellectual Property protection is that the cost of securing protection is prohibitively high.

The Technical Innovation Center has partnered with the Intellectual Property Group of Steptoe and Johnson, Attorneys at Law, to help you navigate the road from invention to commercialization. Mike Smith, Co-Group Leader at S&J will walk you through the process of preparing your initial IP filing that will allow you to take your product or idea to market in a manner that will substantially discourage others from profiting from your ideas.

For less than half the cost of one hour of legal consultation you will receive step by step instruction on how you can shave thousands of dollars off your legal costs by doing much of the preliminary work yourself.

Session one: An overview of IP protections

In this session participants will be introduced to various forms of IP protections. Participants will learn:

- The differences between patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets and which is most appropriate under a given set of circumstances.
- The types of patents and rights resulting from each and which is most suitable for a given idea or invention.
- The scope of patent rights and how to cast the broadest possible net of protection.
- The legal requirements for patentability:

Session Two: Preparing to Patent

In session two, participants will gain a general understanding of the patent search process. Participants will obtain a basic working knowledge of how to:

- Perform a keyword search, as well as,
- Perform a patent search using the class and subclass methodology.

The IP attorney will lead the group through the various filing options for protection. An examination of provisional, non-provisional and PCT options will set the stage for the final decision on how to determine the best filing choice.

Session Three: Applying for protection

In session three, participants will begin the process of drafting a practice utility application. The focus will be on:

- Drafting claims.
- Preparing the specification and drawings.
- Prosecuting the application – responding to common grounds for rejection.