

Patent Law

AREA OF LAW AT A GLANCE

Patent law covers legal conditions under which an invention may be patented. U.S. patent law requires an invention be of patentable subject matter, and have utility, novelty, and non-obviousness judged by an official examination of the application. Patent attorneys may play multiple roles in the process including prosecution of the patent application, negotiating license agreements, and litigating issues such as infringement and violation of a license agreement.

CURRENT HOT TOPICS AND EMERGING ISSUES IN PATENT LAW

Two emerging issues in patent law concern two recent U.S. Supreme Court cases. In *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 2007, the Court dealt with the interpretation of “obviousness.” In *MedImmune, Inc. v. Genentech, Inc.*, 127 S. Ct. 764, the court dealt with issues concerning licenses between patent holders and licensees. The interpretations of these cases will have a significant impact on patent law.

The Emerging Issues section on the Patent Law area of law page provides updated analysis and news on issues of interest to patent attorneys, including sources like *Chisum on KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* You’ll also find current news from publications like *The Wall Street Journal*®, *The New York Times*®, Dow Jones NewswiresSM, and a range of legal and scientific/technical sources.

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