

# A Patent Law Primer

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## **Abstract**

This course offers a perspective on the patenting process and thoughts on optimizing applicant/attorney interactions. Specific topics include: 1) What a patent is and the rights it affords; 2) U.S. and PCT practice; 3) Deriving value from a patent; 4) Identifying well-written (and poorly-written) patents; and 5) Communicating with your patent attorney.

## **Benefits/Learning Objectives:**

The following topics will be addressed:

- Obtaining a U.S. patent, and what a patent does and does NOT provide;
- The difference between a patent document and a journal article;
- Types of patent applications: provisional/non-provisional/PCT/CIP/Divisional;
- Identifying and working with a patent attorney;
- What information your patent attorney needs/wants;
- The objectives that should be guiding your patent attorney;
- How to evaluate the quality of a patent or patent application document; and
- Ways to obtain a return on your patent investment.

## **The Intended Audience:**

This course is intended for inventors, engineers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and business development professionals who may be involved in applying for, paying for, evaluating, and/or licensing patents. The course is intended to improve an attendee's ability to differentiate a well-written patent from a poorly-written patent, as well as improve the attendee's contribution to the production of an effective patent document. In addition, the course is intended to reduce the pain that is too often associated with interactions between inventors and their patent attorneys.

## Instructor Biography:



James Walker received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Electrical Engineering from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He passed the patent bar in 2003, and is with DeMont & Breyer, a patent law firm that specializes in patent prosecution (applying for and obtaining a patent). In addition to general patent practice, Jim brings particular expertise to the areas of MEMS, nanotechnology, optics/photonics, telecommunications, semiconductor devices, and material science.

Prior to moving into patent law, Jim had a successful research career in the areas of MEMS, photonics, and telecommunications. He has over 20 years of experience in MEMS technology area with particular emphasis on Optical MEMS devices and applications. From 1984 to 2000, he was with Bell Laboratories as a researcher and research manager in the areas of MEMS and III-V semiconductor device technology. In 2000, he accepted the position of Director of Advanced Technologies at Tellium, Inc. At Tellium, he was responsible for leading a group whose charter was the development of an all-optical, MEMS-based optical switch.

As an inventor, he holds over 55 US Patents. Jim has also authored over 100 journal articles and conference publications in the areas of MEMS, Optical Telecom, and Opto-mechanical Packaging. In addition, he has chaired several international conferences, served on multiple program committees, and presented numerous invited conference papers around the world.