-----Original Message-----
From: Marcella R. Louke [mailto:mrl@walkerandjocke.com]
Sent: Tue 5/2/2006 12:37 PM
To: AB93Comments
Cc:
Subject: USPTO Proposed Rules

To: AB93Comments@USPTO.gov

Mail Stop Comments-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Attn: Robert W. Bahr

Re: USPTO Proposed Rules on Continuing Applications, Requests for Continued Examination Practice and Patent Applications Containing Patentably Indistinct Claims

Sir:

I am writing in response to the USPTO's notice of proposed rule changes regarding continuing applications, RCEs, and patent applications containing similar subject matter, published on January 3, 2006.

The PTO Should Not Adopt These Changes.

The proposed rule changes would harm inventors by limiting their ability to fully protect all that they have invented. Often during prosecution of an application or during commercialization of a product, the inventor gains a fuller appreciation of what has been invented. As long as the invention(s) are supported in the original disclosure, the inventor should be able to protect it against would-be copiers.

One public purpose served by the Patent Office is the disclosure of innovations as the quid pro quo of obtaining a patent. Limitations on an inventor's ability to claim all that is disclosed (through continuing applications) may result in more narrow disclosures in an effort to avoid inadvertent dedication of subject matter to the public. The narrowing of disclosure harms the store of public knowledge.

Thus, it is recommended that the proposed rules should not be adopted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Marcella R. Louke