

Comment 17

Pauline Frances Lane

From: Pauline Frances Lane [P.F.Lane@uel.ac.uk]

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2000 12:14 PM

To: mark.nagumo@uspto.gov

Subject: Comment from London, England

Dear Mark Nagumo,

I understand that the PTO is accepting comments on the guide-lines for implementing the utility requirements for patent applications.

I have been researching the area of genetic patents and indigenous peoples for the past five years.

My work has lead to me a deeper understanding of the meaning of nature to indigenous peoples throughout the world. Having lived with tribes in Papua New Guinea who have been exploited by genetic patents, I believe that patents are clearly an issue of human rights, not merely economic advancement. When slavery was first established, people felt it was right- they were mistaken. No individual, corporation, or nation should claim ownership over nature.

Please would you take my comments into consideration. This is not just an issue of national policy, the eyes of the world will be looking at your ethical stance

Yours sincerely,

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