

I must ask that the patent rules be amended to exclude the patentability of genes. Genes are always a work to which there has been prior art, because they were extracted from a living animal. I also might add that genes are a basic building block, just like letters are. Although someone could copyright a book, they cannot copyright the letter 'A' because it is a basic building block of everyone's work. Genes should fall under the same category. Entire organisms should be patentable, but the specific genes that make them up should not be. This will prevent the hellish scenerio of companies owning us due to our DNA. It should also be added that not sentient creature can have any of it's genes patented, and if the patentholder of a gene inserts that gene in a sentient creature, they forfeit their patent. This will help prevent corporations from with holding life saving gene therapy from people due to their patents on the genes involved.

Perhaps my comments aren't the best idea, but they are areas that should be explored. Many patents are ludicrous (one click shopping) but patents for DNA is truely dangerous. Could I be sued for patent infringement because both my parents are smart people and I have a lot of intelligence genes that someone decided to patent? What if someone clones humans, but inserts patented genes into their genomes to make them more or less perfect? Can they become slaves to the corporation that holds the patents on their DNA? Can they be sued for patent infringement if they have sex and produce a child. Is that illegally using patented material? The answers to all of these questions must be no, it is imperitive. Whatever the rules they will be tolerable so long as they make all these answers 'no', otherwise the future will be very bleak.

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