

Chapter 1700 Miscellaneous

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1701 Examiners May Not Testify as Patent Experts

Inasmuch as public policy does not permit Examiners to decide, as judges in the Patent Office, questions upon which they have been retained to give opinions as expert witnesses in patent cases in the courts, every Examiner who shall testify as an expert in a patent case pending in any court will be dismissed, unless he shall have so testified involuntarily, upon compulsion by competent judicial authority, and without retainer or preparation. (Notice of March 6, 1880.)

1702 Restrictions on Examiners Resigning From the Office

Extract from Rule 341, Registration of Attorney and Agents. (g) *Former examiners.* No person who has served in the examining corps of the Patent Office will be registered after termination of his services, nor, if registered before such service, be reinstated, unless he undertakes (1) not to prosecute or aid in any manner in the prosecution of any application pending in any examining division in which he served, on the date he left said division; and (2) not to prepare or prosecute nor to assist in any manner in the preparation or prosecution of any application of another filed within two years after the date he left such division, and assigned to such division, without the specific authorization of the Commissioner. Associated and related classes in other divisions may be required to be included in the undertaking or designated classes may be excluded. In case application for registration or reinstatement is made after resignation from the Office, the applicant will not be registered, or reinstated, if he has prepared or prosecuted, or assisted in the preparation or prosecution of any such application as indicated in this paragraph.

1703 The Official Gazette

The Official Gazette, which appears every Tuesday, contains the name and address of the applicant, and of the assignee, if any, the filing date, and serial number of the application, the patent number, the title of the invention, the number of patent claims, and the class and sub-

class, one of the figures of the drawing (if any), and one or more claims, of every patent in a week's issue. In the case of a reissue patent there are published the additional data of the serial number and date of the original patent and original application; and in the case of the design patent, the term of the patent.

Trade Marks published to afford opportunity for filing notice of opposition and Trade Mark Registrations Granted are also printed in the Gazette.

The above material forms the body of the Gazette; but as this is the only official periodical of the Office, the first few pages of the Gazette are devoted to other matters, such as; notices to parties the Office has been unable to reach by mail, disclaimers, adverse decisions in interferences, a statement of the condition of work in the Patent Office, changes in Rules, disbarment of attorneys, and selected decisions of the Board of Appeals, of the Commissioner of Patents, and of the United States Courts, and all of the decisions in patent cases of the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals and of the D. C. Court of Appeals, for the District of Columbia, together with a list of adjudicated patents and notices of patent suits. These pages, in addition to appearing in the bound volume of each number of the Gazette, are published in leaflet form for separate distribution. One of these O. G. leaflets is placed on each Examiner's desk when the Official Gazette is published.

The subject matter of the leaflets is arranged by one of the Law Examiners, but the arrangement of the indexing of the Gazette is done by the Issue and Gazette Branch.

1704 Records Kept in Examining Divisions

The principal records kept in the examining division are two sets of cards, Form PO-205 which are arranged numerically and Form PO-206, of which those awaiting action are arranged by individual examiners. Each card contains data concerning the applications that have been assigned to the division, identified by name of applicant, title of invention, serial number and filing date. Notation of attorneys is also made. Each set of cards also shows the name of the assistant examiner to whom the examination is entrusted and the class and subclass of prior art considered most pertinent for search, the history of each case in the matter of the successive actions taken in that division, and finally the patenting or abandonment or transfer of the case.

There is also information available concerning cases on appeal, cases involved in interference, secret cases, patentability report cases temporarily in or out of the division, cases involving classification questions or requirements of division and applications or references charged out.

The Examiner's Work Record (Form PO-267) from which the Weekly Work Report is prepared (See 1705), contains a list by Serial Numbers of all applications for which the individual examiners are given credit.

1705 Weekly Work Report (Form PO-290) and Actions of Examiners to be Counted Thereon

The weekly work report reflects the condition of the examining division as of the close of business on Friday and it must include all cases received and all cases acted on from 8:30 a. m. Monday through 5:00 p. m. Friday.

Examiners are directed to count at the end of each week *all* cases in which actions have been prepared (that is, the actions that have been written in long hand or dictated) irrespective of whether they have been typed or mailed. The dates of the various desks shall be advanced and reported as the actions are counted. The oldest dates of the division reported under "Remarks" shall not be advanced except as the actions are mailed (Notice of December 30, 1949, Revised).

The following only are counted as actions:

1. Regular actions in new and amended cases.
2. One action for each application which consists only in suggesting claims for interference and one for each application in declaring each interference.
3. Examiner's statements in answer to petitions from his actions.
4. Examiner's answers on appeals.
5. Transfers of individual cases which are up for action previously entered in the Examiner's register. Where an entire class or subclass is transferred, credit for actions is not given the assistant Examiners to whom such cases are respectively assigned.
6. Decisions on motions in interference.
7. Patentability reports.
8. Answers to petitions to revive.
9. Letter advising of entry or non-entry of amendment after final action.
10. Letters pertaining to the publication of abstracts, even though it is decided not to publish the abstract and the papers pertaining thereto do not become part of the application file. See 711.06 (b).

11. Letter advising applicant that express abandonment has taken place and the file will be sent to the Abandoned Files in due course.

12. Declaration or redeclaration of an interference.

By "regular" action is meant rejections, including requirements for division; letters or allowances by the Examiner as the result of the examination of a new application or the reconsideration or re-examination of an amended application; requirements for formal changes or corrections; actions of the Examiner applying or carrying into effect final decisions in interference, either on motions or on priority; actions on cases remanded by an appellate tribunal for reconsideration in view of affidavits or proposed further amendments by appellants. Where more than one amendment is filed in any case before it is reached for consideration of the first of such amendments, only one action will be counted in connection with all such amendments.

The following should not be counted as actions: Examiner's Amendments; supplemental actions citing additional references or correcting the data of references of record; letters to Law Examiner (Rule 202); letters acknowledging receipt of communications (new or supplemental oaths, orders for corrections of drawings, etc.), which do not bring the application up for action; and answers to petitions to make cases special, amendments under Rule 312, and to status letters.

Examiners are expected to make a reasonably careful examination of applications when they are first received in their divisions to determine the proper classification before entering them on the register.

Applications will not be entered on the Examiner's Docket Cards merely for the purpose of counting them as actions by transfer.
(Extract from Order 3179, Revised.)

The report includes an itemization of "Hours Not Applied to Examining Work." Assistant Examiners should check this in order to make sure that they are properly credited with such time.

See also the Clerk's Manual, sections 2-2.1 and 2-2.2.

1706 Transfer of an Entire Class or Subclass

Where an entire class or subclass is transferred from one division to another, follow the procedure in the Clerk's Manual, section 14-5.