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6 September 2001

Under Secretary of Commerce
for Intellectual Property

- and -

Director of the United States Patent & Trademark Office
Att'n.: Ronald Hack - Acting Chief Information Officer
Washington, DC 20231

Re: Docket No. 010126025-1025-01
RIN 0651-AB34

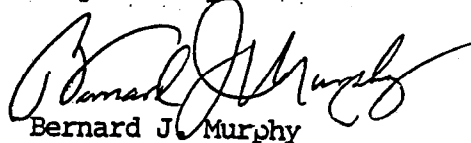
S I R:

This is in response to your request published in the August 27, 2001
Official Gazette.

Replacing the paper files with electronic files is fine, as long as a paper
backup in class and subclass is maintained. Too many times, the electronic
database system is off line for either a number of hours or days. This
would present a problem when an individual attempts to perform a search in
the USPTO's public search library. In this day and age of hackers and
viruses, I feel the electronic system will become more vulnerable to such
attacks, and a paper backup is a necessary expedient.

To reprise, while I do support the proposal of creating and maintaining
a state-of-the-art electronic system, I think it would be in everyone's
best interest to maintain a paper backup - just as you have done, for so
many years,

Respectfully,



Bernard J. Murphy

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