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September 28, 2001

VIA EMAIL to:ronald.hack@uspto.gov

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual
Property and Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Attention: Ronald Hack, Acting Chief Information Officer

Re: Docket No. 010126025-1025-01
RIN 0651-AB34
Notice of Request for Comments on
Development of a Plan to Remove the Patent and
Trademark Classified Paper Files from the Public
Search Facilities

Dear Mr. Hack:

Please accept and address our comments on the proposed
elimination of the paper files from the Public Search Facilities.

The current electronic records for issued patents and
Maintenance fees status, for example, are filled with errors. The
current electronic records are replete with errors because
scanning technology is inadequate to accurately scan documents,
such as patents.

Thus, the paper copies themselves are the only accurate
records of the patents.

And, if the paper records of the U.S. Patents in the Public
Search Facilities are discarded, the millions of dollars and tens
of thousands of hours of labor spent in sorting and shelving the
patents in the correct classification areas over the years will
be lost.

Ronald Hack
September 28, 2001
Page - 2 -

If no accurate patent copies are available, then Applicants will make decisions based on inaccurate data.

Thus, future patent applications will be prepared at great expense and venture capital money will be misallocated owing to the electronic misinformation disseminated by the U.S. Patent Office.

The Patent Office must keep all paper files until its electronic records are as accurate as the paper records.

Please comment on when proper studies have been completed or will be completed to ensure that the proposed sole reliance on electronic records will be as accurate as the paper records.

Please address when the contents of the electronic database will be as accurate as the paper files.

Please address how the Patent Office can legally dispose of paper files when the counterpart electronic databases are much less than one hundred percent accurate equivalents to the paper files.

Please likewise comment on the appropriateness and legality of reducing the accuracy of this publically available system (i.e. The Public Search Facility) which is technically and economically vital to U. S. inventors and businesses.

Please contact us should you have any questions regarding the above, prior to responding during the extended comment period.

Very truly yours,

Terrence L.B. Brown /s/
SHLESINGER, ARKWRIGHT & GARVEY LLP

TLBB/sb