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To: AB94Comments
Subject: Examination practice

USPTO

I am a practicing patent agent (Reg no 45,129) and inventor. I have read the proposal to change examination practice to require selection of representative claims. I think this is a very good proposal and should be implemented.

Often in patent cases, "throwaway" claims are included, not because of their patentable novelty, but for other reasons such as claim differentiation, term definition, or to influence inventorship. Sometimes they are included merely because 20 claims are allowed for the basic filing fee. Presently, examiners must review these claims like any other, which is a big waste of time. Consequently, the examination of throwaway claims prevents examiners from focusing attention on the most important and novel aspects of a patent. Frequently applicants don't even bother to respond to-or even review-the rejection of throwaway claims. The examiner is therefore writing rejections that the applicant does not care about one way or the other.

I believe that the proposal to require selection of representative claims will result in faster and more meaningful examination. Its a good idea whose time has come.

Sincerely,

dan steinberg

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