



Figure 1

Finding My Internship

Engineering as a whole can be a good launching ground for various careers. The field of patent law requires a background in a technological field (at least a bachelors degree). Such technological fields include engineering, chemistry, biology, physics, and computer science. Since I have an interest in patent law, finding an internship with a patent lawyer was a sensible decision. I came into contact with Galasso and Associates LP through a family friend.

Getting From An Application to a Patent

Writing a patent is a process of submitting a draft of the application to the United States Patent Office (USPTO) for revision and approval with the overall goal of having a United States Patent Number (USPN) assigned. A patent application includes several sections; such as a background, summary, specifications, drawings, claims, and an abstract.

Many times, an application is rejected, or given back to the patent firm as an Office Action (OA). My job includes taking an application and amending it, and once amended making remarks to argue against the rejection by the USPTO Examiner Office. The ultimate goal is to get the USPTO to accept the patent application and make the application into an actual patent.

Galasso and Associates L.P.

Jacqueline Kirkman

JR Mechanical Engineering Concentration

Writing Office Action Responses (OARs)

Once I receive a set of Office Actions (OAs) I begin by reading through the original patent application (mainly focusing on the specification and the claims). I then review the reasons given by the Patent Examiner as to why the patent application was rejected by making a list of what Sections of the United States Code (USC) the rejections are under. After completing all of my preliminary background research on the patent application, I begin amending the original claims. When amending, I have to make the decision of whether to keep, change, or delete claims contained within the patent application. Finally, once I have made all of the necessary changes to the written text of the OA, I begin to make my remarks (or arguments). The Remarks section is basically the rebuttal to the USPTO and the Patent Examiner that rejected the application.

Once all of the written text has been properly formatted, and any drawings corresponding to the OAR have been modified, I send the OAR to Galasso and Associates LP for their review. If Galasso and Associates accepts the OAR as I have submitted it, they then file the OAR with the USPTO in hopes of gaining a United States Patent Number (USPN) thus becoming an official patent.



Figure 3



Figure 2

Picking Up Where I Left Off

I began from where I left off during the summer of 2008, which was preparing Office Action Responses (OARs) for review by the United States Patent Office (USPTO). During the summer of 2008, I obtained training for a week in Austin, TX to gain some hands on experience. Extra assistance to my training was provided in the form of a large text entitled *How To Write A Patent Application* by Jeffery Sheldon. Once I finished training, I was given an assignment set of five Office Actions (OAs), and began to work on my own.

When I picked up working again in the summer of 2009, I was given another set of OAs to amend, and subsequently submit to Galasso and Associates LP, which were then sent to the USPTO for filing. During the summer, I worked on three separate assignment sets, which all typically included four or five OAs. Though I have now worked on amending OAs for two years, there is still a large learning curve along which I am traveling.

Legally, I cannot disclose any details pertaining to specific applications which I have amended. However, I have worked with many different types of patent applications pertaining to the differing types of engineering concentrations. Specifically, I have worked with mixtures of mechanical, electrical, and environmental utility patents.

References

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