

Lecture on Intellectual Property

Intellectual property rights exist to protect inventions as well as literary and artistic creations. Countries, usually have institutions dedicated to issuing certificates guaranteeing the proprietary rights of inventors, artists and writers. In addition these institutions preserve, classify as well as disseminate information regarding intellectual property and in this way it facilitate the promotion of industrial and technological advancement as well as literary and artistic productions. There are several types of intellectual property, including: Patents, Trademarks, Copy Rights and Trade Secrets.

This lecture will cover to a large extend one of these intellectual properties which are patents. Also, duties of one of the major patent offices, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), will be presented. In this regard the USPTO describe these duties as:

"In discharging its patent related duties, the USPTO examines applications and grants patents on inventions when applicants are entitled to them; it publishes and disseminates patent information, records assignments of patents, maintains search files of U.S. and foreign patents, and maintains a search room for public use in examining issued patents and records. The Office supplies copies of patents and official records to the public. It provides training to practitioners as to requirements of the patent statutes and regulations, and it publishes the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure to elucidate these. Similar functions are performed relating to trademarks. By protecting intellectual endeavors and encouraging technological progress, the USPTO seeks to preserve the United States' technological edge, which is key to our current and future competitiveness. The USPTO also disseminates patent and trademark information that promotes an understanding of intellectual property protection and facilitates the development and sharing of new technologies worldwide."

The USPTO issues three different types of patents: Utility Patents, Design Patents and Plant Patents. The utility and plant patents are granted for twenty years while design patents are granted for fifteen years.

Intellectual property contributes greatly to the economy of countries. In this regard, the USPTO states that in 2014, intellectual property intensive industries accounted for \$6.6 trillion of the US economy. This value represents 38.2 percent of the GDP. In addition, these IP-intensive industries contributed directly or indirectly to the creation of 45.5 million job positions.

The proposed lecture, on Intellectual Property, will consist of two parts as follows:

The first part will include a brief historical overview as well as definitions of different types of intellectual property with emphasis on Patents, Copy Rights, Trademarks and Trade Secrets. In addition, a more detailed overview of the US patent legal system will be presented. It will include: eligibility subject matter, prior art definition as well as the patent examination process.

The second part will cover the impact of intellectual property on the economy. Emphasis will be on the US as well the European economies. Recent statistics using intellectual property intensive industries be discussed. Finally, an overview of the five big patent centers and their economies will be presented.

About the speaker:

Mohammed Rachedine's experience extends over 30 years and includes academia, corporate as well as government. Currently, he is a primary patent examiner at the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Before joining the USPTO, he worked at Motorola then at Freescale Semiconductor Inc. designing, testing and evaluating integrated transceivers for cellular phones. Prior to joining Motorola, he taught Electrical Engineering at Hampton University. Mohammed Rachedine holds a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, authored several professional papers as well as patents.