The Chicago-Kent Patent Hub facilitates the placement of qualified, under-resourced inventors with the pro bono legal assistance of licensed patent attorneys.

Contact Information:
Chicago-Kent Patent Hub
Mary Anne Smith, Director
565 West Adams Street
Room 623
Chicago, IL 60661-3691
(312)906-5379
www.kentlaw.iit.edu/patentprobono

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12036201

Summer 2017

Chicago-Kent Patent Hub

FIRST PATENTS ISSUED!

Our quarterly report begins with news that our first two patents will issue at the end of this month. Erin Fox of Quarles & Brady, who chairs the Patent Hub Advisory Board, has received notice that patents for inventors Robert Kauffman and Phillip Owens will issue on August 29.

Bob Kauffman’s invention is an Air Supporting Batting Tee which supports a ball via an upward stream of air from a blower. The blower uses four tubes to blow air at different angles, allowing the user to control the height of a floating ball by adjusting a pneumatic air source.

Phillip Owens’ invention is a rubber case for smartphones and smart pads. The bottom of the case allows for attachment of various interfaces (USB, VGA, DVI) and allows such uses as mobile presentation from a smartphone, connecting to a mobile power station, watching movies from a TV monitor as a wireless device, connecting a second monitor while traveling, and transferring information from different devices.

Congratulations to Bob, Phil and Erin!
We recently submitted our quarterly report to the US Patent and Trademark Office for the second quarter of 2017. We reported receiving 57 applications, interviewing 32 inventors and placing 12 of those inventors with attorneys.

Submissions to the Hub peaked during the second and third quarters of operation and then fell during the next three quarters. This quarter the number of applications was up again. We continue to place about 20 per cent of the inventors who submit applications and 30 per cent of those who come in for interviews.

### Numbers through June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Applicants</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Interviews Conducted</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Applicants Placed with Attorney/Agent</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Provisional Applications Filed</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Non-Provisional Patent Applications Filed</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Design Patent Applications Filed</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Patents Issued</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago-Kent Students Assisting with Patents</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent Activities

- On April 25, the Patent Hub and Chicago Inventors hosted a program entitled “How to Profitably Negotiate Your Product or Service.” We presented information to inventors about services available to them through the Hub.

- On May 17, Chicago-Kent hosted a joint meeting of the Richard Linn American Inn of Court and the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago. We gave a brief presentation to the group about the Hub and the volunteer opportunities available for patent attorneys.

- On July 25, Justin Cain, a volunteer attorney from Spence PC spoke at a Maker Entrepreneurship Program sponsored by the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium. We presented information about the Hub to inventors attending the program.

Going Forward

CORPORATE COUNSEL: As indicated in our last newsletter, we are exploring how to work with corporate counsel to see if we can follow a model used by the California Hub that pairs a corporate patent attorney with a law firm patent attorney. We are close to having an arrangement worked out with the law department of a major corporation and expect to be able to test it out during the next month or two.

STUDENTS: With the beginning of the new academic year, we will have a new group of students preparing to work with the Patent Hub. We will have an orientation meeting for those students. Last year Erin Fox and Oliver Yang gave a presentation about expectations of students from the perspective of volunteer patent attorneys. We are hoping to continue to improve the experience for both students and attorneys, and welcome any suggestions from those who have worked with students.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: As those of you who completed our quarterly survey know, we track the number of hours our volunteers contribute to the Hub. The USPTO will issue certificates recognizing attorneys who provide at least 50 hours of pro bono service during calendar year 2017. Early in 2018, we will have a reception to recognize those attorneys and will have a representative of the USPTO to present the certificates.

PATENTS 101: On September 19th we will host the first of our monthly programs for inventors and law students. The one-hour program will begin at 5 p.m. with a 15 to 20 minute presentation by a patent attorney followed by an opportunity for inventors to ask questions and present problems for discussion. Law students interested in working with volunteer attorneys will be required to attend one of these presentations. Attorney Ted Chiacchio of Spence PC will be our first presenter.
Opportunities to Help

**Sit in on an Interview.** We are considering having volunteer attorneys sit in on the inventor interviews we conduct to give us an initial impression about the invention and whether to move forward with the inventor. Each interview lasts about thirty minutes and we would schedule two or three interviews together, so that you could come over to the law school to contribute an hour or two of time.

**Speak at a Patents 101 Session.** Patents 101 will always be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 5 to 6 p.m. at the law school. The speaker would do a short presentation, and then respond to questions from inventors.

**Teach a Group of Students How to Do a Patent Search.** We are hoping to be able to offer a session on searches to students who have taken the first patent law course and who are interested in volunteering to work with the Hub. We need attorneys willing to spend about an hour showing students how to do basic searches.

**Accept a Law Student to Help on an Application.** Working with attorneys on drafting patent applications is a very valuable experience for our students. Please consider being on our list of attorneys willing to take a student assistant when you agree to take one of our inventors.

**Help with Prior Art Searches.** If you don’t have the time needed to help an inventor with an application, you can help us with prior art searches. We do not disclose the name of the attorney doing searches or his or her law firm.

**PLEASE CONTACT MARY ANNE SMITH IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Make a Gift to Support the Patent Hub.** Chicago-Kent’s Patent Hub is the only place patent attorneys can volunteer in their area of expertise to help low-income inventors and small businesses get their ideas patented.

We receive limited funding from the USPTO, and rely on additional support to review, screen, and match cases to volunteer attorneys. Consider making a personal donation to support the Patent Hub or encourage your law firm to be a sponsor. We recognize your law firm support by including your firm’s logo on the Patent Hub website, in the quarterly newsletter, and in Patent Hub materials, as well as recognizing your firm at the Patent Hub volunteer and donor reception. Champion and Partner supporters’ logos are also included in the Chicago-Kent IP newsletter, which is emailed to nearly 2,000 IP lawyers across the country, including approximately 230 in-house counsel.

**To learn more, please contact Chicago-Kent Director of Development Dana Pownall at 312-906-5234 or dpownall@kentlaw.iit.edu, or make a gift at https://alumni.kentlaw.iit.edu/patent-hub-sponsorships.**