



Greenblum & Bernstein, P.L.C.
CLIENT ADVISORY
Recent Changes in Rules and Procedures

January 11, 2006

Enforcement of Abstract Word Limits

Dear Clients:

This is to direct your attention to, as well as to remind you of a long-standing requirement that the United States Patent and Trademark Office has recently begun enforcing with great emphasis and strictness.

In particular, for quite some time now, the length of the Abstract of the Disclosure has been limited to 150 words or less. However, enforcement of this requirement has been somewhat lax and rather irregular. Recently however, we have been receiving a significant number of communications (i.e. Notice to File Corrected Application papers) from the Patent Office requiring us to shorten the length of the abstract and have accordingly inquired regarding the new emphasis being placed on this limitation.

In this regard, we have been informed that apparently a new contractor has been engaged to handle the processing of newly filed applications and has been interpreting this limitation very strictly. In particular, we have been informed that the contractor is now even counting punctuation marks (i.e. periods, commas, quotation marks, and etc.) as words, with respect to the 150 word limitation.

Accordingly, in order to afford unnecessary expenses resulting from the need to correct the abstract after the filing of an application, please maintain a heightened awareness of this word limitation in preparing new applications for filing in the US Patent and Trademark Office.

When we receive an application for filing in the US Patent and Trademark Office and the abstract appears to be greater than the permitted size, we will shorten the same prior to filing. While this may result in a slight cost increase, it will be significantly less than if we have to respond to an informality notification from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, or any other issues, please feel free to contact us.

Best regards,
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.

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