

Electronic Filing Update - Newsletter

We are pleased to announce that we are now filing all new eligible patent applications electronically, providing our clients benefits only available through EFS-Web:

- Instant Electronic Acknowledgment with Serial Number
- Immediate Availability of Application in PAIR
- Increased Accuracy of Bibliographic Data in PAIR

In addition, we are now submitting most of the new Assignments electronically through EPAS, the submission tool exclusively used by the USPTO Assignment Branch, providing further advantages:

- Recordation Notice received within approximately 2 weeks
- Corrected Recordation Notice received within days

Since participating in the initial Beta testing of the USPTO electronic filing tool (EFS- Web) beginning in December, 2005, the Oblon, Spivak firm has continued to expand the number of filings we submit for our clients using this secure and advantageous method so we are the most experienced firm in the U.S. in filing applications electronically. Our staff members have been thoroughly trained and prepared for electronic filing, and are therefore also ready and able to handle applications to be submitted electronically as required under the recently changed Accelerated Examination rules.

Since the process of submitting filings through EFS Web requires the creation of all electronic documents (in pdf format), the Oblon, Spivak firm is better able to meet the needs of those clients requesting their correspondence be conducted in electronic format. We are moving steadily towards storing all of our files electronically.

In view of this change in procedure, if possible, we ask you to send us your new patent applications in both MS Word and pdf formats. If necessary, we can and will create the pdf document from the paper document, but the MS Word version is still necessary in order to have the ability to manipulate text for amendments and/or revisions.

We will provide you with further news on this subject in the future.

With best regards,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

P.S.

We were asked by some clients about electronic filing of drawings, tables and Latin symbols. We file the entire new application, including drawings, tables, transmittal papers, ADS, etc., as pdf documents. This is the required PTO format, and since it is essentially a "picture" we don't have to be concerned that symbols, tables, drawings or anything else will be corrupted or lost. These "electronic" papers are reviewed just as we review our paper filings, one page at a time. The only difference here is that our reviewer is looking at a screen and clicking a mouse or using their keyboard arrows instead of looking down at a stack of papers and using their finger to flip from page to page. The reviewers are held to the same standards as if it were being submitted in paper format. Thus far, we have not had any problems since starting this in December of '05.