US Practice Tips 3 – Make Sure You Own It! (or someone else will)

Do you own your patent? It might seem obvious, but this is not a trivial question. And I know there are far more interesting things to think about (believe me – there are more interesting things to write about!), but like the fine print in a contract, the most boring thing can lead to big problems if you don’t pay attention to it.

Listen: I can write the best patent application in the world for you. I can help you obtain such broad claims that your competitors will be shut out from your technology space for years to come. But if ***you*** don’t actually ***own*** the patent, then none of that will be worth anything to you or your company.

So I’ll ask again: Do you own your patent?

 **In this article, we will cover the following:**

**Doesn’t a company already own its patents? After all, it paid for them in the first place!**

**How can you make sure your company owns its patents?**

**Ownership by Employment or Service Contract**

**Ownership by Assignment**

**When should the Contracts and Assignments be signed?**

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