

USC Research and Innovation

Stevens Center for Innovation

Dear USC Inventors,

We are excited to announce a procedural update aimed at boosting transparency and fostering a more collaborative environment. Going forward, all USC inventors named in a patent application will be included in relevant correspondence. This includes notifications from the patent office, impending deadlines, and crucial decisions that could impact your invention. Additionally, communications related to instructions and authorizations sent to our patent attorneys will also involve you, offering early insights into the efforts being made on your behalf and the progress of your patent applications.

While our office will continue to directly instruct our patent attorneys, there will be instances, especially with new applications and responses to office actions, where your expertise and input are critical. Upon our direction, our patent attorneys will engage with you for your unique insights, comments, or further information to ensure a thorough grasp of your invention. This collaborative approach is instrumental, particularly in the initial stages, to enhance the robustness and success of your patent application.

In our quest for transparency, we also aspire to cultivate a deeper interest and understanding among inventors regarding the patent prosecution process. To this end, we will facilitate interactions with counsel aimed at providing strategy, guidance, and educational insights. Topics such as patentability (novelty and non-obviousness), strategies for achieving broad claim scope, and timing will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. We believe that this knowledge will complement your research and development endeavors, leading to greater synergies. You will have the opportunity to engage with the attorneys and ask questions related to your case and prosecution in general.

This procedural change has already been communicated to our patent counsel, and many of you might have noticed this shift. We will keep a close eye on the email correspondences to ensure comprehensive implementation. Your feedback is invaluable to us during this transition period. Should you not receive expected correspondences in your inbox, please alert us promptly. Additionally, to maintain seamless communication, kindly update us with your preferred email address.

We are confident that these modifications will streamline the patent prosecution process, making it more inclusive and efficient. Your continued cooperation and innovative contributions are what propel the success of USC's technology transfer efforts. We thank you for your unwavering commitment and look forward to achieving new heights together.

Best,

Erin Overstreet, PhD
Executive Director
USC Stevens Center for Innovation