



PATENT PRO BONO NETWORK

A network of community-minded IP firms supporting innovation and our regional economy.

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

uspto



A Conundrum in Our Economy

Northeast Ohio is experiencing a gap in its economic continuum.

Our local economy is nationally recognized for its successes in driving early stage technology investment. A number of programs, including: JumpStart, BioEnterprise, MAGNET, TBEIC, the Innovation Fund, the North Coast Opportunities program, the Ohio Third Frontier and a very effective seed investment community work together to make this possible.

Yet, these programs mostly support serial entrepreneurs, small businesses and a handful of inventors with solid business fundamentals in place. The conundrum arises as inventors with otherwise fundable, great ideas do not have the basic resources to cultivate and protect their intellectual property. Without patent protection, these great ideas stand little chance of garnering financial backing.

Enter: The Patent Pro Bono Network and its member firms.

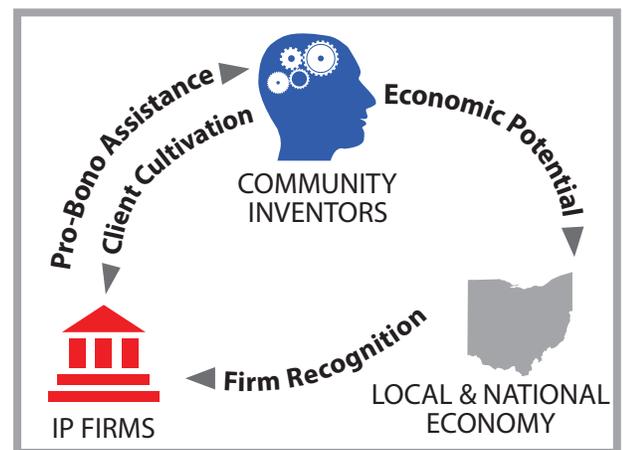
Supporting Community Innovation in Northeast Ohio

Financially under-resourced, independent inventors and small businesses often need help with the patent process. In recognition of this need, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA) encourages the USPTO to "work with and support intellectual property law associations across the country in the establishment of pro bono programs designed to assist financially under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses."

Since the AIA was enacted, seven executive actions have created new capacity for the USPTO to assist innovators by expanding the pro bono program to cover all 50 states.

As a part of these initiatives, Ohio's legal and economic development communities are actively working together with the USPTO to build a network of pro bono support for inventors who otherwise could not afford to protect their intellectual property.

The network offers firms the opportunity to commit a block of time to their community. In addition to helping the local economy by providing pro bono services, participating firms have the potential to reap the benefits of this relationship, as patents are issued and new commercial potential grows across the state.



The IP Venture Clinic at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law
volunteer@ohio-patentprobono.org 11075 E. Blvd, Cleveland, Ohio 44106

CLE Credit

As of 2014, your Pro Bono efforts can earn CLE Credits.

Login and register at:

law.case.edu/ipvc/probono



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PATENT PRO BONO NETWORK

Giving Back to the Community - Creating New Potential

Pro bono service is a long-standing commitment and obligation of the legal profession. Your service can pay off on multiple levels.

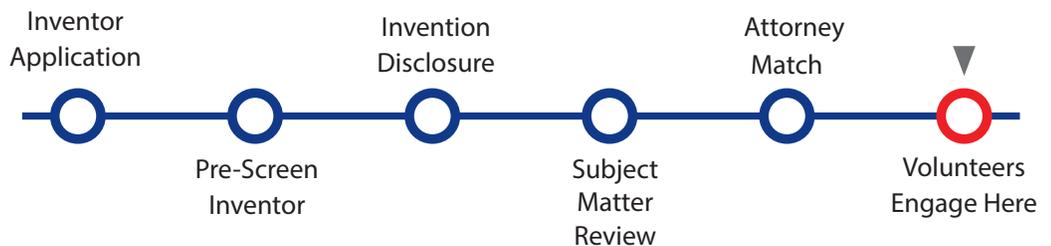
By providing patent pro bono services to the local community, your firm can help fill the gap. Each successful case presents the potential for your firm to develop productive, new client relationships as ideas make their way to market.

The Patent Pro Bono Network provides opportunities to Ohio and to participating firms:

- **Economic Impact:** Opportunity to have a direct hand in improving the local economy.
- **Service:** Fulfill your professional commitment and obligation.
- **Efficiency:** The Patent Pro Bono Network vets all applicants and only forwards qualified candidates for engagement.
- **Continuity:** After volunteer work is complete, we will help maintain case continuity.
- **The Best Fit:** Fulfill your pro bono obligation with projects in your area of expertise.

The Process

In order to make the process as streamlined as possible, the IP Venture Clinic at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law, the Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association and the USPTO have worked together to develop screening and tracking systems to identify client readiness and attempt to ensure that volunteers are connected only with serious inventors.



We Need Your Help

While we have received a strong, positive response from the members of the patent bar at large, we need law firm leadership to support volunteer participation.

The Patent Pro Bono Network is asking firms to commit blocks of time and champion this growing program.

Throughout the year, each of the collaborating entities (the IP Venture Clinic, USPTO and CIPLA) will publicly recognize participating firms for being active in the program and **The BSWf Pro Bono Network** will provide an on-line web badge to ZYZ YZf your participation on your Xd_ ywebsite.

About The IP Venture Clinic

TZWB HW fgdV5 [USf the Case Western Reserve University School of Law provides students with the opportunity to represent start-up companies as they develop their plans to commercialize their technology. Students will focus on a full range of business and intellectual property issues that start-ups face.

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