



Client Memorandum

October 17, 2013

USPTO To Reduce Certain Patent Fees

With the enactment of the America Invents Act, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) increased many fees associated with processing patent applications. These increases were meant to provide the USPTO with necessary funds to recover the cost of its operations, to decrease the backlog of applications awaiting examination, and to improve patent quality.

Beginning January 1, 2014, certain early stage USPTO fees for obtaining a patent will significantly *decrease*, as listed below.* This reduction in early stage fees may help to offset costs for patent applicants who have not yet commercialized or realized the potential value of their inventions during the patent process. The higher fees remain in place for the later stages of the life of the patent, such as maintenance fees paid during the life of the patent when the patent owner has more knowledge of the patent value.

Fee decreases going into effect on January 1, 2014, include the following:

- Utility Patent Issue Fees: \$1,780/\$890/\$445 → \$960/\$480/\$240
- Design Patent Issue Fees: \$1,020/\$510/\$255 → \$560/\$280/\$140
- Publication Fee: \$300 → \$0
- Electronic Assignment Recordation Fee: \$40 → \$0
- New Small and Micro Entity Fees for PCT International Stage Applications

The amounts stated above are for non-discounted large entity, small entity, and micro entity status filers.

For a complete schedule of the current and revised USPTO fee schedule, please visit <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/qs/ope/fee031913.htm>

Fees due for payment are calculated at the time of payment. *If you have patent fees in the above-noted categories that are due on or after January 1, 2014, you may wish to delay payment to take advantage of the decreased fees.* You can discuss this option with your COJK attorney.

*Filing, Search, Examination, Publication, and Issue Fees

This memorandum is not intended to provide legal advice, and no legal or business decision should be based on its content. Questions concerning issues addressed in this memorandum should be directed to your COJK attorney.