

EXHIBIT 8



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The Truth About Invention Submission & Idea Promotion Companies

The sad but simple truth is that many inventors and entrepreneurs have had their share of difficulty with the various invention submission and idea promotion companies out there. You have probably seen them advertised on television, usually in the extremely late night or extremely early morning hours. They promise free information, and tell you that they will help you patent your idea, make your invention and/or market your product. Unfortunately many inventors and entrepreneurs have learned the hard way that these companies all too frequently talk big and perform little or nothing.

The Federal Trade Commission has compiled a long list of complains on its website. In response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act, in February 2002, the FTC sent information regarding complains filed against Invention Submission Corporation, Inventor's Helpline and Invention Technologies (also known as Invent-Tech). The cover letter explains that the FTC has received these complaints but has not verified the allegations of the complaints. Nevertheless, these complaints do sound all too familiar. To see the 103 page FTC compilation [CLICK HERE](#). A similar Freedom of Information Act request was made in December of 2001, but limited the request to Invention Technologies. To see the 48 page FTC compilation on Invent-Tech [CLICK HERE](#).

What is the moral of this story? Be very careful. The first thing to realize, remember and never forget is that as inventors we all want to hear that our invention is the next big thing and will make us a lot of money. We all want to be appreciated. We put so much time and energy into our projects. This being the case, it becomes much easier for unscrupulous people to tell us what we want to hear, even if we don't know it. The closeness we bring to the project means that objectivity can be compromised. There is nothing at all wrong with being optimistic, determined and willing to give your dream a chance, but be careful and be smart. Don't let the unscrupulous take you for a ride.

Here is a good list of [INVENTOR RED FLAGS](#) to look for when dealing with invention submission and idea promotion companies. This advice was first printed in the April 1996 issue of The Disclaimer, which was the newsletter of the now apparently defunct Inventors Awareness Group, Inc. of Westfield, MA.

Here are some basic rules to live by:

1. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
2. Do your research. Know who you are getting into a relationship with. Ask for references and check them. Do a Google search and see what you find. Call the local better business bureau and also consider calling the Attorney General's office in the state where the business

is located. Many, if not most, State Attorneys General collect complaints and have a consumer protection department.

3. Do not let anyone talk you into making a rush judgment and sending money quickly. Take some time to consider your choices. It is a big decision, one that you should be comfortable with.
4. Beware those pending design patents. Design patents are very weak and appropriate only in limited circumstances. Unless you have a large number of design patents they do little more than let you advertise "patent design" on the package. This may be what you are looking for, in which case they are fine. But they do NOT protect an idea or an invention. They only protect ornamental design of exactly what is pictured. They are VERY easy to get, which is why many of these companies push them on people, who unsuspectingly think they have broad protection.

If you remember these simple rules and exercise caution you will save yourself heartache, disappointment and a lot of money.

For more information on the invention and patent process see:

Understanding the Invention Process - So you have an idea and want to get a patent? There are a number of things that you need to know about the invention and patent process that can help you focus your efforts and know what obstacles lay in front of you.

How much does a patent cost? - This is a detailed explanation of how much you can expect to pay to get a simple patent. The filing fee to the Patent Office for an individual inventor or small company is currently \$375.00 for a non-provisional utility application and \$75.00 for a provisional application. The non-provisional utility fee is the basic filing fee, which covers 3 independent claims and 17 dependent claims. If you have more claims it costs more. The issue fee would be \$650.00 (due at the end of the process as the patent is going to be issued). So even without any attorney fees the absolute lowest you could pay for a patent is \$1025.00.

Patent Drawings - The patent applicant is required to furnish at least one drawing of the invention whenever the nature of the case requires a drawing to understand the invention. In my experience this is almost always. You should also not think in terms of a single drawing, but rather in terms of however many drawings are necessary in order to demonstrate what you have invented. Most patent applications have more than one drawing.

The Problem with Provisionals - I am still a fan of provisional applications despite this article, but the article is dead on accurate. If you are sloppy with the provisional it is highly likely that the provisional will be worthless. Even worse, you may be lulled into a false sense of security, which may prevent you from obtaining a patent in the future. I have seen some firms do little to no work on provisional applications. I have seen some firms quote \$100, \$200 or \$300 for a provisional application. You will get what you pay for, which is little or no protection. A provisional MUST contain everything except the claims! If the disclosure is inadequate you might as well not waste your time.

Confidentiality Agreements - This page explains the basics that

inventors and entrepreneurs should know about Confidentiality Agreements. Also included are two rather basic confidentiality agreements available for free download.

If you have had either a positive or negative experience please consider posting your thoughts and comments to the IPWatchdog.com message board **About Invention Submission & Idea Promotion**. Likewise, if you have a question about a particular company please feel free to post it. I hope this will become a valuable resource that can provide meaningful assistance to those pondering doing business with such companies. This is largely an unmoderated forum, so please do your own research. Use this as a resource that can potentially provide another avenue for collecting information. As an unmoderated forum I cannot vouch for the veracity of anything that is posted. Notwithstanding, if I find any commercial advertisements posted I will delete them.

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