

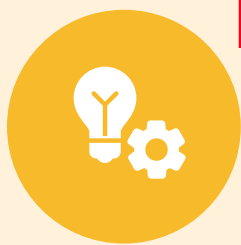


PATENT PROSECUTION TIMELINE

This infographic illustrates a typical timeline for a patent application from invention disclosure to grant. Dates given are estimates of typical durations, or are based on averages, and are only meant as a rough guide. A skilled patent attorney will employ many strategies to speed or slow the timeline to reach the client's goals. Consult a patent attorney for additional detail.

Invention Disclosure

Meet with a patent attorney and discuss your invention. Provide descriptions and figures as necessary.



Today



Provisional Application

Attorney drafts a provisional application and inventors provide comments. Provisional application is filed. Filing a provisional application is optional, and an Applicant may file a non-provisional application directly.

3 Months

Non-Provisional Application

One year after filing a provisional application, the non-provisional application is filed. Application includes patent claims that define the boundaries of the invention.



15 Months



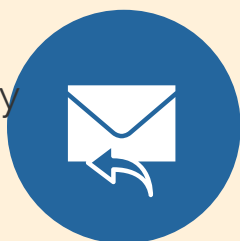
First Office Action

Approximately 16 months from the filing of the non-provisional, the applicant receives a communication ("Office Action") from a USPTO Examiner, with reasons for rejection.

31 Months

Amendment

Patent Attorney typically has 3 months to respond to the Office Action with arguments or amendments to the claims without paying a fee.



34 Months



More Office Actions

Examination continues with communication between Examiner and Attorney until Examiner is satisfied that the claims of the patents are useful, novel and non-obvious. This process is iterative and lasts until the client decides to stop pursuing the invention or the claims are deemed allowable.

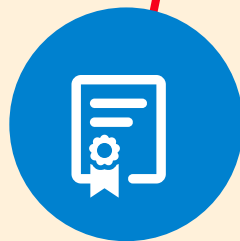
36 Months



40 Months+

Patent Grants

Applicant receives a notice of allowance, pays the issue fees and a patent grants.



Application Abandoned

No claims are allowable and Applicant abandons the application.

Estimates are based on USPTO pendency data.

This chart does not constitute legal advice. Visit www.patentspace.net for more details.

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