



Inventor RESOURCES

Complaints

The USPTO public forum for invention promoters/promotion firm complaints and responses

While the USPTO does not investigate complaints or participate in any legal proceedings against invention promoters/promotion firms, under the [American Inventors Protection Act of 1999](#), [PDF] the USPTO will provide a public forum for the publication of complaints concerning invention promoters/promotion firms. Also, in the forum, the USPTO will publish responses to the complaints from the invention promoters/promotion firms.

The USPTO will accept complaints filed against invention promoters/promotion firms and forward these complaints to the invention promoters/promotion firms for response. As mentioned above, both the complaints and the responses will be published in the public forum so that they will be publicly available. The USPTO does not accept complaints submitted under this system if the complainant requests confidentiality.

Federal Trade Commission

To view the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Alert "Spotting Sweet-Sounding Promises of Fraudulent Invention Promotion Firms" go to <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/invnart.htm>.

Disclaimer

The following complaints are being posted as a requirement of the American Inventors Protection Act. The USPTO does not endorse the views expressed or the facts presented.

Published Complaints

Format:

- *Company Name*
 - *Month Posted (Number of Complaints) [file-type/size]*

Complaints:

- Advent Product Development
 - March 2002 [Osman](#)
 - Response January 2003 [html]
 - February 2003 [Traianiello](#)
 - October 2003 [Osepchuk](#)
 - October 2003 [Silver](#)
 - October 2003 [Watts](#)
 - March 2004 [Klein](#)
- American Idea Management
 - October 2003 [Ewert](#)
- American Inventors Corp.
 - July 2002 [Miller](#)
 - December 2004 [Brightwell](#)
- Concept Network
 - July 2002 [Currier](#)
 - October 2003 [Radzynski](#)

- Davison & Associates Inc.
 - October 2002 [Williams](#)
 - December 2002 [Russo](#)
 - Response February 2003 [[html](#)]
 - October 2003 [Egawa](#)
 - March 2004 [Crocker](#)
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 - May 2005 [Harlacker](#)
 - August 2005 [Saleh](#)
 - August 2005 [Tsuji](#)
- Innovative Patent Services
 - October 2005 [Matay](#)
- International Patent Consultants
 - December 2004 [Ingram](#)
 - August 2005 [Laramie](#)
- International Product Design
 - October 2002 [Waxman](#)
- International Product Design Inc
 - July 2002 [Symon](#)
- Invent-Tech
 - February 2003 [Huff](#)
 - Response December 2004 [[html](#)]
 - March 2003 [Earhart](#)
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 - November 2005 [Houdek](#)
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- Invention Consultants, U.S.A
 - January 2004 [Williams](#)
- Invention Technology Co.
 - July 2003 [Podhola](#)
 - Response July 2003 [[html](#)]
- IP&R
 - October 2002 [Manno](#)
 - Response October 2002 [[html](#)]
 - November 2002 [Enriquez](#)
 - Response December 2002 [[html](#)]
 - January 2004 [Medeiros](#)
 - Response January 2004 [[html](#)]
 - March 2004 [Jones](#)
 - January 2005 [Geer](#)
 - Response January 2005 [[html](#)]
- National Invention Services, Inc.

- October 2003 **Graham**
- New Product Advisory Group
 - January 2004 **Plemmons**
 - Response January 2004 [[html](#)]
- New Product Consultants
 - July 2002 **De Water**
- New Product Consulting Corp.
 - July 2002 **DeMarco**
 - October 2002 **Jackson**
 - May 2005 **Petrenko**
- New Products of America
 - January 2001 **Jackson**
 - Response [[html](#)]
 - May 2001 **Maresh**
 - Response [[html](#)]
- Patent Trademark Institute of America
 - July 2003 **Padula**
 - October 2003 **Waterhouse**
 - Response October 2003 [[html](#)]
 - January 2004 **Butcher**
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 - June 2005 **Slater**
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 - October 2005 **Robertson**
- Synergy Consultants
 - February 2005 **Santorello**
 - October 2005 **Solmonson**
 - Response October 2005 [[html](#)]

Notice of undeliverable mail

(If your company is listed below, you have 30 days from posting to contact the Office at 703-305-8800 with your current mailing address. If we do not receive a current mailing address within 30 day the complaint against your company will be published.)

UNDELIVERABLE

An undeliverable letter addressed to International Patent Consultants was returned to the Office. You have 30 days to contact the Office at 571-272-8040. International Patent Consultants 80 East Passaic Aven, Nutley, NJ 07110.

Invention promoters/promotion firms To see if a company has been investigated and/or fined by the Federal Trade Commission visit <http://www.ftc.gov/search> and type in the word "invention". For **important** information about invention promotion firms, please visit the following links:

- <http://www.ftc.gov/os/1997/07/davisb~1.htm>
- <http://www.ftc.gov/os/1998/07/perminis.htm>
- <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/1998/07/nisi.htm>
- <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/predawn/F95/invention-2.htm>
- <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/1996/05/global.htm>

Before making commitments to invention promoters/promotion

firms

You should check on the reputation of invention promoters/promotion firms before making any commitments. Remember, not all invention promoters/promotion firms are legitimate. It's best to be wary of any firm that promises too much and/or costs too much.

If you are thinking about using one of these firms, ask for references from their current clients and check the firm's reputation by:

- looking for complaints listed on this Web site
- consulting the Better Business Bureau
- consulting the Chambers of Commerce in your area

If you have hired a patent attorney or agent, ask them about the invention promoter/promotion firm. You can also ask others who may know them. You may wish to refer to the following sites to learn more about fraudulent invention promoters/promotion firms.

Invention promoters/promotion firms

At this site, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) provides a heads-up caution on invention promoters/promotion firms.

Consumer Protection

The FTC also provides other services and information at their site about business venture and investment frauds.

Required information disclosure from invention promoters/promotion firms

If you decide to use the services of an invention promoter/promotion firm, keep in mind that the firm must disclose specific information to you regarding their past business practices. This mandatory disclosure **is required by law** [PDF] and is intended to help you make an informed decision whether or not the firm will meet your needs.

Specifically, before an invention promotion contract can be established between you and the firm, each invention promotion firm must disclose to you **in writing** each of the following items of information:

(1) The total number of inventions evaluated by the invention promoter for commercial potential in the past 5 years, as well as the number of those inventions that received positive evaluations, and the number of those inventions that received negative evaluations

In other words, how much experience does the promoter have? What is their track record? Do they generally give mostly positive or negative evaluations, or is there a balance between their positive and negative evaluation history?

(2) The total number of customers who have contracted with the invention promoter in the past 5 years, not including customers who have purchased trade show services, research, advertising, or other nonmarketing services from the invention promoter, or who have defaulted in their payment to the invention promoter

This information will give you an idea of just how experienced the promoter or firm is and the volume of services they provide.

(3) The total number of customers known by the invention promoter to have received a net financial profit as a direct result of the invention promotion services provided by such invention promoter

What financial impact, if any, has the promoter or firm actually made to its customers?

(4) The total number of customers known by the invention promoter to have received license agreements for their inventions as a direct result of the invention promotion services provided by such invention promoter

Like item (3) above, this information will also enable you to gauge the effectiveness of the firm in evaluating its direct impact on its customers. Note the key words in the last two requirements--"as a direct result of the invention promotion services provided by such invention promoter". Be aware that just because a license agreement was eventually secured for a given invention does not necessarily mean that it was a "direct result" of the promotion activities of the firm.

(5) The names and addresses of all previous invention promotion companies with which the invention promoter or its officers have collectively or individually been affiliated in the previous 10 years

This information will help you to know the history of the promoter or firm, even if the promoter changes firms or the firm changes its name.

How do I register a complaint against an invention promotion firm with the USPTO?

While the USPTO does not investigate complaints or participate in any legal proceedings against invention promoters/promotion firms, the [American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 \[PDF\]](#) does provide that the USPTO will:

- (1) accept complaints filed against invention promoters/promotion firms;
- (2) forward these complaints to the invention promoters/promotion firms for response; and
- (3) make the complaints and responses publicly available.

Both the complaints and the responses will be published on this Web site so that they will be publicly available. However, the USPTO does not accept complaints submitted under this system if the complainant requests confidentiality.

In order for the USPTO to identify a submission as a complaint under the American Inventors Protection Act, the complaint must be clearly marked or otherwise indicate that it is a complaint filed under the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. The USPTO has a [form \[PDF\]](#) for the purpose of lodging such a complaint; however, use of this form is not mandatory. General letters of complaint sent to the USPTO will not be treated under this complaint publication program.

What are the minimum requirements for a complaint?

At a minimum, [a complaint filed under the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 \[PDF\]](#) must provide the following:

1. The name and address of the person making the complaint;
2. The name and address of the invention promoter/promotion firm;
3. The name of the customer of the invention promoter/promotion firm;
4. An explanation of the invention promotion services offered or performed;

5. The name of the mass media used to advertise the invention promoter's services;
6. An explanation of the relationship between the customer and the invention promotion services;
7. A signature of the complainant.

The complaint should fairly and impartially summarize the action or inaction of the invention promoter/promotion firm that is the basis of the complaint. The purpose of the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 is to provide complainants with a forum for publicly making a complaint against an invention promoter/promotion firm.

Submissions that do not provide the requested information will be returned. If a complainant's address is not provided, the submission will be destroyed. A complaint can be withdrawn by the complainant or named customer at any time prior to its publication.

No originals of documents should be included with the complaint. Complaints should be mailed to the following address:

Mail Stop 24
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Some contents linked to on this page require a plug-in for [PDF File](#).

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KEY: =online business system =fees =forms =help =laws/regulations =definition (glossary)

The [Inventors Assistance Center](#) is available to help you on patent matters. Send questions about USPTO programs and services to the [USPTO Contact Center \(UCC\)](#). You can suggest USPTO webpages or material you would like featured on this section by E-mail to the webmaster@uspto.gov. While we cannot promise to accommodate all requests, your suggestions will be considered and may lead to other improvements on the website.

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