

# PATENTS

## OVERVIEW

# What is a Patent?

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- The United States Patent and Trademark Office grants the inventor an intellectual property right
- Exclusive right to the invention
- Generally, the patent term is 20 years from the date the patent was filed

# CRITERIA FOR PATENTING

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- Must be a product or process
- Cannot patent a mathematical formula or natural phenomenon

# Three Criteria

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- Novel
- Utility
- Non-obvious