

HOW (AND WHY) TO FILE A PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

While it is not possible to receive a “provisional patent,” a provisional patent *application* provides a number of benefits for aspiring patent holders:

- PPAs provide high level detail on the components of your invention(s) and its' operation
- PPAs should include drawings showing a clear, unique value proposition of your invention(s) in the marketplace
- Filing a PPA establishes an early priority filing date vs. those working on similar inventions
- Working prototypes can strengthen PPAs



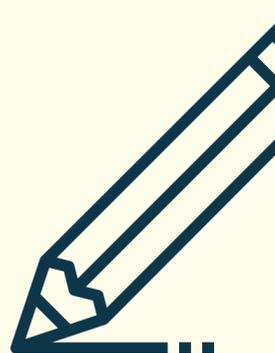
WHAT IS A PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION?

- Put simply, a provisional patent application is a reasonable first step on the path to securing an official patent.
- PPAs do not automatically turn into an official patent
- A PPA should thoroughly explain the various components of your invention, how it operates, and how it will be used.



WHAT SHOULD YOU INCLUDE IN YOUR APPLICATION?

- You will want to include drawings of your invention with the PPA, though you will still receive a filing date in the absence of drawings.
- To ensure your PPA has value, make sure that you take the time to truly understand your invention's point of difference in the marketplace and from the prior art.
- You cannot introduce a drawing that explains your invention after you have already filed your PPA.



WHY PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS ARE A SMART STRATEGY FOR INVENTORS

- One of the most important aspects of filing a PPA is getting an early priority filing date.
- With a PPA, you can protect your invention even before you are fully ready to file a non-provisional application
- The process of drafting a PPA will help you define your invention and identify potential weaknesses to strengthen



WHAT DOES FILING A PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION ENTAIL?

The USPTO website provides detailed information about the steps and requirements for filing a PPA. Technically, you can file a PPA on your own, without the assistance of an attorney. However, it may be wise to at least consult with a patent attorney before you submit your provisional application.

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