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6.931 Development of Inventions and Creative Ideas
Spring 2008

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6.931 DEVELOPMENT OF INVENTIONS AND CREATIVE IDEAS
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
SPRING 2007

Assignment 4

Date Assigned: March 5, 2007

Due: March 12, 2007

All homework assignments are due to the TAs by 7:30PM. *Please include your name and e-mail address on all assignment submissions.*

There was no formal assignment statement for Assignment 3

I. Reading(s)

Abril, P.S. and Plant, R. (2007). The patent holder's dilemma: Buy, sell, or troll? *Communications of the Association for Computing Machinery*. 50(1), 37-44.

Read the article cited above and be prepared to discuss the content in class. Provide an answer to the following questions in a 2-3 page response paper.

1. What is the significance of the State St. Bank & Trust Co. v Signature Finance Group, Inc case from 1998 on the US patent system?
2. In recent years, patents have increasingly been viewed as a powerful financial asset in industry. In what ways, if any, do the uses of patents as investment "capital" deviate from the intent of patents as put forth in Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution.
3. Provide a case for or against patent trolling. What impact do you believe that patent trolling has on the overall US economy?
4. How does the current environment for patents in corporations as described in Abril impact the small inventor in the US?
5. Explain your position on whether or not we are heading in the right direction with patent policy in the United States. Support your explanation.

Sipress, A. (2007, March 5). Open call from the patent office. *Washington Post*. Retrieved from WashingtonPost.Com on March 5, 2007.

Read the article cited above and be prepared to discuss the content in class. Provide an answer to the following questions in one-page or less.

1. What is your perspective on peer patent review?
2. What are the pros and cons of this model?

Optional: If you would like to review more material on peer patent review, you may read:

Noveck, B.S. (2006). "Peer to patent": Collective intelligence, open review, and patent reform. *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*. 20(1), 123-162.

This article can be found online at: <http://jolt.law.harvard.edu/articles/pdf/v20/20HarvJLTech123.pdf>

II. Article Review

Review Prof. Rine's article on business method patents in India. Provide a brief article review. Summarize in no more than one page the issues that are under discussion in the article and your insights on the significance or contribution that this article brought to your developing understanding of the intellectual property system (particularly patents) in the United States. Do you agree or disagree with the author's position on business methods in India. Why or why not?