

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Q I've heard that significant changes are happening in U.S. patent law. What is that about?

A The recently-enacted America Invents Act implements several important changes to U.S. patent law. Perhaps the most significant change is the transition from a "first to invent" to a "first inventor to file" system, which will apply to patent applications having an effective filing date on or after March 16, 2013. Under the new law, a true first inventor may lose patent rights if someone else applies to patent a similar invention first. This change to U.S. patent law makes it more important than ever to consider patent protection early in the process when pursuing innovation. An experienced patent attorney can provide further information.

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