



Inventions and Collaborations

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Q I worked with a collaborator to develop my invention. Do I have to list the collaborator as an inventor on my patent application?

A Maybe. Inventorship is determined by reference to the claims. An inventor is any person who “contributed to” the “conception” of at least one feature of a claim. By way of example, an individual who simply carries out the intellectual concepts of another is not an inventor. Thus, inventorship is determined by an objective review of the claims and consideration of who contributed to the claimed features. Inventorship is a legal determination; omitting or over-including inventors may have serious repercussions on the validity of any patent(s) issuing from the patent application. An experienced patent practitioner can help you assess questions regarding inventorship.