

PATENT LAW FUNDAMENTALS

Study Questions

Study questions are designed to reinforce your understanding of the lesson material. Please create a Microsoft Word document and submit your completed study questions to the instructor via email.

Module 1

1. Define a patent
 2. What rights does having a patent grant the inventor?
 3. What rights does not having a patent grant the inventor?
 4. Provide 3 inventions that are of interest to you (or your company)
 5. Define "specification"
 6. Define "claim". Provide 3 examples
 7. Define "dependent claim". Provide 3 examples
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Module 2

1. Briefly discuss the difference between a unilateral vs bilateral agreement
2. Is the following a bilateral or unilateral agreement?

You're entering this type of agreement every time you make a purchase at your favorite store, order a meal at a restaurant, receive treatment from your doctor or even checkout a book at your library. In each circumstance, you've promised a certain action to another person or party in response to that person or party's action.

3. Is the following a bilateral or unilateral agreement?

One of the most common instances is a reward contract. Pretend you've lost your dog. You place an advertisement in the newspaper or online offering a \$100 reward to the person who returns your missing pooch. By offering the reward, you're offering a unilateral contract. You promise to pay should anyone fulfill the obligation of returning your dog. You're the only person who has taken any action in this contract, as no one is specifically responsible or obligated to finding your dog passed on this interaction.

4. Is the following a bilateral or unilateral agreement?

Insurance contracts. The insurance company promises it will pay the insured person a specific amount of money in case a certain event happens. If the event doesn't happen, the company won't have to pay.

5. Define "confidential"
 6. Provide 3 examples of "confidential" elements that would be in the development and launch of a new car
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Module 3

1. Why is conducting a prior art search important? What is the risk of not conducting one?
 2. Briefly discuss the steps in conducting a prior art search
 3. What are keywords?
 4. What is a classification system?
 5. What are subclasses?
 6. John Doe is considering filing for an invention on an "automatic napkin folder". What would be the associated keywords?
Conduct a simple prior art search. What do you find?
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Module 4

1. Define FTO?
2. Briefly discuss the steps in conducting a FTO
3. What are some of the challenges associated with the USPTO database when conducting a FTO search?
4. Provide a real or hypothetical example of an invention that required a FTO