Name: Jason C. Weaver

Comment:
I am an inventor with 13 granted US patents. I have dreamed of being a professional inventor since I was a child, having grown up with Edison as my hero. I’ve been working very hard to make the dream become reality. Yet, in the last several years, the possibility of that dream developing into a livelihood has been destroyed by the refocusing of the USPTO from the small inventor to the deep-pocketed, politically-powerful large entities.

The foundational premise of the patent system was to allow people like me, who toil endlessly without pay or guaranteed reward for our effort, the right to own the results of our labor if what we created was considered an invention by the USPTO. To acquire such an acknowledgment by the USPO, we participate in the examination process with the understanding that once it’s complete and any and all clarifications or explanations have been satisfied, we would own a piece of property that was forever now ours to use as any other piece of property could be used. This property, a granted patent, gives us the right to keep others from using our mind-child, our invention, without our permission. This is what gives us the way to make a living and is, in part, our reward for the countless hours, costs, and risks we took.

However, with the PTAB which invalidates 84% of the patents it reviews, the original promise of the USPTO has been rescinded. Now, a granted patent is merely a suggestion of ownership held hostage to any corporation with an interest in using our patent without a desire to pay us for our property. We, people like me, the inventors are at a complete disadvantage. Our contributions to society are no longer considered sacred or valued. With the risk of having a valuable patent overturned, what motivation is there for people like me to spend weekends, and nights toiling away?

To claim that small inventors like me have legal remedies available is disingenuous. Despite having 13 granted patents, I do not have the resources to fight a large Google or Apple in court nor the years required for a prolonged battle. And even if one PTAB challenge was overcome, another could take its place and I have to start over. There’s no way for someone like me to win such a battle.

Please help move us back to an inventor-friendly USPTO. To do anything else contributes to the destruction of the innovation system that built the United States of America.

Please move us away from the PTAB. Please enable small entities, the David’s such as
myself with the tools to defend ourselves against the many attacking Goliaths. Please allow us injunctive relief. Please limit motions so as not to drown us.

Please bring back and stand behind the original promise that if we, the individual inventor, overcame all objections by the examiner and were granted a patent, then our patent should stand as non-revocable property, owned by and controlled by the inventor.

Sincerely,
Jason C. Weaver
Austin, TX