

**Subject:** Small Claims Patent Court Comments

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**From:** Bob Merz

**To:** ACUS Information

**CC:** Kazia Nowacki

As an inventor and business owner who feels his patented product was infringed and marketed by another company, I feel it is tantamount to establish a Small Claims Patent Court.

The current procedure to counter infringement is way too time consuming, costly, and laborious. I have documented evidence of my product's infringement, yet I must travel to the offender's area, hire an attorney there, and pay exorbitant costs just to get a preliminary hearing.

The company who infringed my product is a large corporation with assets near one billion dollars. I am a small individual LLC. It is impossible for me to compete with them while they kick this case down the road.

As a member of US Inventor organization, I have heard this story over and over. In some cases, the intellectual property theft is so obvious that a ten-year old child could rule it was plainly ripped off.

It's not rocket science to determine infringement of a patented invention. Obtaining a patent is a long, arduous process, while the system to take it away can be in an instant.

Inventors deserve a simple, fair, democratic mechanism to defend their hard work from blatant infringement. Why do we pay exorbitant patent fees to keep our inventions active? The current system of patent enforcement is archaic, overly political, ripe for corruption and money dominated.

Let's enhance the creative spirit of America and move productivity forward by establishing this logical Small Claims Court mechanism. It will go a long way in fostering innovation and protecting our rights.

Sincerely,  
Robert Merz  
Northfield NJ