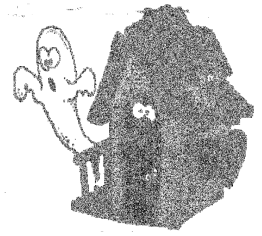




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## “Tip of the Month”

### Have You Recorded That Patent Assignment?

Patents and patent applications have the legal status of personal property. During the life of a patent, there are many situations in which its ownership status should be recorded with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

Employee inventors typically execute assignment documents conveying ownership of the property to the employer who paid for the invention. Recording an assignment document informs the public of the ownership status of the property, very much like a deed to real property.

If the present ownership status is not properly recorded, transactions involving the property may be jeopardized. There are many other situations related to patent ownership that should also be documented and recorded with the USPTO that are seldom considered. Examples of these situations include but are not limited to:

- Change of name of either the inventor or the company
- Merger of the company with another entity
- Security agreements
- Mortgages
- Liens
- Licenses
- Options
- Decrees of distribution
- Letters testamentary
- Letters of administration
- Court appointment of a trustee
- Release by secured party
- Conditional assignment

If any of these situations apply to your intellectual property, consult with the attorneys at Mesmer & Deleault. We can help make sure you own what you think you own.

Please give us a call at 603-668-1971 or write to us at [mailbox@biz-patlaw.com](mailto:mailbox@biz-patlaw.com).

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