Author Full Name :   Anonymous   **Received Date :**   12/30/2020 06:58 PM

Comments Received :

Initial Patent Application forms could be made easier to use, and thereby reduce the time and cost burden.

General comments on forms, systems, and document submission:

•   All forms could be improved by allowing users to cut-and-paste information from one field on a PTO system to another. Currently this is not the case because formatting interferes, for example, the presence or absence of commas or slash marks in application numbers or differing date formats.

•   The electronic filing system does not do well with embedded fonts in pdf documents and so many practitioners "flatten" the documents into an image so the document is not rejected by the filing system. If the PTO updated this system, then there could be fewer printing errors and the USPTO would save time and money on pre-publication OCR conversion. Many inventions rely on descriptions that include italics, symbols, Greek letters, subscripts, superscripts, scientific formulas, chemical structures, or mathematical notations. These features may be misidentified when the PTO converts document formats. As a specific example, in biology, the use of italics may be meaningful to differentiate a gene from a protein.

•   The Patent Office ought to allow more types of digital signatures and not require the use of slash marks.

Comments on specific forms:

•   Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76) AIA/14 – The worst part of this form is the domestic benefit section on page 2 of the blank form. It is not intuitive. It is poorly designed. It ought to allow adding or inserting a benefit claim at the top of the list or it ought to change the requirement that the items be listed in reverse chronological order.

•   Provisional Application for Patent Cover Sheet SB/16 - This form should include an optional field for entering an Applicant. Currently, either the Applicant is not listed or a separate ADS is submitted to identify the Applicant.