

Legal Hacks for Creators, Inventors and Entrepreneurs

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Welcome back to my very short and informal newsletter, sharing a bit of what I find interesting, quirky, or just fun about Intellectual Property Law and Patents. I publish this once a month or so to share with you at least one idea that I think you will find both engaging and useful.



#1 Is it Really Illegal to Selfie My Tattoo?

I was flying back from Italy through Munich over the Summer and ran into a group of body artists lined up at customs. Everyone in the troupe was heavily tattooed and one poor guy in the bunch was having his luggage meticulously searched. His tattoo pens and paints were spread across a large metal table, along with t-shirts, socks, and a plastic sack of laundry. Munich is a tough airport for inspections as I once had my tiny packet of Listerine breath strips disassembled with pieces removed and reinserted. I dropped the violated Listerine pack in a trash bucket in the airport men's room. It was the cleanest bathroom I had ever seen.

On the second leg back to San Francisco, the Munich transition made me think about the intersection of body art and law. Drawing inspiration from the customs scene at the airport, I thought I would film a short YouTube essay on the Law of Tattoos. If you have ever thought about getting a tattoo of your own, you must watch this video. I think you will be shocked at the legal consequences of being the rent-free canvas for someone else's art.



#2 The Truth About Software Patents

There is lots of misinformation on the internet about whether software is patentable. In recent years, many of us thought there was also misinformation in the patent office. Recently it has gotten easier; however, and we are beginning to see software patents issuing in significant numbers. For example, the recently formed database darling, Snowflake, has received some 250 patents in its first 8 years.

But software patents can be tricky as they have had a bit of a rocky ride in the U.S. Patent Office over the past decade or so. In this short YouTube video, I provide a couple of legal hacks for making sure that your software patent applications get allowed.

Thank you for reading, watching, “liking” and subscribing – it does make a difference as YouTube will then serve these videos to others who are looking for them. Have a wonderful and creative month.

Warm wishes,

-john

John Ferrell is a founder and patent attorney at the Silicon Valley law firm of Carr & Ferrell. The author of two books and a growing YouTube channel on Intellectual Property, John’s passion for creating and protecting patent monopolies is reflected in his representation of many of the world’s most important companies and inventors - some 5,000 so far. Founded in 1992, Carr & Ferrell has filed more than 10,000 patent applications covering nearly every imaginable technology. John is admitted to practice in California; in numerous Federal jurisdictions, including before the Supreme Court of the United States; and in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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