

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 newsletter periodically to share at least one idea that I think you will find both engaging and useful.



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FIVE MISTAKES THAT CAN KILL AN INVENTION

Inventors are in a unique position to put creativity and a talent for innovation to extraordinary use. Products can improve the lives of others and become a source of personal recognition and financial gain. But how can you avoid making the most common mistakes that can doom an invention?

In this [video](#), I discuss the five most common errors made by inventors and how to avoid them, including application filing timing, the hazards of disclosing your product publicly before filing and the time and cost considerations of filing a patent application. I also provide key tips about searching potential competitors for similar, established products in your invention's space and the perils of self-filing a patent application.

A brief discussion on the concept of absolute novelty and a short guide on the purpose of the Patent Office present critical background information as you begin your patent filing journey. So, make no mistake, bypassing these five blunders can maximize your success and allow more time to grow your ideas.

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HOW TO LEGALLY BRING COUNTERFEIT GOODS INTO THE U.S. - THE LAW OF COUNTERFEITS

Did you know that you can legally pass through U.S. Customs with counterfeit goods, including coveted items from high-end, designer brands? Fake watch? Shady shoes? Dubious handbag? All are legal to bring into the U.S. on your person within some very narrow guidelines.

In this [video](#), I explain how to navigate the complex legalities of importing counterfeit goods **for personal use** into the U.S.; make it easier to understand federal rules regarding purchasing such items; and avoid severe penalties, including confiscation, fines and arrest. Additionally, I discuss the law regarding commercial trafficking in counterfeit goods, which is illegal for both domestic and imported items; and cover the export of counterfeit items to foreign countries.

I also address the negative social and economic impact of dealing in counterfeit items, which can be costly to brands and their reputations. For individuals, commercial trafficking and foreign exporting can result in serious criminal consequences as well as major civil penalties.

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If you've missed previous issues, [CLICK HERE](#) and read them all!

ABOUT JOHN FERRELL

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 law in California;

numerous Federal jurisdictions, including before the U.S. Supreme Court; and in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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