

January 2026 Edition

From the Desk of John Ferrell



Patent Searches - What No One Tells You

What are some of the common pitfalls startups face when conducting patent searches? In this video, I explain why superficial or improper searches can leave founders exposed to infringement risks and false confidence about their freedom to operate.

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In the News

Google reportedly takes down AI videos of Disney characters following cease and desist

Google removed AI-generated videos featuring Disney characters after receiving cease-and-desist demands, underscoring the growing tension between generative AI tools and established IP rights. The move highlights how copyright and trademark enforcement is shaping acceptable AI use.

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Why Tesla (TSLA) Is Up 5.7% After New Autonomy Patent Lawsuits Hit Major Automakers

Tesla's stock rose following new patent lawsuits targeting competitors' autonomous driving technologies. The cases emphasize how patent enforcement in emerging technologies can influence both market perception and competitive positioning.

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Nike secures partial win over Lululemon in patent infringement case

Nike obtained a partial victory against Lululemon in an ongoing patent dispute involving footwear technology. The ruling illustrates how incremental court decisions can still meaningfully impact litigation strategy and product development.

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Skechers Responds to Kizik's Patent Lawsuit

Skechers has formally responded to Kizik's patent infringement claims, signaling a contested battle over hands-free shoe technology. The case highlights continued enforcement activity in consumer product innovation.

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AMFM (Artistically Made Fashionable Music) Technologies Unveils Next Generation Bold Mini™ and New Artist Ownership Platform Designed in Jacksonville

AMFM Technologies announced an updated Bold Mini™ music device and a new Artist Ownership Platform designed to help creators retain greater control over distribution, rights, and revenue through direct-to-fan sales.

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Your Legal Questions Answered

Is my patent application from USPTO.gov only good for the USA?

What do you need to know about filing a patent in other countries?

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What factors are used to defend fair use?

How would affirmative defense of use be determined?

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What's the difference between Venturing & Licensing?

Do I want to just license my product or fully venture it?

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Do you have a question that needs answering?

[Send us your query](#) and we will include the answer in a future newsletter.

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