

February 2026 Edition

From the Desk of John Ferrell



How to Decide Which Invention to Patent First

What are the rules around fair use, foreign patent filings, and protecting a slogan on a T-shirt? In this video, I answer common questions about copyright, patents, and trademark registration requirements.

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In the News

Cultural Works Entering the Public Domain in 2026, From Betty Boop to Nancy Drew

Several iconic characters and works will enter the public domain in 2026, opening new creative opportunities while trademark protections may still limit certain uses.

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IPX and Experience 11 Partner to Connect With Hallyu and K-Pop Fans in the UAE

A new partnership aims to expand K-pop brand experiences in the UAE, reflecting the continued global commercialization of entertainment IP.

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Keeping Bandcamp Human

Bandcamp reaffirms its commitment to maintaining a creator-focused platform amid broader shifts in digital music ownership and distribution.

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Hollywood's Originality Problem on Display in 2026's Most Anticipated Films

A look at upcoming releases reveals continued reliance on sequels and franchises, underscoring the market dominance of established IP.

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Run, Don't Walk: Dupe Culture, Trade Dress, and the Growing Fight Over Brand Identity

The rise of "dupe culture" is driving increased trade dress litigation as brands seek to protect their visual identity in competitive markets.

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Your Legal Questions Answered

Does Fair Use apply if copyrighted material is used on a monetized social media channel?

What do you need to know social media and copyrights.

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What mistakes should I avoid when starting a business?

10 mistakes to avoid when starting any new business.

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When is a patent not worth it?

When getting a patent is a bad idea.

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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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