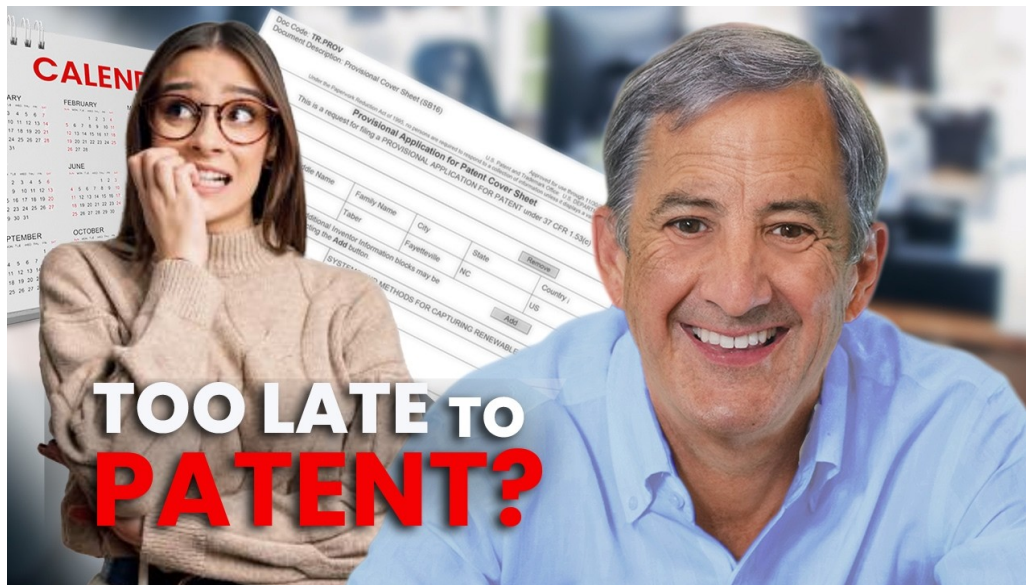


April 2026 Edition

From the Desk of John Ferrell



Is it Too Late to Get a Patent?

In this video, I break down whether it's ever “too late” to get a patent—and the key deadlines (like the 12-month grace period) that can make or break your rights.

[Watch Our Video](#)



In the News

Tesla Partially Succeeds at CAFC with Ruling Finding Some EV Charging Claims Obvious

Tesla scored a partial victory at the appeals court—but not without a hit. Some of its EV charging patent claims were ruled “obvious,” meaning they’re not protected.

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Judge Dismisses Bulk of Copyright Claims Against Ye in ‘Donda’ Legal Dispute

Most of the copyright claims tied to Donda just got tossed. The court wasn’t convinced the similarities were strong enough to move forward. Translation:

inspiration ≠ infringement (at least this time).

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Apple Wins Initial Ruling in Watch Patent Dispute

Apple just notched an early win in its ongoing watch patent dispute. It's not the final word—but it's a strong start. In patent battles, early momentum often reflects the final outcome.

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Court temporarily allows Perplexity AI shopping 'agents' on Amazon

A court is (for now) allowing Perplexity's AI shopping "agents" to operate on Amazon. It's a temporary green light while the bigger legal questions play out. The takeaway: AI-powered tools are moving fast—and the law is racing to keep up.

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After Reading 6,000 Pages of "Romantasy" Fiction, Judge McMahon Dismisses Suit Over Allegedly Copycat Book Series

Yes, a judge really read 6,000 pages of romantasy novels for this one. The verdict? No copyright infringement. The allegedly "copycat" series didn't cross the legal line—proving that even very similar stories can still be legally distinct.

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Your Legal Questions Answered

Does my provisional patent application cover me internationally?

What you need to know about different countries and your patent application.

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Can an invention be detected in a competitor's product?

What inventions can be easily detected, and how competitors can reverse engineer things.

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How can I patent a catchy phrase so that no one else can copy it?

What you need to know about how patents apply to phrases, slogans and words.

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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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