



Seminar Series Presents:

FIRST TO FILE VS. FIRST TO INVENT: A DEBATE OF THE PROS & CONS



**Featuring: Anton Hopen and Mike Colitz
U.S. Patent Attorneys**

When: Friday, September 9, 2011, 8:30-10:00 AM

**Where: Interdisciplinary Research Building
First Floor, Oak View Room
3720 Spectrum Blvd.**



Anton Hopen is a Registered Patent Attorney with a degree in Interdisciplinary Science from USF and a law degree from UF. He is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Intellectual Property Law and practices at the law firm of Smith & Hopen. He is an honorary member of the National Academy of Inventors and founded the USF Young Innovator Competition to encourage technical and scientific creativity in children. Anton frequently speaks to young students in the public school system on innovation and the rewards of an education in science, technology, engineering and math.

Michael J. Colitz, III is a Registered Patent Attorney with an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Stetson University. He is Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Intellectual Property Law and practices at the law firm of Gray Robinson, P.A. His practice focuses on patent prosecution and intellectual property litigation.

The most dramatic overhaul in U.S. patent laws in sixty years is currently before the Senate. The United States is currently the only country in the world that awards patent rights to the inventor that first conceived of an invention and diligently reduced it to practice. Patent rights to ground-breaking technology such as the telephone and laser were determined under this rule. Both House and Senate versions of Patent Reform proposed to award patents rights to the inventor that files his or her patent application first.

The proposed change to first-to-file is expected to reduce the fact-intensive (read "expensive") challenges as to patent ownership. Furthermore, it has been argued that reducing this uncertainty in patent rights will promote innovation and further harmonize U.S. law with other countries. Questions remain whether these assumptions will materialize. In the context of a university, will the first-to-file provision set faculty and their institution at a disadvantage? Will the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office be inundated with speculative patent applications that fail to enable the practice of the invention? Has the U.S. capitulated on a fundamental, Constitutionally-guaranteed entitlement inventors have enjoyed for centuries?

Join registered patent attorneys Anton Hopen and Michael Colitz as they explore the pitfalls, opportunities and implications of this extraordinary change to U.S. patent law.

If possible, please RSVP to Igolin@usf.edu or 813-974-0102. Reservations not required.

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