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ASSIGNMENT

1. PATENT

This is a government or licence conferring right or title for a set period, especially the sole right to exclude others from making, using or selling an intervention. The patent system is designed to encourage inventions that are unique and useful to society. Congress was given the power to grant patents in the Constitution, and federal statutes and rules govern patents.

Patents are territorial rights. In general, the exclusive rights are only applicable in the country or region in which a patent has been filed and granted, in accordance with the law of that country or region.

The protection is granted for a limited period, generally 20 years from the filing date of the application.

PATENT CATEGORY

There are three (3) kinds of patent, namely:

* Utility Patents: these are the most common type of patent, it is granted to new Machines, chemicals and processes
* Design Patents: these are granted to protect the unique appearance or designed of manufactured objects.
* Plants Patents: these are granted to invention and asexual reproduction of new and distinct plant varieties, including hybrids.

NOTE: asexual reproduction means the plant, is reproduced by means other than from seeds, such as grafting or rooting of cuttings)

For invention to qualify for a patent it must be both novel and non-obvious. To get it an inventor must apply for a patent. The inventor must apply within one year of publicly disclosing the invention.

1. COPYRIGHT

This is the exclusive right given to the creator of a creative work to reproduce the work, usually for a limited time. The creative work may be in literary, artistic, educational or musical form. It a legal means of protecting an author’s work.

In simple terms, copyright is the right to copy, that is, the original creators of products and anyone they give authorization to, are the only ones with the exclusive right to reproduce the work.

Examples of unique creations include:

* computer software
* art
* poetry
* graphic designs
* musical lyrics and compositions
* novel
* film
* original architecture design
* website content

Under copyright law, a work is original if the author created it from independent thinking void of duplication. These types of work known as an Original Work of Authorship (OWA). Any with an OWA automatically has the copyright to that work, preventing anyone else from using or replicating it. Somethings cannot be copyright, such as, ideas, discoveries, concepts, theories, brand name, logos, slogans, domain, names, and title.

For an original work to be copyright, it has to be in tangible form. Which means work written down in physical form are what is acceptable under copyright.

In U.S.A., original owners are protected by copyright laws all their lives and 70 years after their death.

1. TRADEMARK

It exclusively identifies a product as belonging to a specific company and recognizes the company’s ownership of the brand. It a recognizable insignia, phrase, word, or symbol that donates a specific product and legally differentiates it from all other product of its kind.

A trademark can be corporate logo, slogan, a brand, or simply the name of the product. Trademarking has some boundaries, it is prohibits any marks that have a like-hood of confusion with an existing one. A business cannot use a symbol or brand name it look or sound similar or has a similar meaning to one that already on records especially it the products or services are related.

Individual or companies have products or services trademarked to protect the product from being used without permission from the source company. A company or individual does not need to register a trademark to receive protection rights, but there are legal benefit to registering the mark with the government. Company or individual can buy and/or sell trademark.

1. TRADE SECRET

This is any practice or process of a company that is generally not know outside of the company. Information considered trade secret gives the company an economic advantage over its competitor. To be legally considered a trade secret, a company must make a reasonable effort in concealing the information from the public, the secret must intrinsically have economy value, and the trade secret must contain information. Trade secrets are part of company’s intellectual property and it is not publicly know.

Examples of trade secrets are:

* Recipes
* Formula
* Design
* Instrument
* Pattern
* Methods
* Practices

These examples are not evident to others and use as a means to create an enterprise that offers an advantage over competitors or provides value to customers.

Common characteristics of trade secrets are:

* They are not public information
* Their secrecy provides an economic benefit to their holder
* Their secrecy is actively protected

Simply Trade secrets are classified documents.