PRECIOUS AUGUSTINE NSA

17/ENG08/002

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

ENG 384 ASSIGNMENT

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION METHODS**

1. **Patent:** A patent is a form of intellectual property that gives an inventor the legal rights to avoid others from making, selling, using or importing an invention for a limited period of years, in exchange for publishing an enabling public disclosure of their invention. There are three different kinds of patents;
2. *Utility Paten*ts**:** These are granted to new machines, chemicals and processes.
3. *Design Patents***:** These are granted to protect the unique appearance or design of manufactured objects, such as the surface ornamentation or overall design of the object.
4. *Plant Patents***:** Granted for the invention and asexual reproduction of new and distinct plant varieties, including hybrids.

There are various laws and procedures that guide patents.

1. **Copyright:** Copyright refers to the legal right of the owner of intellectual property. This means that the original creators of a product and anyone they give authorization to are the only ones with the exclusive right to produce the work. When someone creates a product that is viewed as original and requires mental activity to create, it becomes an intellectual property that needs to be protected. In the US, the work of creators is protected by copyright laws until 70 years after their death. For an original work to be copyrighted, it has to be in tangible form.
2. **Trademark:**  A trademark is a symbol, word, or words legally registered or established by use as representing a company or product. It is used to distinguish business enterprises from each other. They are mostly required in the global economic system. When a proprietor registers his trademark, he acquires a property right. An application for the registration of a trademark should contain the following;
3. A request for trademark registration
4. The name and address of the applicant
5. A statement of the goods or services in relation to which it is sought to register the trademark
6. A representation of the trade mark
7. The name and address of the representative or attorney, in cases where one has been appointed
8. Declaration claiming priority in cases where the applicant wishes to take advantage of an earlier application.
9. An indication that the trademark is being used by the applicant or with his consent, in reation to those goods or services, or that he has a bona fide intention that it should be used
10. A statement containing the name or names of the colour or colours being used in cases where the applicant wishes to claim the colours as distinctive features on the mark.
11. The prescribed fee.
12. **Trade Secret:**  This refers to a secret technique used by a company in product manufacturing. It protects a company’s information from unauthorised individuals wanting to use it for commercial purposes. Organisations don’t register their trade secrets like they register copyrights, patent and trademarks. Businesses can hire trade secret lawyers to keep this information for them.