

# The Patent Path

## I. Application

### A. Preliminary assessment

1. First-impression patentability opinion: Usually within the free half-hour initial consultation.
2. Prior art analysis: 1 week – 1 month

### B. Writing the application (including prior art): \$1,500 – 5,000 ; 1 – 6 months. These figures are highly variable.

1. My rate is \$200 / hr
2. With credit card info on file, you lower your rate to \$150 / hr and can finance.
3. The more of your invention that you provide in writing or drawings, the more time and money you save!

### C. Filing (Patent Pending). \$430 USPTO fee.

## II. Prosecution

### A. Your application is published after a few months

1. Send warning letters to infringers

### B. Wait 1 – 2 years

### C. Office action: USPTO's objections

### D. Arguments

### E. 3 – 6 month process, \$1,000 – 3,000 legal fees

### F. Issuance: \$250 fee

### G. PATENT!

## III. Protection

### A. Now you can sue counterfeiters

### B. You can back-sue for infringement to publication of your application.

## IV. Maintenance

### A. \$3,000 USPTO fees over 10 years