# HELPFUL PATENT Resources

**FREE ASSISTANCE**

* US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Inventors Assistance Center PHONE: 800-PTO-9199 (800-786-9199) or 571-272-1000
* Answers general questions regarding filling out forms and provides general information concerning rules, procedures, and fees.
* Pro Bono Assistance – State Resources<http://www.uspto.gov/inventors/state_resources/>
* Assistance for filing and prosecuting patent applications for financially under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses across the country.
* Law School Clinic Certification Pilot <http://www.uspto.gov/ip/boards/oed/practitioner/agents/law_school_pilot.jsp>
* All law schools participating in the law school clinic pilot program provide their services on a pro-bono basis to those that qualify. Each school has its own criteria for accepting clients. Services may include analysis of obstacles for obtaining a patent, help filing a patent, and help answering an office action.
* USPTO Office of Innovation Development <http://www.uspto.gov/inventors/index.jsp>
* America Invents Act (AIA) Hotline 1-855-HELPAIA (1-855-435-7242) [HELPAIA@uspto.gov](mailto:HELPAIA@uspto.gov)

**Guides**

* USPTO Process for Obtaining a Patent Flow Chart <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/index.jsp>
* USPTO Non-provisional Patent Application Guide <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/resources/types/utility.jsp>
* World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Guides for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises <http://www.wipo.int/sme/en/>
* **Explaining the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Process** <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/faqs/faqs.html>
* The PCT is an international agreement for filing foreign patent applications.
* The PCT Applicant’s Guide <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/appguide/>

**Other Links**

* Manual of Patenting Examination Procedure <http://mpep.uspto.gov/>
* Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/status/index.jsp>
* Provides applicants a secure way to retrieve and download information regarding patent application status.
* USPTO Fee Schedule <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/qs/ope/fee010114.htm>
* Patent Cooperation Treaty FAQs <http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/en/basic_facts/faqs_about_the_pct.pdf>
* Global Patent Search Network Search tool for Chinese patent documents <http://gpsn.uspto.gov/>
* European Patent Office <http://www.epo.org/>
* Japanese Patent Database <http://www.ipdl.inpit.go.jp/homepg_e.ipdl>
* Patent Data by Classification Codes <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/tecasg/classes_torg.htm>
* First Office Action Estimator Tool <http://www.uspto.gov/patents/stats/first_office_action_estimator.jsp>