

Patent Process: Pay More, Get more?

The USPTO has instituted processes whereby applicants can request and get an expedited patenting decision but speed requires among other things a steep fee. The conventional patent examinations will stay in existence but now the USPTO also offers: "Track 1" and a 12 month accelerated examination program. "Our goal is to continually provide patent applicants with a variety of processing options that are more responsive to their real-world needs," said Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO David Kappos. Nevertheless, there are pitfalls and any applicant needs to know them then speak with their patent attorney. (By Attorney Jill Welytok)