INTRODUCTION TO PATENT LAW

ONLINE - SPRING 2019

LAWM 576 – 3.0 S.H. (1 CU)

Knowledge of patent law can be a tremendous advantage for engineers, doctors, entrepreneurs, and other professionals who interact with or just want to have knowledge of the patent system. This online course taught by Professor Polk Wagner, an expert in patent law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, takes a broad look at U.S. patent law, from the enforcement of patents to the interpretation of patent claims.

With online interactive drop-in office hours and Q&A discussions, in this course, students will:

• Gain a better understanding of the policy principles and structure underlying the U.S. patent system;
• Learn how to read and interpret patent documents, better preparing them to interact with patent lawyers and representatives;
• Become familiar with the text and legal interpretation of modern patent statutes;
• Learn what it takes to get a valid patent for an invention or technology;
• Learn how entrepreneurs can enforce patents — or avoid infringing them;
• Awareness of damages in cases where patents are violated.

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Professor R. Polk Wagner focuses his research and teaching in intellectual property law and policy, with a special interest in patent law. He has written over 20 articles on topics ranging from an empirical analysis of judicial decision-making in the patent law to the First Amendment status of software programs. His work has appeared in the Stanford Law Review, Columbia Law Review, and the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, among several others. He is the author (with Professor Craig Nard) of Patent Law: Concepts and Insights (Foundation Press 2008).