



**Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program
Pro Bono Patent Program**

***The BBVLP only accepts applications of solo inventors or groups of inventors.*

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Mobile Number _____

E-Mail _____

***The BBVLP only assists inventors residing in Alabama and Mississippi. [Please visit the USPTO Pro Bono Assistance website](#) to find a program in your state.*

Is the person filing this application one of the inventors named on the patent? Y/N

How many inventors will be listed on the patent?

***Each inventor on the patent must be income eligible*

What is your gross monthly household income?

How many people live in your household?

200% Federal Poverty Rate

| Household Size | Yearly Income Under |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 person | \$23,540 |
| 2 persons | \$31,860 |
| 3 persons | \$40,180 |
| 4 persons | \$48,500 |
| 5 persons | \$56,820 |
| 6 persons | \$65,140 |

Is your total income less than 200% of the poverty rate? Y/N

***You will be required to bring/send documentation of this inventor's income to the intake appointment.*

Do you have now, or have had, the assistance of counsel with respect to a patent application?

Have you disclosed or published this invention? When did you make the disclosure/publication?

Have you assigned or licensed your rights in your invention to anyone or any company, or have you agreed to do so in the future?

Are there any time lines associated with any office actions to be aware of?

How many patent applications have you filed?

Do you currently have a provisional or non-provisional application filed with the USPTO?

If yes, what is the application number and the filing date?

If no, have you completed the pro bono training program on the USPTO pro bono page and received a certificate of completion?

If no, and a provisional or non-provisional has not been filed, you are required to complete this course: <http://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/certpck/index.htm>

***Include a copy of your USPTO certificate with this application*

Have you completed a prior art search?

If yes, how many pieces of prior art did you find? If you did not find any prior art, please explain why you think this was.

Please provide 6-12 pieces of the closest prior art that you found in your search.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

If no, do you plan to do a prior art search? When will you perform this search?

****For more information on prior art searches, please watch the USPTO step-by-step strategy:**
<http://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/ptrcsearching/>

Write a brief abstract of your invention:

*In no less than 3 to 4 sentences, please describe the general technical area of your invention and the general improvement it provides. **Do not** include any confidential or novel features, and **do not** provide any specific details about your invention. Include provisional patent number if applicable.*

****Please sign attached verification on the next page****

Application Verification

By signing the application below, I make the following representations:

1. The information provided by me in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and accurate.
2. I understand that submitting false or misleading information may result in delay or denial of services.
3. I understand that misrepresenting the number or identity of inventors, the state of the prior art, or my qualification for micro-entity status to the United States Patent and Trademark Office may constitute fraud, and could result in the invalidation of the patent or application.
4. I will notify the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program (BBVLP) if any of the information in this application materially changes prior to placement with an attorney, especially if any inventor's income should suddenly increase.
5. I have not shared any specific details of my invention to the BBVLP.
6. I understand that continuation in the program is at the discretion of the program administrator, and that filling out this application does not entitle me to any services.
7. I agree and understand that this application does not create an attorney-client relationship between any named inventor or myself and any individual attorney or the BBVLP.
8. I understand that the matter may be placed with either a patent attorney or patent agent, and that this person's representation may be limited to the filing of the invention referenced in this application.
9. I understand that if I have another legal issue, including but not limited to setting up a corporation prior to placement with a patent attorney/agent, placement of that issue is at the program administrator's discretion, and may require additional administrative or governmental fees.
10. I understand that I am responsible for paying all necessary governmental fees relating to the patent filing.

Re-type your name: _____

E-Signature/Signature: _____

**If e-signing, place your typed signature between two “/”marks (E.g. /John H. Smith/)

You may either e-sign this application and e-mail to ghewitt@vlpbirmingham.org or print/sign the application and mail to: BBVLP Patent Program, 2021 2nd Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203.

After submitting this application, the program administrator will review the details and will attempt to contact you within a reasonable period of time.