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In this issue:

- ▶ U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Publishes Proposed Rules On New “First to File” Provisions Of America Invents Act; Schedules Minnesota Roadshow on the Act
- ▶ Minnesota Angel Tax Credit Exhausts Funding; No New Certifications Until Fall of 2012
- ▶ U.S. Small Business Administration to Hold August 29 Webinar on Policy Changes Relating to Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

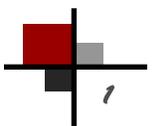
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Publishes Proposed Rules on New “First to File” Provisions of America Invents Act; Schedules Minnesota Roadshow on the Act

On July 27, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office published [77 Federal Register 43742] proposed rules relating to the 2012 Smith-Leahy America Invents Act. That act amends U.S. patent law relating to the conditions of patentability by converting the U.S. patent system from a “first to invent” system to a “first to file” system. The rules, which implement treatment of U.S. patents and patent applications as prior art as of their earliest effective U.S., foreign, or international filing date, are open for comment until October 5, 2012.

On September 10, the Patent and Trademark Office will host a roadshow presentation at the Hennepin County Library in Minneapolis to share information concerning the new rules. In addition the roadshow will address final rules effective September 16, 2012 on inventor’s declaration, pre-issuance submissions, patent owner claim scope, supplemental examination, post grant review and covered business method review.

Minnesota Angel Tax Credit Exhausts Funding; No New Certifications Until Fall of 2012

On July 26 the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development (DEED) announced that it had exhausted funding for the Angel Tax Credit. New credits will not be issued to investors until January 1, 2013. Applications for certification will be available from DEED in November 2012.



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U.S. Small Business Administration to Hold August 29 Webinar on Policy Changes Relating to Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

On August 6 the U.S. Small Business Administration published a notice in the Federal Register that it would be conducting a webinar on new policy changes to the SBIR and STTR programs put into effect in response to provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. The text of both policy statements was also published in that same issue [77 Federal Register 151, Monday, August 6, 2012]. Note that while the Small Business Administration published the policy directives as final, it is requesting comments on the substance of the changes made. The new directives include changes in definitions, changes in eligibility requirements (including allowing Phase II STTR awards to recipients of Phase I SBIR awards), proposal requirements, and procedures for selection of awardees.

Pre-registration is required, by 11:59 EST on August 28, 2012 for attendance at the August 29 webinar. Full details of how to pre-register are included in the notice which appear on page 46909 of the August 6, 2012 Federal Register.

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