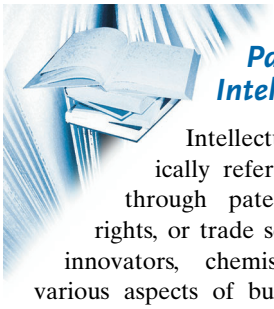

Writing Chemistry Patents and Intellectual Property

Intellectual property (IP) typically refers to property protected through patents, trademarks, copyrights, or trade secrets. As inventors and innovators, chemists need to consider various aspects of business to carry through their idea to the marketplace. When the IP is (or usually, is being) protected in one of the above four forms, it allows the entrepreneurial machinery to focus on other scientific/business aspects of developing the invention.

This book provides an overview of IP and describes patents in greater detail, and the nice thing is: all this is done with the chemical inventors and entrepreneurs in mind. For a novice chemist or someone with a high activation energy barrier to non-scientific subjects, this book provides a smooth segue into IP. Except for one chapter on global filing, most of the book is written in the context of US patent law. This should not be a huge deterrent to the global readers since many patentability criteria are somewhat similar and might not hinder the understanding at the level the book is directed to. The book builds upon the one day course developed by the author, and might be the reason that the narrative style of the book renders it an easy read, especially for the key chapters. The author has also included stories from personal patent experience. The title of the book, however, does not truly reflect the content: there is not enough material to help you draft a patent application.

Beginning with a historical perspective on IP in Chapter 1, and arming you with the required vocabulary in Chapter 2, the author puts you in the inventor's seat trying to navigate you through the decision process of trade secrets versus patenting in Chapter 3. The subsequent Chapters 4–6 take you through the patent prosecution process including the pros/cons of the provisional patent application, the common hurdles to patentability of the inventions, and other factors that could invalidate a patent or make them unenforceable. Chapter 7 analyzes eight patents for their format, claims, and content—breaking down a patent into fundamental parts, which would make learning about patents much easier for a neophyte. In Chapter 8, the author provides real world scenarios which are then discussed to develop outlines for patent applications. The key features and parlance of the claims are then touched upon in Chapter 9. After this, patents are further discussed in Chapters 12 in the context of global filing. The intermediate Chapters 10 and 11 are targeted towards confidentiality agreements, copyrights, and trademarks. Chapter 13 is dedicated to academic research addressing important considerations in academic type labs. The last few chapters are informative with a bibliography of other books, web resources (Chapter 14), a book summary (Chapter 15), answers to questions at the end of each chapter (Chapter 16), and an appendix (Chapter 17) for easy reference to the patents cited in other portions of the book.

The material covered in the book is predominantly useful for young scientists. Some discussions in particular, e.g., the substantial sections focusing on chemical innovation in Chapter 8, would be useful for new entrepreneurs, graduate students, or post-docs in identifying pertinent research problems. On a similar note, the book could provide a basic framework for a short advanced undergraduate or graduate course on IP for chemists.

Although the key aspects have been presented well, the narrative style seems to have lent itself to some tangential take-offs. This is especially glaring in the last few chapters where certain material could have been either deleted or condensed. The book has many typographical errors and in some instances the language is a bit cumbersome with some grammatical errors. Some of the advice in the book—such as on page 11 to summarize the status of prior art in the application—might be contrary to common advice from attorneys, and explanations are lacking in a few places (such as on page 183: "*This is a little confusing to me.*") further attesting to the author's sound advice that this book is not "*a substitute for professional intellectual property counsel.*" Finally, the reader is cautioned that the book was published around the same time the America Invents Act (AIA) was enacted on September 16, 2011. Thus, certain statements made in the book might need to be re-evaluated under the new rules.

Overall, we recommend this book for a good basic review of the various forms of IP protection and to allow the reader to have a more coherent interaction with a patent agent or IP attorney.

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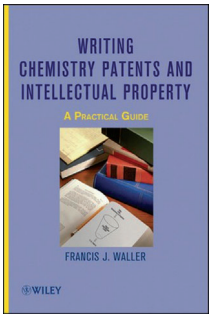

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