

KNIGHT-RIDDER INFORMATION, INC.

2440 El Camino Real
Mountain View, California 94040 USA

Bruce Lehman
Mr. Hunter

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: September 12, 1995

To: Bruce Lehman
Commissioner, USPTO

Phone: 703-305-8600
Fax: 703-305-8664

From: Patrick Tierney
Knight-Ridder Info., Inc.

Phone: 415-254-8010
Fax: 415-254-8450

Re: USPTO Patent Services
cc:

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

MESSAGE:

Please see attached letters.

TRUSTED MAIL
95 SEP 13 11 5:13
SEP 13 1995

The communication, including all documents following this transmittal sheet or otherwise referenced herein, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is CONFIDENTIAL, PRIVILEGED, and/or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return this original message to us at the above address by mail (or pursuant to any directions given by telephone). Thank you.

KNIGHT-RIDDER INFORMATION



Knight-Ridder
Information, Inc.
2440 El Camino Real
Mountain View, CA 94040
(415) 254-7000
FAX: (415) 254-7070

September 12, 1995

Mr. Bruce Lehman
Assistant Secretary of Commerce and
Commissioner, Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Lehman:

As an information company providing high quality patent products to the public, we have been very concerned about the recent proposal by Carl Malamud to have the U.S. PTO take over and maintain a free Internet-based patent search service. As a result, we have sent the attached letter to both Ms. Sally Katzen and Mr. Bruce McConnell of OMB. We urge you not to have the PTO involved in such an endeavor, and would be glad to answer any questions you might have about our position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Tierney".

Pat Tierney
President and CEO

KNIGHT-RIDDER INFORMATION



Knight-Ridder
Information, Inc.
2440 El Camino Real
Mountain View, CA 94040
(415) 254-7000
FAX: (415) 254-7070

September 12, 1995

Mr. Bruce W. McConnell
Chief, Policy and Technology Branch
OMB
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. McConnell:

Until two years ago, only one service -- Lexis/Nexis -- offered online fulltext patent search services. The national policy on patent information encouraged a competitive marketplace, so we at Knight-Ridder/Dialog decided to consider offering an online fulltext patent database.

We made a major investment decision in starting both the online fulltext database and a patent image service for patent image delivery. Although there was some concern about possible U.S. PTO entry in services for private sector patent searchers, we decided to move ahead with our investment based on the government's emphasis on encouraging private investment in the information industry. The current Administration's policies have been entirely consistent with that objective.

During the past few months, we have noticed what seems to be a weakening in the Administration position based, we think, primarily on the promotional campaign of Carl Malamud's "Town Hall" organization. There have been numerous reports in the national press and many rumors about this within the industry. We understand even OMB may now be considering supporting an Internet-based free fulltext search service to be operated by the U.S. PTO. This is of great concern to us, since the proposal as we understand it violates OMB's own policy pronouncements. If there is any truth to what we hear, we would like to urge OMB to reconsider this action and move back to its current policy of supporting free enterprise and allowing high quality private sector information products to continue to meet the information needs of the country.

Sincerely,

Pat Tierney
President and CEO