



Section 101 Issues in Patent Litigation

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Agenda

- **35 U.S.C. § 101**
- Recent Developments in the Courts
- Who benefits from current state of the law?
 - Pro-Plaintiff Considerations
 - Pro-Defendant Considerations

35 U.S.C. § 101 - Inventions Patentable:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful **process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter**, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Eligibility Framework (*Alice*)

- Step 1
 - Are the claims directed to a patent ineligible concept?
 - Laws of Nature
 - Natural Phenomena
 - Abstract Idea
- Step 2
 - If so, does the claim contain an “inventive concept” sufficient to “transform” ineligible concept into a patent-eligible subject matter?

Judicial Exceptions

- **Laws of Nature**
 - Gravity
 - The chemical principle underlying the union between fatty elements and water.
- **Natural Phenomenon**
 - Naturally occurring plants and minerals
 - Isolated naturally occurring DNA fragments (*Myriad*)
 - Naturally occurring associations between genes and diseases
- **Abstract Ideas**
 - Intermediated settlement (*Alice*)
 - Risk hedging (*Bilski*)
 - Managing relationships or transactions between people (*buySAFE*)
 - Collecting, analyzing, and displaying information (*Electric Power Group*)

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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the

15th Annual Advanced Patent Law Institute session

"Section 101 Issues in Patent Litigation"