

Most inventors employ the services of patent attorneys or patent agents. The Patent Office cannot recommend any particular attorney or agent but does publish a list of all registered patent attorneys and agents who are willing to accept new clients and lists them by states, cities and foreign countries.

Trademarks

A trademark relates to the name or symbol used in trade to indicate the source or origin of goods. Trademark rights will prevent others from using the same trademark on identical goods but do not prevent others from making these goods without the trademark.

The procedure relating to the registration of trademarks and some general information on trademarks is given in a pamphlet called "General Information Trademarks" which can be obtained from the U.S. Patent Office.

Copyright

Copyright protects the writings of an author against copying. Literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works are included within the protection of the copyright law which, in some instances, also confers performing and recording rights. The copyright goes to the form of expression rather than the subject matter.

Note: Copyrights are registered in the Copyright Office in the Library of Congress and the Patent Office has nothing whatever to do with copyrights. Information concerning copyrights may be obtained from: Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

Licensing and Joint Ventures

If you wish to market a patented invention or product in the United States, either under a joint licensing agreement or some other arrangement, there are a number of firms specializing in patent and marketing services. The Canadian Consulate General can help in choosing such firms.

Commercial Disputes

In the event of disputes, a Canadian can seek advice from the Canadian Council, International Chamber of Commerce, c/o the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, 1080 Beaver Hall Hill, Montréal, Québec H2Z 1T2.