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Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 2:29 PM
To: Bilski_Guidance
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Subject: Requesting Strong Stance Against Software Patents in Light of Bilski

To whom it may concern at the USPTO:

Software patents have very little legitimate place in our society and economy today. In fact, software patents more often stifle innovation and reward nefarious business practices than serve any virtuous purpose. Time and time again, revolutionary new and successful ideas have come from individuals or small companies with a innovative vision; however, these visions are often abandoned due to fear of litigation from overly broad or obvious patents that could possibly pertain to their innovations. Worse still, individuals and companies can be accused of infringement upon such illegitimate patents and be forced to pay unjustifiably large settlements or damages; even if the patent is proven to be invalid, the legal fees in doing so are extremely costly or prohibitive.

The Supreme Court has demonstrated in the Bilki case that software patents should be narrowed. In addition, the USPTO can, and should, exclude software from patent eligibility on other legal grounds: because software consists only of mathematics, which is not patentable, and the combination of such software with a general-purpose computer is obvious. In light of the Bilski decision and the current state of software patents, I urge the USPTO to take a strong stance against software patent eligibility. In doing so, the USPTO will be fulfilling its purpose in protecting those with genuine innovation.

Thank You,
Keith Sanders