



LADAS & PARRY LLP
NEW YORK · CHICAGO · LOS ANGELES · LONDON · MUNICH

Patent Maintenance

- ◆ **90 Years of Experience**
Our patent annuity service has existed longer than most patent law firms have.
- ◆ **Specialized Service**
Our experienced and knowledgeable patent maintenance specialists are available to guide you and your staff through the process of understanding and paying annuities.
- ◆ **Customized Service**
We can customize our service to meet your needs.
- ◆ **Cost Effective Service**
When possible, patent annuities are paid directly to patent offices rather than local agents. This translates into savings for you.
- ◆ **All Around Service**
Ladas & Parry is a law firm. Through our large talented staff of lawyers, we can provide you with services that annuity payment companies lack.
- ◆ **Global Service**
With offices in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, London and Munich, we are available to discuss your needs and concerns at times that are convenient for you.



Patent Maintenance Program

Protecting patents requires not only vigilance against infringement, but constant attention to maintaining and renewing patents in an increasingly complex international environment.

Ladas & Parry, one of the nation's oldest and most respected intellectual property

law firms, offers a comprehensive patent maintenance program that accurately tracks the intricacies associated with patent laws, regulations, and currencies in the U.S. and abroad – and that minimizes the effort and complexity of maintaining patents. Our comprehensive program includes:

- ◆ Making the periodic tax payments required to keep patents and patent applications in force.
- ◆ Renewing design registrations and tracking different renewal cycles.
- ◆ Advising clients on patent working requirements.
- ◆ Maintaining client patent portfolios and providing status reports and analysis in a variety of formats.
- ◆ Preparing short or long range patent tax estimates for budgeting purposes.

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The Ladas & Parry Approach – Knowledgeable, Thorough, Flexible

Ladas & Parry's patent tax maintenance specialists have a comprehensive, in-depth knowledge of patent law based on years of experience. They are backed by a network of local agents around the world and by the full resources of Ladas & Parry. For 90 years, Ladas & Parry has been securing and enforcing intellectual property and related rights throughout the world, helping clients ranging from start-up companies to the largest multinationals.

Our proprietary computer program provides precision record keeping, accurately tracking all required tax payments. The program has the built-in flexibility to meet the varied needs of clients who may have hundreds, even thousands, of patents or just several dozen. This sophisticated computer program is enhanced by the intelligence, skill, and experience of our highly trained patent maintenance tax specialists who work to accommodate individual needs and to create customized reports and analyses.

The Patent Maintenance Program

Time, effort and money has been spent acquiring a patent right and therefore a high level of consideration should be given to maintaining that right.

Even the best computer systems for renewing and paying patent taxes occasionally fail. Ladas & Parry, with its system, attempts to mitigate these problems to the lowest level in the "industry" by its utilization of a combination of computers and trained professionals, including patent lawyers practicing in this field, some for more than 30 years.

It is, as a result of the firm's expertise, and computerization that we are able to offer a highly effective, efficient system at a competitive cost.

The Ladas & Parry program is designed with one overriding goal: to safeguard your patent rights in a manner that is as easy and cost-effective as possible. To that end, we have put in place a step-by-step process that streamlines data input and reporting, allowing us to issue timely, up-to-date reminders to ensure that taxes are paid accurately and promptly.

Our program includes the following steps:

- ◆ **Data Input** – We work with clients to format their data – in whatever form it currently exists – so that it can be most easily and cost-effectively entered into our computer database. We then provide clients with a full inventory of their patents, sorted in any order requested.
- ◆ **Patent Schedules** – We prepare schedules – printed, on request, according to country, application number, or patent number sequence – listing the amount of tax and date due for each patent, or in any sequence desired by the client.
- ◆ **Tax Instruction Requests (TIRs)** – About four months before the start of each quarter, clients are sent a TIR, a form that lists the patents and patent applications that have an annuity tax due during that particular quarter. A cover letter describes any changes in patent law that may affect tax payments, and includes the latest date for clients to indicate "pay" or "not pay" instructions for each patent. For interested clients, we can arrange to proceed with paying all taxes listed on the TIR in the absence of instructions by that date.
- ◆ **Payment of Taxes** – To expedite processing and reduce costs, Ladas & Parry makes payments directly to a country's patent office whenever possible. In countries where this is not possible, we have representatives who make the payments on our behalf. Because of the volume of work we process, the rates we are charged are substantially lower than standard rates. Once tax payments are made, we monitor the return of confirmation receipts and forward the receipts to our clients.
- ◆ **The Block Rate Payment Option** – Ladas & Parry's most cost-effective service is the block rate payment option, in which clients are invoiced at a bulk rate, rather than a single-unit rate. To qualify for this block rate, clients must have a certain minimum number of cases in our system, and must send instructions and payments promptly. There is no charge for maintaining a patent on our records or for sending due date reminder notices. We can invoice for taxes due in a given month or for the entire quarter, and can render invoices in local currency, if appropriate.
- ◆ **Projected Payment Report** – To help clients structure their long- or short-range budget, Ladas & Parry can prepare an estimate of patent taxes for one year, five years, or the term of each patent – subject to changes in fees and foreign exchange rates, which can occur without notice.



Worldwide Coverage

Ladas & Parry pays maintenance fees in all countries in which such fees are payable. Where possible, we pay directly to national patent offices. Where this is not possible, we have a network of agents in place to effect payment in the most cost-effective manner.

Ladas & Parry makes direct tax payments to patent offices in countries such as:

- Australia
- Austria
- Canada (for issued patents)
- Denmark
- EPO
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Netherlands (for issued patents)
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United States
- United Kingdom

We send payments through special arrangement with foreign agents in countries such as:

- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Mexico
- Netherlands (for pending applications)
- Romania
- Russia
- South Africa



Our Staff: Unmatched Expertise, Worldwide Network

Our patent maintenance program is administered by an outstanding group of highly experienced patent maintenance specialists, many with years of experience at Ladas & Parry. Our staff works with clients to understand their individual needs and to provide the information they need to manage their patent programs.

Headquartered in New York, with offices in Chicago, Los Angeles, London and Munich, Ladas & Parry has a network of agents throughout the world who provide invaluable support to our specialists. Our knowledge of both U.S. and foreign patent law enables us to keep on top of constantly changing regulations, foreign currency fluctuations, and other details affecting patent maintenance in countries around the world.



The Ladas & Parry Advantage

Ladas & Parry's patent maintenance program draws on years of experience, stability, and broad-ranging expertise in patent law. Our expertise enables us to tailor an annuity payment system to the client's needs in each applicable jurisdiction and to thus avoid wasting a client's time and resources providing extraneous information or input.

With a comprehensive knowledge of patent laws and practice in the U.S. and abroad, the resources to track rapid and complex changes in regulation and tax requirements, and the flexibility and dedication to meet every client's needs, Ladas & Parry's system provides thorough, cost-effective maintenance to protect the most valuable of your assets, your patent.

"A country without a patent office and good patent laws was just a crab and couldn't travel anywhere but sideways or backwards"

Mark Twain

"The Patent System added the fuel of interest to the fire of genius."

Abraham Lincoln

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Patent
Maintenance

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