

TCH Pledges to Support USPTO on Patents

*TCH Applauds White House's Call to Enhance USPTO,
Will Offer Educational Support on Critical Components of U.S. Infrastructure*

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Washington, D.C. – February 20, 2014 – With The Clearing House at the forefront, the nation's leading banks have been working to strengthen and support the examination process at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The banking sector is a vital component of the United States' critical infrastructure, creating an engine essential for driving economic growth and job creation, particularly through the extension of small business loans. A strong patent system is necessary for continued innovation in the United States. Ambiguous and invalid patents, however, not only undermine this modernization and improvement process but also threaten the safety, soundness and security of our nation's financial infrastructure. We applaud the Administration's call to the nation's community of key innovators to enhance and support the USPTO. In response, The Clearing House pledges to develop educational materials and host education sessions with USPTO patent examiners with a focus on the most critical components of our financial infrastructure. The Clearing House also pledges to coordinate with the USPTO to establish a vehicle, such as an existing commercial database, to collect and provide patent examiners with access to non-patent materials describing our financial infrastructure.

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