

**"Technological Innovation and Intellectual Property:
Fomenting Economic Growth via Science and Engineering
Discoveries in the American Academy"**

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Recent review by the United States Supreme Court of an appeal by Stanford University, eventually upholding a 2009 decision by the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, brings to light a sweeping modification to the current patent law in the US, being worked during the past decade.

At heart is the move from a “first to file” concept to a “first to invent” concept of the law, placing the US in line with current patent and copyright laws in Europe. The impact of the legislation being debated in the House of Representatives and in the Senate of the American Congress goes beyond extending the protection of inventors. The main objective is to facilitate and promote inventions to spear head the economy. At stake is the impact on the economic activity of the country of the sciences and engineering inventions, and the conflicting interests of inventors, investors and academic institutions.

A review of the current patent and copyright laws of the United States, and the likely future modifications to the law will be presented, with particular emphasis of the implications to the patenting and copyrighting of academic discoveries, with a brief discussion about the mechanisms being considered to foment criativity, particulalry in sciences and engineering, and the pitfalls such mechanisms can present.