

OBVIOUSLY NOT

Invention Disclosure Form

A comprehensive invention disclosure form for patent intake — conception, disclosure history, inventorship, and the technical description. Free template.

A comprehensive invention disclosure for patent intake. It captures the facts a patent attorney needs; it does not itself make any legal determination. All patentability, inventorship, and filing judgments remain with counsel.

Public Disclosure and External Obligations

These facts drive filing strategy and deadlines. Capture them first.

Approximate Conception Date

When was the invention first conceived? Approximate is fine.

Prior Disclosure, Release, Sale, Offer, or Outside Use?

Has the invention (or a product embodying it) been published, presented, released, demoed, sold, offered for sale, or used outside the org? No / Yes / Unsure.

Prior Disclosure / Activity Events

For each: what kind (paper, talk, blog, GitHub release, product launch, demo/beta, vendor discussion, sale/offer, trade show, investor materials, commercial use, other), the date, audience, who disclosed, what was disclosed, whether the invention itself was disclosed, confidentiality status (public / written NDA / expected but no NDA / unknown / internal), any commercial activity, and a link or citation.

Planned Disclosure, Release, Sale, or Offer

Any upcoming public release, publication, demo, sale, or offer — kind and approximate date. Bears on filing deadlines.

Inventorship

Inventors

Each person who contributed to the conception of the claimed invention — name, role, organization, and specific contribution. Contribution to conception (not just funding, management, or reduction to practice) is the test.

Outside Collaboration

Any outside collaborators, joint development, university involvement, or third parties who contributed or may have rights. Yes/No, and details.

Funding

Any government funding, grants, or contracts (Bayh-Dole / march-in implications), or other funding with IP terms.

Invention Description

Invention Title

A descriptive title for the invention (distinct from the document title).

Problem Statement

The technical problem, limitation, or failure mode the invention addresses.

How It Works

The technical solution in enabling detail: components, data, steps, models, parameters, and how they interact. Enough that a person skilled in the art could build it.

Technical Benefit

The technical improvement over prior approaches, and — where possible — its size, with a baseline.

Alternatives / Embodiments

Alternative implementations, configurations, or extensions that should be within scope.

Prior Art and Strategic Context

Known Related Work

Known products, patents, papers, or systems that are related, and how the invention differs. This is factual context; a formal search is counsel's step.

Strategic Importance / Notes

Commercial importance, competitive context, product roadmap ties, or anything else counsel should weigh.

Supporting Materials

Diagrams, figures, benchmark data, code references, specs, or design docs to attach.

Before You Rely On This

Disclaimer. This worksheet is a practitioner work-aid for capturing an attorney's own analysis. Obviously Not is not a law firm and does not provide legal advice; this worksheet and any output are for informational and documentation purposes only, are not legal, patent, patentability, eligibility, non-obviousness, claim-scope, validity, or freedom-to-operate advice, and do not create an attorney-client relationship. All legal judgment, including whether and how to file or argue, remains with a licensed patent practitioner exercising independent professional judgment. Nothing here predicts an outcome at the USPTO or any court.