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6.931 Development of Inventions and Creative Ideas
Spring 2008

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6.931 DEVELOPMENT OF INVENTIONS AND CREATIVE IDEAS
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
SPRING 2007

Assignment 6

Date Assigned: April 30, 2007

Due: May 7, 2007

Please remember that there is no class on Monday due to the Patriot's Day Holiday. We will meet on Monday April 30, 2007 at 7PM for the next class session. All homework assignments are due to the TAs by 7:30PM. *Please include your name and e-mail address on all assignment submissions.*

We asked you in class on Monday to perform three tasks that were outlined on the board. This written statement of the assignment is included for those that may require a little more clarity.

Remember that Monday May 7, 2007 is a working session of the class. You will have the opportunity to finish up group work and talk with the instructional staff. The projects are due on Friday, May 11, 2007 by midnight. If you absolutely need it, you may have an extension until noon on Saturday to submit your work.

The May 14 session of class is the last class session. In this class session, you will be presenting your work to the class. Please remember that this is a graded formal presentation. We plan to tape the presentations, so please be advised of this.

Task 1: The Supreme Court and Drug Protection

The supreme court recently ruled in a case related to a lower appeals court decision on a test for obviousness in a patent. The ruling was announced on or about April 30, 2007. Find this case and the ruling. What, in your opinion, is the significance of the case/ruling. (KSR International v. Teleflex).

Task 2: The Supreme Court and Microsoft v AT&T

In a separate ruling, the Supreme Court announced its decision on or about April 30, 2007 regarding the Microsoft v AT&T case. What were the issues in this case? How were those issues addressed by the decision of the Supreme Court?

Task 3: Patent Reference Search

We've discussed in great detail the Global School District patent held by Sonnenreich, et. al (Sonnerich/Rines patent). Please perform a patent citation search and find areas where this patent has been cited as prior art in other patents, or as reference material in presentations/discussions virtual meeting. We encourage you to use the tools that are readily available to you.

Details below:

**United States Patent
Sonnenreich , et al.**

**5,974,446
October 26, 1999**

Internet based distance learning system for communicating between server and clients wherein clients communicate with each other or with teacher using different communication techniques via common user interface

The ongoing task that you have is to complete your project for the term.