

## PATENT REFORM TO BE CONSIDERED IN 112<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

On January 25, 2011, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Senator Leahy introduced the Patent Law Reform Act of 2011 to be considered in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Bill is mainly based on the "Manager's Amendment" to S. 515 in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. On February 3, 2011, the Senate Judiciary Committee amended and approved the Bill, S. 23. Accordingly, the Bill will be considered by the Senate as a whole.

Notable issues included in the amended Bill are, but not limited to:

- First inventor to file
- Damages
- Post Grant Review Proceeding in the USPTO
- False Marking
- Fee Setting Authority
- Funding Agreement

The amended Bill is available at:

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=112\\_cong\\_bills&docid=f:s23rs.txt.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=112_cong_bills&docid=f:s23rs.txt.pdf)

**Note:** A Bill in the U.S. Congress that is originated in the Senate must be reviewed and signed by both the Senate and House. Then, upon approval of the President, the Bill will become law.