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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 5

Date Assigned: March 12, 2007

Due: March 19, 2007

All homework assignments are due to the TAs by 7:30PM. *Please include your name and e-mail address on all assignment submissions.*

Notes: Proposals will be available by the end of this week with comments and grades.

I. Reading(s)

Rines, R.H. (1964). Patents in action: The history of the basic telephone patent. *Create or Perish: The Case for Inventions and Patents*. 48-67. Available at:
<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Electrical-Engineering-and-Computer-Science/6-901Fall-2005/Readings/index.htm>

Hecht, J. (1994, December). Reflections: Winning the laser-patent war. *Laser Focus World*. 49-51.

Read the two articles above on the basic telephone patent and the laser patent and be prepared to discuss the impact of patent disputes on the innovative process in the United States. Write a one-paragraph response paper on each of the readings that highlights any insights that you gained from the readings.

II. Article Review

Find an article in a recent periodical of your choosing which relates to the patent system. Provide the citation of the article (according to the rules of the APA 5th Edition or later) and a brief article review. Summarize in no more than one page your rationale for choosing the article, the issues that are under discussion in the article, and your insights on the significance or contribution that this article brought to your developing understanding of the intellectual property system (particularly patents) in the United States. Be prepared to discuss your article at the beginning of class.

III. Anatomy of a Patent in Practice

Based on the information presented to you in class, write the claims for a patent on an invention called a chair. Assume for your purposes that a chair has not been previously invented and it is not an obvious extension of prior art to a Person Having Ordinary Skill in the Art (PHOSITA) of chair making.