

Tom Chen in IP Law Daily: 'USPTO Issues 11 Millionth Patent as Rapid Increase Continues'

May 14, 2021 Tom Chen

PRACTICES Intellectual Property, Patents, Patent Prosecution and Counseling, Patent Litigation, Intellectual Property Litigation

Haynes Boone Partner [Tom Chen](#) was quoted in an *IP Law Daily* article about the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) issuing U.S. Patent No. 11,000,000 this week.

Here is an excerpt:

The news comes as the Office goes on a hiring spree and seeks to expedite appeals for COVID-related patents.

Tom Chen, patent partner in Haynes Boone's Orange County office, remarked about the significance of the development.

"Eleven million patents means there have been 11 million useful, new, and non-obvious ideas as determined by the USPTO over the last 231 years of the patent system," Chen told *IP Law Daily*. "In comparison, there are only about 1 million words in the English language."

The 11 million figure covers utility patents only and does not include design and plant patents, University of Missouri law professor Dennis Crouch noted. Also excluded from the count are about 10,000 patents issued between 1791 and 1836, which were issued before formal numbering under the Patent Act of 1836.

Patent number 11 million was granted for a utility patent that can deliver, position, or reposition a collapsible and expandable stent frame within a patient's heart chamber. The co-inventors of the technology, which is intended to treat patients with severe mitral regurgitation, are Saravana B. Kumar and Jason S. Diederling of Minnesotabased 4C Medical Technologies, Inc.

To read the full article, click [here](#). (Subscription required)