Notes on PTC Progress

European Patent Law Seminar

We are pleased to announce a three-week program on European Patent Law which will be held at the Centre d'Etudes Internationales de la Propriete Industrielle of Strasbourg Université, our sister law school in Strasbourg, France. The conference will be held in two segments. The first two weeks are from September 19, 1977 to September 30, 1977 and will concentrate on "How to Obtain A European Patent." The second session will be a one-week program from December 12, 1977 to December 16, 1977 and is entitled "Determining A Patent Policy in Europe."

Texts of the conferences will be available in three languages (English, French and German). There will also be simultaneous translation of discussions in the same three languages. The fees are 3,000 French francs for the initial two-week program, 1,500 French francs for the December program, and 4,000 French francs for the full course.

The two-week program will begin with a discussion of the filing requirements for the various types of European patents. There will then follow several more detailed programs on such topics as the sufficiency of description, possible conflicts arising due to unpublished prior rights, the interpretation of claims, and language problems.

During the second part of the program, which will be held in December, the discussions will center on the nature of invention, the market for invention, the possibility of trade secrets as an alternative to patents and how these factors may influence the type of patent sought. Of particular interest to many of our members may be the discussion of the costs of each of the different type of patents that can be obtained in Europe today.

Detailed programs and application forms may be obtained from C.E.I.P.I., Université des Sciences Juridiques, Politiques, Sociales et de Technologie, Place d'Athènes, 67084 STRASBOURG CEDEX, FRANCE

Other Institutional Programs

In the course of the past semester, the PTC, in conjunction with the Student Entrepreneurial Workshop Program, has conducted a

number of research projects with other educational and research institutions.

Carnegie Mellon University—A group of Law Center students, including one who spent the semester at Carnegie Mellon, developed a number of projects with the people at the Carnegie Mellon Center for Entrepreneurial Development (CED). The projects included assisting with Public Utility Commission Regulations for the People's Cab Company which is operated by CED; patent work and general legal assistance to Paracomm Corporation, Inc., another CED Company set up to develop a computer-controlled taxi-meter system; copyright, contract and promotional assistance for "The Iron-Clad Agreement", a CED-backed theatrical troupe; and patent assistance on the formation of a small drug company supported by CED. There was also a research project on the petitioning process before the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Harvard/MIT—The Harvard-MIT Biomedical Engineering Center for Clinical Instrumentation and the Law Center plan to jointly sponsor a fall seminar on "Legal Liabilities under the 1976 FDA Medical Devices Amendment". In addition, Professor Daniel Nyhart from MIT conducted a spring seminar at the Law Center on The Law of the Oceans. As a result, several Law Center students are exploring a semester away program on Ocean Law at MIT and the Woods Hole Institution.

U.S. Army Natick Laboratories—Two projects are underway between the PTC/Law Center and Natick Labs: one involving the preservation of certain meats by means of irradiation, and a second involving the production of food and fuel from enzymic reactions on cellulose.

On the food preservation project, the Law Center is providing information about and assistance with the FDA approval process. Once approval is assured, we will help the Laboratory explore various legal approaches and incentives to promote the process in the private sector.

The cellulose project involves government patents on a glucose and alcohol production system/process. The major problems seem to involve:

a. lack of private interest in large scale development;
b. lack of protection for a private firm using a government patent;
c. the high start-up costs for industrial production; and
d. the development of functioning interfaces between government and private industry.

Several students are expected to work on the cellulose project during the next academic year.