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## **Lawrence Tech panel to discuss patent process, acceptability, since Supreme Court ruling**

*Southfield, Mich.* – The Detroit satellite office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will hold a panel discussion Wednesday, May 20, that will review how patentability and legal claims have been affected by the landmark 2013 Supreme Court case, Alice Corp. versus CLS Bank International.

The program is 4-5:30 p.m. in Lawrence Technological University’s Mary Marburger Science and Engineering Auditorium, S-100, in LTU’s Science Building, 21000 W. Ten Mile Rd., Southfield. Admission is free.

“101 Post-Alice: How USPTO and Practitioners are Reacting” will be moderated by the new USPTO Detroit office director, Christal Sheppard.

The presentation is significant because many inventors have attempted to seek patent protection for processes that involve using a computer to execute the process. The lesson from the “Alice” case is that merely adding a computer or computer algorithm to a law of nature or an abstract concept is not enough for patentability. If the patent examiner can see that a law of nature, natural phenomenon or abstract concept is the basis of the patent, and can also see that the technology involved is simply replacing a human method relating to that basis with a technological one, then the patent application is likely to be denied. Inventers cannot use the addition of a computer to tie up something that everyone already knows or has access to.

Intellectual property experts participating include Andrew H. Hirshfeld, deputy commissioner for Patent Examination Policy at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, who will present the primary address. He is the authority on patent laws, rules and examining practice and procedure, and establishes patent examination and documentation policy standards for the Commissioner for Patents.

The panel includes: John LeRoy, whose law practice focuses on software patent litigation; Rebecca S. Eisenberg, the Robert and Barbara Luciano Professor of Law at University of Michigan, who specializes in patent law and the regulation of biopharmaceutical innovation; and Michael B. Stewart, whose practice includes domestic and foreign patent prosecution, e-commerce and information technology, patent opinions, intellectual property litigation court.

Lawrence Technological University, [www.ltu.edu](http://www.ltu.edu), is a private university founded in 1932 that offers more than 100 programs through the doctoral level in its Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Management. PayScale lists Lawrence Tech among the nation’s top 100 universities for the salaries of its graduates, and *U.S. News and World Report* lists it in the top tier of best Midwestern universities. Students benefit from small class sizes and a real-world, hands-on, “theory and practice” education with an emphasis on leadership. Activities on Lawrence Tech’s 102-acre campus include over 60 student organizations and NAIA varsity sports.

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