



---

**SEMINAR SERIES PROGRAM**

---

WIPO/IP/ECON/GE/3/10/INF.1  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH  
DATE: MAY 10, 2010

**WIPO Seminar Series on  
“The Economics of Intellectual Property”**

*Organized by*  
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

**Geneva, June 28, 2010**

13.30 – 13.40 Introduction

Moderator: Mr. Carsten Fink, Chief Economist, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva

13.40 – 15.00 Financial Patenting, Innovation, and Patent Litigation

Speaker: Mr. Josh Lerner, Professor of Investment Banking, Harvard Business School, Center for Entrepreneurship, Boston, Harvard University, United States of America

Abstract: The presentation discusses the dramatic growth of financial patenting which is among the classes of business method patents that has attracted great attention, and is the focus of the Bilski case being considered by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The number of such filings and awards has been accelerating, but unlike other areas, patent filings by academics have been very infrequent, which appears to be a consequence of a lack of awareness or interest on the part of faculty members, rather than any fundamental unsuitability of their research for patenting. The trends in financial patenting do not seem to mirror those in financial innovation. Moreover, financial patents are being litigated at a rate 27 to 39 times greater than that of patents as a whole.

Relevant papers at:

<http://www.people.hbs.edu/jlerner/StateStreet.pdf>

<http://www.people.hbs.edu/jlerner/FinInnov.pdf>

<http://www.people.hbs.edu/jlerner/FinPatLit.09222009.pdf>

Time will be reserved for an open discussion.

*The session will start at 13.30 p.m., on Monday, June 28, 2010, at the headquarters of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes, Geneva (Conference Room B).*

[End of document]