

# South Carolina Inventors Forum

*Happy New Year y'all!!*



**ISSUE #18**

**January 2022**

Hellos SCIF,

I imagine many of y'all made a new years resolution to make 2022 *for you*, to work on your own idea for your own future, to start a business and or commercialize a new product.

Congratulations and thank you!

One of the great things about the USA is our freedom to do just that, to pursue happiness and become successfully self employed. God bless the USA!

Our rights as inventors to profit from the labors of our mind and possibly become self-employed successful inventors was secured as our nation was born in the words written in Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, of the United States Constitution which grants Congress the enumerated power "**To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries.**"

As a beginning inventor the focus is on defining the product market, research, IP filing & market testing either renderings or prototypes. From there its establishing manufacturing, packaging, advertising, shipping, brand building or license. You work to fund the project and bring your brainchild to life with hundreds of details to manage and so its almost unreal to find out years in all your work can be lost because the USPTO changed its mind and invalidated your issued patent.

You have your life and career based on your invention and now it can be infringed with little consequence.

You have made a business from selling your product idea and now imitations from China are taking your sales.

If you are serious about commercializing your new product in 2022 you should become aware of the importance of **Made in the USA** as it effects inventors, our communities and our nation's economy.

Bringing a product from initial concept through design and manufacturing to the market takes planning to succeed at each phase. The better the experience of the planner the more likely the

chances for success. The more these tasks can be accomplished here in the USA the better for everyone involved.

Our Speakers this month are some of the most knowledgeable experts in Manufacturing locally and in the USA and will be sharing their expertise and opinions this Wednesday January 12th.

**Michele Nash-Hoff – owner EFS & author “Can American Manufacturing be Saved and How” and co-founder of Industry Reimagined 2030 will present:**

History, how Manufacturing made America and can make America great again.  
Current, what it really costs going offshore and how China is a threat.  
Actions, how **CPA, SDIF and IRI2030** are helping

**Christpher Guerrero – Inventor, product developer and owner PACE**

Why & how to Manufacture in the USA  
Actions, how **PACE and UIA** helps inventors

**Tom Ledbetter, - Associate Vice Provost with the Center for Entrepreneurship and Educational Support at Midlands Technical College (MTC)**

Current, how we are growing Manufacturing in South Carolina today  
Concerns, about China & patent rights  
Actions, how **MTC** is helping

**IMHO** - If you are passionate about your rights to **protect your IP** and stopping infringers as an independent inventor you owe it to yourself to **read USI’s latest letter below** about the issue we have today and please **act THIS WEEK!** You can assist independent inventors with just two calls, the **nomination of the next Director of the USPTO is on the line.** *The USPTO Director will be able to decide ownership of more than a trillion dollars worth of intellectual property. The legal structure is such that the Director can revoke any patent through the PTAB review system – directly, by informal procedures, or by influencing the patent invalidation judges.* We want a Director that cares about American inventors over corporate interests and acts to restore not further diminish our hope and needs for a strong USPTO.

Its going to be an amazing year with so many new technologies, opportunities, networking groups, funding avenues and marketing channels. Never in history has there been a time when so much can be done so fast and efficiently and profitably.

I hope that you embrace this new world and make your future all you can dream.

And remember SCIF, real inventors are here to help y’all 😊

Happy 2022, have an inventive day!

Adrian Pelkus

**See you on Zoom 7pm EST Wednesday January 12th!**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88251334966?pwd=SWVTTmhHNHZZKUXISTW9SRkE1UDB3QT09>

**The nomination of Kathi Vidal to be Director of the USPTO was delayed!**

January 6, 2022

# US INVENTOR

Innovators, Inventors, Dreamers, and Builders

Great work! Several hundred inventors and supporters [signed the letter opposing the nomination of big tech lawyer Kathi Vidal](#) to be the next Director of the USPTO. We received support from inventors on more than 5,000 patents! Join us by signing at the link below.

Opposition in the Senate is growing. Thursday's vote [has been cancelled!](#) Several Senators are investigating her big tech loyalties. The [mainstream media is covering our movement](#). The [big tech lobbyists](#) and their [favorite Senator](#) rushed to circle the wagons in hopes of salvaging her confirmation. Meanwhile, the [IP industry](#), [Made In America](#), and [famous property rights organizations](#) are following our lead.

**WE DID THIS!**

Big tech has tremendous influence in the Biden Administration and has advanced one of their own to lead the USPTO. Kathi Vidal is a big tech litigator, cut from the same cloth as Michelle Lee, the Google lawyer who ran the USPTO for Obama's second term. Lee bolstered the "death squad for patents" called the PTAB, achieved an 84% patent invalidation rate, and provoked the first ever inventor protest in the history of the United States.

Vidal works for Apple, Microsoft, Netflix, Samsung, Cisco, Dell, and other large tech corporations. She is a big time litigator and advocate for patent invalidation by the PTAB - the division of the USPTO created by the 2011 America Invents Act to invalidate patents on behalf of large corporations that steal IP.

Other relevant facts are included in the letter at the link below. Please sign the letter and call your Senators to ask them to vote against the confirmation of Kathi Vidal as Director of the USPTO. It will only take a minute to make a big impact.

[Sign the Letter](#)

*Calls are very effective. A few hundred more calls will sink her nomination. It only takes a single Senator to block a nomination. The USPTO Director controls the ownership of over a trillion dollars in IP assets, and more importantly the integrity of U.S. patents to protect future innovation. Please ask both of your Senators to vote against the confirmation of Kathi Vidal as Director of the USPTO.*

**Call (202) 224-3121 and ask to speak with the Senators from your state. (you must call 2 times)**

**Make it in the USA! SCIF welcomes world class experts to speak this week.**



**Michele Nash-Hoff**

Michele is founder and president of ElectroFab Sales, a sales agency specializing in helping manufacturers select the right processes for their products since 1985.

Michele is the author of *Rebuild Manufacturing – the key to American Prosperity* which is a sequel to *Can American Manufacturing Be Saved? Why We Should and How We Can* available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). She writes blog articles for [www.americanjobsalliance.com](http://www.americanjobsalliance.com) and [www.themadeinamericamovement.com](http://www.themadeinamericamovement.com)

She is currently a director on the board of San Diego Inventors Forum and is also Chair of the California chapter of the Coalition for a Prosperous America\*\*. Michele is most recently co-founder of Industry Reimagined 2030 which she will introduce Wednesday!

\*\* *Personally I was delighted last week to see CPA take a stand on the USPTO nomination and sharing our concerns: <https://prosperousamerica.org/cpa-urges-senate-judiciary-committee-to-reject-big-tech-puppet-uspto-nominee/>*



**Christopher D. Guerrero**

**Accomplished Business Executive, Manufacturing Expert, & Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt**

[www.ChrisGuerrera.com](http://www.ChrisGuerrera.com)

**President & CEO at PACE Systems-New Product Launch**

**VP United Inventors Association (UIA)**

<https://uiausa.org/>



**Tom Ledbetter**

**Associate Vice Provost with the Center for Entrepreneurship and Educational Support at Midlands Technical College (MTC)**

<https://www.midlandstech.edu/about/center-entrepreneurial-success>

**More about IP issues for inventors in the USA...**

**US Inventor Inc., a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation I support, works on behalf of inventors to pass legislation protecting inventor rights and strengthening the patent system. Here are the big issues we are facing going into 2022.**

## The Loss of Inventor Rights – A Concise Description

For those new to the issue of inventors having lost the ability to stop large corporations from just taking valuable, patented technologies, here's a quick rundown:

1. **Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB):** The America Invents Act of 2011 ([AIA](#)) created an easier way to invalidate (revoke) an issued patent. The [PTAB](#) is an administrative court with no jury and much less due process than a real court. Rather than a lifetime-appointed judge, a PTAB trial typically has three attorneys who are called Administrative Patent Judges ([APJs](#)). Since inception, [84%](#) of the patents that go through a PTAB process get fully or partially invalidated (partially usually means the parts of the patent that matter).

When you attempt to stop a large corporation from infringing your patent, they will try to use the PTAB to invalidate your patent. If you win one PTAB attack, you can still be pulled into additional ones by the same or other infringers. According to the AIPLA (American Institute of Patent Law Association), a reasonable PTAB defense costs \$400,000 to \$800,000. Historically, the typical inventor would hire an attorney on a contingency basis to fight an infringer (where the inventor doesn't pay much up front and the attorney gets a percentage of the verdict award or settlement amount). Today, it is extremely rare for an attorney to take any PTAB case on contingency.



2. **Injunctive Relief (the ability to stop an infringer after you have won your case):** The U.S. Supreme Court decided that it was in the “public interest” for a proven infringer to continue infringing because it could serve the market better than a startup (Ebay, 2006). As a result, even if you win your case, you will have to pass a “public interest” test before an injunction can be issued to stop the infringer. A startup vs an entrenched corporation will typically fail this test, so you can't stop the infringer. You end up with a court-ordered royalty that you cannot negotiate, and the infringer keeps your invention and the market. This is often an impossible barrier for what would have been, until recently, the next great American disruptive startup.

3. **Abstract Idea:** The U.S. Supreme Court's Alice decision (2014), put into law that an “abstract idea” cannot be patented, but did not define this term. The result is that a sharp attorney can often convince a judge, who may have little tech experience, that a patent should have not been issued. This argument is most often used for software related or medical diagnostics patents. The patents of many important, future technologies that are invalidated on this issue in America are valid and defensible in China and Europe, so that is where startup funding is going.

US Inventor Inc., a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation, advocates on behalf of inventors with lawmakers and others to pass legislation protecting inventor rights and strengthening the patent system.

Please join us by signing the [Inventor Rights Resolution](#)."



<https://vimeo.com/640509179>

**Tell your story! Show people that you have the winning solution to a people problem that needs be solved now!**

It is a privilege to be associating with 1 Million Cups and I suggest all inventors follow suit and make friends with their local group to share their dreams and connect.

## **ABOUT 1 MILLION CUPS**

Based on the notion that entrepreneurs discover solutions and engage with their communities over a million cups of coffee, the **Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation** developed 1 Million Cups in 2012—a free program designed to educate, engage and inspire entrepreneurs around the country. Through the power of volunteers, **1 Million Cups has grown to more than 160 communities.**

As a program of the Kauffman Foundation, 1 Million Cups works with entrepreneurs, empowering them with the tools and resources to break down barriers that stand in the way of starting and growing their businesses. Mr. Kauffman believed it was a fundamental right for anyone who had a big idea to be able to bring it to life—and we're here to fulfill that mission.

## **ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION**

Founded by Ewing Marion Kauffman, the Foundation is driven to provide uncommon ways to create opportunities and connect people to the tools they need to achieve success, change their futures and give back to their communities. **We believe that if you have an idea, you have a fundamental right to start a business to make it a reality.**

We also believe that opportunity lies in the fields of education and entrepreneurship.

## GoFundMe update

Thinking about creating a campaign for finding funds to test your ideas pre company launch? GoFundMe is a way!

This can assist many struggling inventors & innovators to get started.

These funds allow you to search, file IP & build prototypes to show for raising capital to launch or license.

Go Fund Me has provided a Guide (photo below) and videos:

*We have a handful of videos ranging from fundraising story tips and tricks, to how to share your fundraiser, and even stories from other successful organizers. You can see all the videos by [clicking here](#). I would also recommend the below videos as a good jumping off point for your needs:*

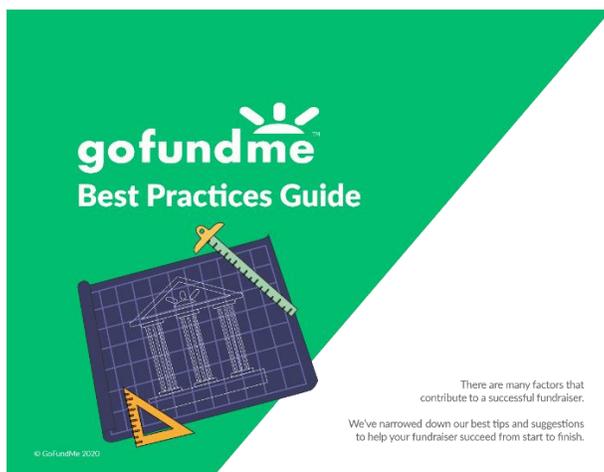
[How to Create a GoFundMe](#)

[How to Write a Compelling Story](#)

[How GoFundMe Works](#)

[How to Withdraw Funds](#)

Our alliance with GoFundMe will be awesome for American inventors and innovators just getting started! Its exciting to see how excited they are about this new alliance 😊



Please contact me for your free .pdf copy of the **GoFundMe Best Practices Guide!**  
[admin@southcarolinainventorsforum.org](mailto:admin@southcarolinainventorsforum.org)

## Public Funds for Tech Development in SC

“3Phase SC Program Manager, Kyle Salazar, and South Carolina Research Authority SC Launch Director, Matt Bell, share how their funding companies help early-stage businesses get their ideas off of the ground so they can make an impact on the world.

They explain the key indicators of success and growth, including accurate market identification, that their companies require before awarding grant applicants with early stage or accelerated grants. For entrepreneurs trying to understand funding allocations, Kyle identifies the three phases of feasibility, product development and commercialization as they pertain to grants.

While angel investing and venture capital may get the spotlight, public funding can be an incredibly effective and fast source of capital for any entrepreneur, especially as a smaller business.

Kyle Salazar, Program Manager at 3PhaseSC, and Matt Bell, Director of SC Launch Program at [South Carolina Research Authority - SCRA](#) speak here on what it takes to secure grants from their respective programs, and what it means for a new business to pursue public funding.”

Listen Now  <https://bit.ly/3DAomHs>

Make sure you check out [Scribble](#). They have been a tremendous supporter and provide a ton of resources to create and highlight innovation in SC!

<https://scribblesc.com/podcasts>

Thanks to Dr. Thaddeus Jones!



[Dr. Thaddeus Jones](#)

Thanks to Dr. Thaddeus Jones for getting our zoom meeting videos on our SCIF YouTube page!

[https://youtu.be/V9I3\\_LSkd18](https://youtu.be/V9I3_LSkd18)

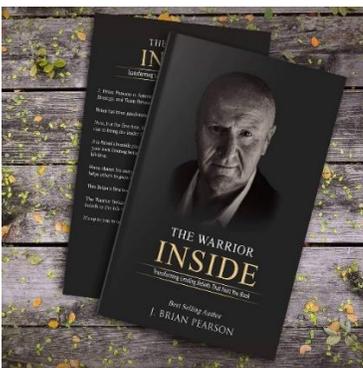


Fanatik Productions, LLC

<https://www.fanatikproductions.com/>

We want to motivate you in many ways!

Our friend [Brian Pearson](#), author of **The Warrior Inside: Transforming Limiting Beliefs That Hold You Back**, is a Business Strategist, Executive Coach, Speaker and Trainer.



Brian is an **Executive Director with the John Maxwell Team** and is graciously providing us his **Motivational Moment with Brian** to begin our meetings. Thank you, Brian!

*A ship anchored in a safe harbor is not doing what it's made to do. Ships are made to sail.*

*Choose to be the sail in people's lives...not an anchor.*

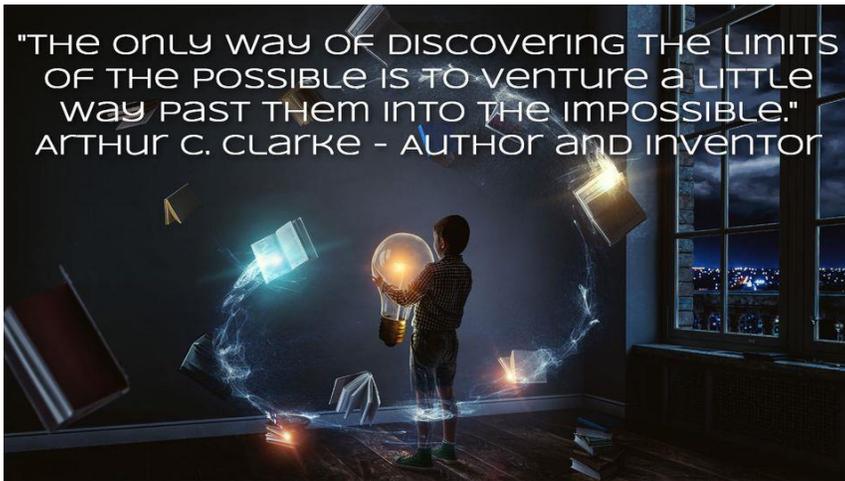
*Happy purple Thursday! Let's get motivated*

*Brian Pearson*

I love ship analogies! Mainly because it helps explain what I do,, I help design the custom ship, build it in a safe harbor, gather the crew, acquire the provisions, chart the course, sometimes captain the launch or just help run the ship!!

AP

## ...just a thought



### **SCIF is now setup to take donations!!**

Thanks to Lexa Gandolfo for her fantastic work to set up a Donate page on our SCIF site! Check it out and thanks for y'all's support 🙏

<https://southcarolinainventorsforum.org/donate>

**SCIF involves you! Have questions, here is where to get answers!**

Thinking of any new products or services that may help in some way, shape or form make life easier? We share new ideas and motivating concepts almost daily on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/448388996120060/>

Help for inventors and innovators, creators all!

Tell your creative friends and invite them to join our group!

We discuss the most important things needed to bring ideas to life and create wealth.

Join our group and come to our meetings to learn about inventing, innovating and the process of bringing new products to market. Meet with others and find friends, mentors and advisors.

Prepare your questions about inventing and ask local experts at Wednesday's Zoom meeting.

Prepare for launching your venture.

Mark your calendar for South Carolina Inventors Forum monthly meetings!

Monthly meeting format allows interactions and Q & A:

- Network
- Welcome & Thanks
- Motivational Moment with Brian Pearson
- What's new? Stories and new products shared by inventors
- Subject of the Month Presenter / Speaker
- Resources and New Opportunities
- Q&A
- Who Needs Who?
- Thanks & network

**Get all the Newsletters and Videos and more here!**

**<https://southcarolinainventorsforum.org/>**

**Sponsors & Inventor Stories welcome**

**SCIF Sponsors invited.**

*Supporting our vision to help people make new things, provide new services, build new businesses and create new jobs!*

**Platinum Sponsors** - \$2500-On banner and introduced at contest, Speaker of the Month, post in newsletter, website, and on monthly Agenda

**Gold** - \$1000- Speaker of the Month, post in newsletter, website and monthly agenda

**Silver** -\$500 - post in newsletter, website and monthly Agenda

**Bronze** -\$100 - post in newsletter & website

**SCIF welcomes stories about and by local inventors! We are calling for volunteers to help gather and write stories or folks to send theirs. Contact Adrian if you're interested.**

Send us yours or Become an "Inventor of the Month"!  
Time onstage (~10-30 minutes) to pitch your product and get feedback.  
Help motivate other inventors, come tell your story!

**[Contact Adrian if you're interested.](#)**

We thank you for your support!

## Non Profit Resources for Inventors

**United Inventors Association** is an Inventor Industry national membership foundation dedicated to inventor education and support



**[Learn more...](#)**

**SCORE** can help you start a new business or improve your present business. For more information about the SCORE South Carolina free small business counseling and the low-cost workshop series, call 803-765-5131 or visit their [website](#).

[USPTO.gov](http://USPTO.gov)

<https://scribblesc.com/about>

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**South Carolina Inventors Forum Major Supporters**



**Adrian Pelkus**

Inventing with Adrian, LLC

760 473 2696

[adrian@inventingwithadrian.com](mailto:adrian@inventingwithadrian.com)



**Tom Ledbetter**

Associate Vice Provost with the Center for Entrepreneurship and Educational Support

**Midlands Technical College**

803 822 3448

[ledbettert@midlandstech.edu](mailto:ledbettert@midlandstech.edu)



**Dr. Thaddeus Jones**

Fanatik Productions

803 942 0515

[Fanatikproductions@gmail.com](mailto:Fanatikproductions@gmail.com)

**Douglas Lineberry**

**T (803) 799-9800**

<https://www.burr.com/>



**SERGIO APARICIO**

City of Columbia Business Development Manager

[Sergio.Aparicio@columbiasc.gov](mailto:Sergio.Aparicio@columbiasc.gov)

## SCIF thanks its Advisors



### **Daniel Andrews**

Network in Action

803 361 6825

[DanielAndrews@NetworkinAction.com](mailto:DanielAndrews@NetworkinAction.com)

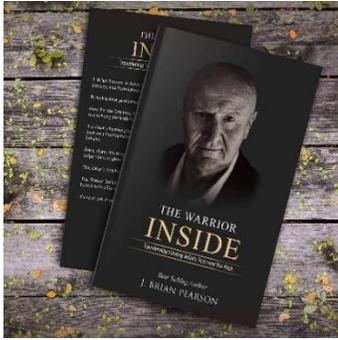


### **Charles A Prescott - Counsel**

The Prescott Law Firm, LLC

803 836 8301

<https://theprescottlawfirm.com/>



### **Brian Pearson**

[\*\*Brian Pearson Enterprises Lightning In A Bottle Leadership\*\*](#)



### **Tim "TK" Bradford**

Phone: (888) 710-2534

<https://thebradfordgroupfinancialservice.com/>

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**We Are Columbia**

Phone: 803.734.2700  
[development@columbiasc.gov](mailto:development@columbiasc.gov)

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office: 803-951-0494  
mobile: 408-504-8800  
[timkehoebuilds@gmail.com](mailto:timkehoebuilds@gmail.com)  
[www.kehoeconstructors.com](http://www.kehoeconstructors.com)

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#### Next Phase Management

[Tom.Ledbetter@NextPhaseMgt.com](mailto:Tom.Ledbetter@NextPhaseMgt.com)  
803 466 6992



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**David Waller**  
**(858) 768-1864**

**Have an inventive day!**  
**Adrian**

This newsletter was written by Adrian Pelkus

[admin@southcarolinainventorsforum.org](mailto:admin@southcarolinainventorsforum.org)

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