

## **Patent Readiness Checklist**

Use this checklist before drafting or filing any patent application. If you can check most of these items, you are well positioned to proceed confidently.

### **1. Invention Clarity**

- I can clearly explain my invention in one or two sentences
- I understand what problem my invention solves and why it matters
- I can describe how my invention works, step by step
- I can identify the key features that make my invention different

### **2. Patentable Subject Matter**

- My invention is a process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter
- It produces a concrete technical or functional result
- It is more than an abstract idea, business method, or natural phenomenon

### **3. Novelty Awareness**

- I have performed at least a preliminary prior art search
- I know which existing products or patents are closest to my invention
- I can clearly explain how my invention differs from known solutions

### **4. Claim Readiness**

- I can describe my invention using broad language and specific examples
- I understand which elements are essential and which are optional
- I can imagine alternative versions or variations of my invention

### **5. Disclosure Quality**

- I can describe multiple embodiments, not just one implementation
- I can explain how someone skilled in the field could make and use my invention
- I can identify best modes, alternatives, and fallback positions

### **6. Commercial Awareness**

- I understand how my invention could be used commercially
- I can identify potential competitors or substitute solutions

I know which features are most valuable from a licensing or market standpoint

### **7. Filing Strategy**

I know whether I am preparing a provisional or non-provisional application

I understand basic filing timelines and priority dates

I have a plan to avoid premature public disclosure

### **8. Prosecution Readiness**

I understand that office actions and rejections are common

I am prepared to respond strategically rather than emotionally

I recognize the importance of claim amendments and argument structure

### **9. Cost & Control**

I understand where patent costs typically arise

I know which tasks I can perform myself to reduce expense

I know when expert review or assistance is most valuable

### **Final Check**

I am prepared to proceed thoughtfully rather than rushing to file

I am willing to invest time in building a strong, defensible patent

I understand that a great patent is built, not just filed

*By the end of Achieving Great Patents, you should be able to confidently check every box on this list*