

# Is This Your First Time

## (Attending one of our meetings?)

Then there are a few things I want you to know. First of all, WELCOME! You are about to meet some of the most interesting people around and learn more than you ever thought possible about the business of product development. If you are new to the field you are probably a bit cautious.

Well...I'm about to scare the bejeses out of you! There is a thing called public disclosure. Basically, once you tell anyone anything proprietary about your invention without a Patent Application or a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) in place the clock starts ticking. You have lost your international rights and you have one year to file a patent application in the US.

You can tell people the area or industry your product is in. Discuss demographics, marketing and all sorts of stuff, just keep the proprietary information secret until you have the paper work in place. Be careful about discussing what problem you are solving unless you are really good at evasive communication.

There is another really tricky thing that if somebody suggests an improvement or makes a discovery regarding your invention and you use it in part of a claim in your patent they are a co-inventor and need to be listed as such. If you don't have an assignment clause in your NDA they have the same rights to the entire patent as you do and can sell it out from under you.

I am not some mean person out to discourage you. I want to encourage you to understand that this is a business with a lot of rules. Nobody cares about the rules until you're successful (and we all plan to be successful). That's when all the sharks come looking to see what rules you broke so they can use it against you.

So what can you do to protect yourself? Learn and Follow the rules! Let Education become your Bazooka! That is where we can help but we need to cover our own Anticipated Serious Situation. So I am going to ask you to read, understand and acknowledge that you understand the waver below. Turn it in before the end of the meeting to the front desk and you will be in a drawing for valuable prizes.

The Inventors Society of South Florida is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization, dedicated to the advancement of the independent inventor through the use of education, motivation and collaborative support.

We provide a wealth of information through our newsletter, handouts, website, direct discussions and speakers.

However, inventing is a business and it is up to the individual to determine whether any of that information is pertinent to their own project or to decide if they want to pursue a relationship with any individual they come in contact with, through the organization.

We strongly urge you to follow proper business procedure including but not limited to having the proper agreements, contracts, etc. in place **BEFORE** you disclose any proprietary information.

It is your responsibility to do your own due diligence, determine your own course of action and maintain your own standard of professionalism to achieve your desired results, for which we cannot be held liable.

I, (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_ of (Address) \_\_\_\_\_

have read and understood the above waver as well as take full responsibility regarding the use of any information or relationship I choose to pursue, holding the Inventors Society of South Florida harmless for my actions. (Sign) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_