

# David S. Alavi

Registered Patent Agent

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## Costs for obtaining a patent

Obtaining a patent can be a costly enterprise. My hourly rate for new clients is \$175/hour, and there are minimum fees for preparing and filing a new patent application. In the table below I have summarized approximate costs for preparing, filing, and prosecuting a patent application, obtaining an issued patent, maintaining a patent in force after issue, patent searching, patent drawings, and technical writing. For most services I require a minimum deposit of at least \$3500 before beginning work, and payment of any remaining balance of PTO and professional fees upon completion and prior to filing in the PTO. I provide written cost estimates before beginning work.

**Effective 01/01/2009. Please note: all fees are subject to change without notice.**

SERVICE	My Fee	PTO Fee*	Notes
prepare patent application U.S. provisional or U.S. non-provisional	\$175/hour	\$110 - \$1000 or more	
U.S. provisional patent application minimum fee to prepare and file	\$3500	\$110	includes supporting documents/drawings
U.S. non-provisional patent application minimum fee to prepare and file	\$4000	\$462 - \$1000 or more	includes supporting documents/drawings
U.S. non-provisional patent application minimum fee with previous U.S. provisional	\$1750	\$462 - \$1000 or more	includes supporting documents/drawings
PTO-based search: three week turnaround simple mechanical	\$800		includes NPS** search fee
PTO-based search: three week turnaround computer/Internet/electrical/optics	\$1200		includes NPS** search fee
PTO-based search: all areas one week turnaround	add 50%		includes NPS** search fee
PTO-based search: all areas 3 day turnaround	add 100%		includes NPS** search fee
simple response to PTO action	\$175/hour \$500 - \$1000		
complex response to PTO action	\$175/hour \$1000 - \$4000		
patent allowance and issue fee	\$500	\$755 or \$1055	
patent maintenance fee: after 3 years	\$350	\$490	
patent maintenance fee: after 7 years	\$350	\$1240	
patent maintenance fee: after 11 years	\$350	\$2055	
file international (PCT) application Request based on previously prepared US application	\$1000	\$2000 - \$4000 or more	
liaison with foreign patent counsel	\$175/hour		

\* PTO fees for an individual inventor, small business, or non-profit organization. Subject to change by the PTO.

\*\* National Patent Services (DC-area search firm).