

Contents

Preface	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
1 Background for Developing and Implementing a Patent Strategy	1
2 The Structure of a Patent	17
3 The Path to Obtaining Patents	37
4 Identifying Patentable Inventions	47
5 Identifying What Has Yet to Be Invented	63
6 Prioritizing the Inventions	77
7 Prioritizing Your Patent Applications	91
8 Proposing and Writing Claims	107
9 Conducting Prior Art Searches	131
10 The Mindsets of Innovators and Attorneys and other Cautionary Notes	145
11 Reviewing Your Proposed Patent Applications	157
12 Writing Your Patent Applications	169
13 The Next Step: Prosecution of Your Patent Application	199
14 What Next?	221
15 Final Thoughts	245

viii CONTENTS

Appendix 1	Electrophotography: Building a Patent Portfolio in a Mature but Evolving Field	255
Index		279