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## **Invasion of Ukraine Has Caused Far-Reaching Global Changes**

It goes without saying that we are living in historical times. The implications and effects of Russia's aggression and invasion of Ukraine are causing worldwide disruptions, impacts, and loss of precious lives.

Per guidance issued by the U.S. Department of State, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has terminated engagement with officials from Russia's agency in charge of intellectual property, the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (commonly known as Rospatent), and with the Eurasian Patent Organization. This means, for one thing, that the U.S. will not recognize Patent Prosecution Highway (claims allowed in Russia/Eurasia), but will do its own examination. The Russian and Eurasian patent offices appear to be operating normally. There is no information on any of their websites indicating a closure or suspension of deadlines. The following language was published by the Ukraine Patent office:

"We would like to inform you that during this extremely difficult time for the country, during the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which became the reason for the imposition of martial law in accordance with the Decree of the President of Ukraine of February 24, 2022 №64/2022 "On the Imposition of Martial Law in Ukraine", the State Enterprise "Ukrainian Institute of Intellectual Property" (Ukrpatent) continues to operate on a full-time basis providing all the necessary functions and continuous operation of the state system of legal protection of intellectual property."

The Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry announced on February 28, 2022, that business-related deadlines, including intellectual property filings, have been suspended in Ukraine as long as there is martial law in the country.

In addition to Patent Office disruptions, businesses worldwide are being affected by higher energy costs, supply chain problems, cybersecurity concerns, and a cutoff of payments and payment systems. Ukraine is a major source for software developers and this coding work has been disrupted. Several start-up company clients and venture funds, who have had funding from Russian private money, are now not receiving the funds. Some of our clients, particularly in the mining/metals and aerospace/outer space industries, are or will be affected.

For the mining industry, Russia is a major global supplier of palladium, oil, nickel, aluminum, diamonds, coal, steel and other commodities. Russian mining companies will be removed from the blue-chip FTSE 100 as of March 21. Several major mining companies have pulled out or are considering pulling out of Russia. Metals and commodities prices are escalating.

Russia, U.S., Europe, Canada, and Japan have collaborated in international outer space efforts, including the International Space Station (ISS), all stating that near term arrivals and departures for the ISS will go on as planned, but it is rumored that Russia will discontinue the ISS. Mars and Venus outer space collaborations are now delayed or the collaborations have been discontinued. Russia has stopped the supply of its Soyuz rocket engines and launch services to Europeans and Americans. Ukraine has been a major player in the world's space industry since the 1950s, designing and manufacturing space launch vehicles, rocket engines, spacecraft and electronic components, and some of these facilities have been damaged or destroyed.

This impact on human lives and business will affect all of us for years, if not decades.

**Our hearts go out to all Ukrainians, including our Ukrainian colleagues here at Peacock Law.**