The America Invents Act

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The America Invents Act was enacted on September 16, 2011, with the stated goals of promoting innovation, creating jobs, and growing the economy. As a result, US patent law is changing in several ways that affect both patent litigation and patent prosecution over the next 18 months. The change most commented on is the change from a first-to-invent system to a first-to-file system that conforms US patent law to most other countries in the world. However, a variety of changes to existing law, both large and small, result in the most significant modification to US patent law in almost 60 years. In order to understand the changes, it is important to know the current state of the law. This presentation describes the existing state of US patent law and the changes that occur over the implementation period of the America Invents Act.

Michelle Knight is a shareholder with the law firm of Young Basile Hanlon & MacFarlane in Troy, MI, which specializes in Intellectual Property Law. She has been a member of IEEE since joining as a student member at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1987. After graduating with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering, Michelle was a transmission and distribution engineer at a power company in Connecticut for 10 years and is a registered Professional Engineer. After graduating from the University of Connecticut School of Law with her J.D. in 2000, she joined Young Basile as an associate performing patent litigation and procurement. Michelle currently specializes in patent procurement and analysis in a variety of fields such as semiconductor design, electronic component testing, software development including video codecs and multi-tier server communications, wind turbine controls, and automotive technologies including hybrid controls, fuel cells, and steer-by-wire and braking systems.

All students, faculty, and public are welcome.