



**MBHB *snippets* Alert**

**September 15, 2011**

**Leahy-Smith America Invents Act Ratchets Up Fees 10 Days After Enactment**

President Obama is expected to sign the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act – which significantly changes many existing U.S. patent laws – on September 16, 2011. We want to alert you about one aspect of the Act that may impact you almost immediately. The Act imposes an automatic 15% patent fee increase that becomes effective 10 days after the Act is signed.

In an effort to mitigate the impact of the fee increase on your budget, you should consider taking simple actions such as paying application issue fees, filing continuation and divisional applications, and paying patent maintenance fees due within the next six months before patent fees increase, *i.e.*, by no later than about September 26, 2011. For example, paying an issue fee before fees increase will save you about \$275. Paying a maintenance fee before the fees increase will save you from \$150-\$600.

For our clients, please contact us if you would like us to provide you with a list of your patents and applications having issue and maintenance fees that can be paid before patent office fees increase.

MBHB attorneys are well versed on the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act patent law changes and how the changes will impact prosecuting and enforcing patents in the U.S. Please contact an MBHB attorney should you have any questions about the Act or to arrange an in-house seminar about the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act.

For more general information about the Act, and its impact on the patent laws, [view our most recent edition of \*snippets\*](#).