

*The second in a new seminar series on commercializing technology exclusively for graduate and PhD students in science and technology-related colleges at the University of Minnesota.*



**Seminar II**  
**Legal Issues Involved in Business Formation:**  
**Protecting Your Intellectual Property**

*November 13, 2006  
4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.  
3M Auditorium  
Carlson School of Management*

**The second seminar will address legal issues of business formation, alternative licensing and protecting your intellectual property. This session will provide an overview of intellectual property and discuss different types of patents and alternative methods for protection. The session will feature two case studies on medical technology, but will also address a broad range of IP issues.**

**Sponsored by 3M for Graduate and PhD Students**

Developed exclusively for graduate and PhD students in technology and science-related programs at the University of Minnesota, the 3M series features interactive discussions and live case studies as examples of how to bring your ideas from the laboratory to the marketplace.

All materials and expenses for these seminars have been sponsored by 3M as a means to complement students' education with practical lessons on how to bring their technologies to market. The seminars are organized by the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. Future sessions will be held in February, March, and April.

*Center for  
Entrepreneurial Studies*

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Please RSVP to  
[ces@csom.umn.edu](mailto:ces@csom.umn.edu)

# 3M SEMINAR II

## Speakers

**Frank Vargas** is the Managing Principal of Renaissance Law Group. He began his career in Palo Alto, California with Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, the premier high technology law firm in the country. Upon moving to Minnesota, he started his own firm, Vargas and Associates, representing a number of successful companies in the Twin Cities area. After merging his firm into a larger firm, Mr. Vargas helped co-found Aethlon Capital LLC, a Minneapolis investment banking boutique. He then served as Executive Vice President, Director of Corporate Finance for Dougherty Securities, a Minneapolis investment bank. He is co-founder of eight other companies and a frequent lecturer to lawyers and business people on business and business law subjects including valuing a business, writing business plans, mergers and acquisitions, private financing, and creating incentive plans for employees. Mr. Vargas graduated with an AB, with honors, from Harvard University, and a JD/MBA from the University of California Berkeley. He is a member of the California and Minnesota Bars.

**Robert E. Atkinson** is president and patent counsel for Prospex Medical. Bob is a registered patent attorney with significant experience as an entrepreneur (SpinaLabs, Aetherworks I & II), as corporate and private patent counsel, and as an engineer (SCIMED), all in the medical device industry. Prospex Medical is focused on innovating and incubating novel medical technologies. With an emphasis on regulated medical devices and non-regulated (quasi-consumer) medical products, Prospex Medical is exploring opportunities in the health care market. Ideal candidates will represent a significant monetary opportunity having a clear clinical value, a strategic proprietary position, and reasonable regulatory and reimbursement paths, with an opportunity for multiple, value creating milestones. Prospex Medical is expected to create fundable business opportunities in the next one to two years.

**Brad D. Pedersen**, a partner at Patterson, Thuente, Skaar & Christensen, P.A., attended South Dakota State University on a four-year Briggs scholarship, graduating in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering. He received his law degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota in 1986. Prior to law school, Mr. Pedersen worked as a diagnostic software engineer for Magnetic Peripherals, a Control Data subsidiary. He worked with the Patterson firm from 1991 to 1996. Upon rejoining the firm he was IP Counsel for Angeion Corporation, a high-technology medical device company. Mr. Pedersen's legal career started as a litigation associate with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles and then as a patent associate with Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis. He has more than 25 years experience working with software and computers and 15 years assisting high-technology clients with patent, copyright, trademark, licensing, and litigation matters. He is experienced in developing patent portfolios and strategies for startup companies. Patents written by Mr. Pedersen have resulted in settlements and transactions worth more than \$100 million.