CLIENTS OF WHITAKER CHALK AWARDED U. S. PATENTS

U. S. Patents for the following inventions have been awarded recently to clients of Whitaker Chalk. The inventions provide innovations in the fields of agriculture, oil and gas exploration and production, environmental control, on-line placement of orders for products and services, and requests for emergency assistance from public communication terminals.

U. S. Patent No. 9,167,742, entitled ***Method and Apparatus for Planting Seed Crops*** discloses a process and apparatus for controlling the moisture content of the soil deposited in the furrow to cover the seeds, thereby optimizing the moisture conditions for germination. The soil for covering the seed is selected according to its moisture content from the soil exposed while the furrow is tilled with the ploughshare. The moisture content of the soil is proportional to the conductivity of the soil. The measured conductivity of the soil is converted to a control signal that positions a coulter disc to select soil of the correct moisture content for covering the seeds.

U. S. Patent No. 8,740,006, entitled ***Portable Drip Containment Device Apparatus and Method*** discloses a portable drip containment tray for catching spills from vehicles and equipment at drilling and construction sites. The tray is formed of chemically-resistant fabric having flexible side walls that are supported by foam bolsters. The foam bolsters are placed next to the outside of the side walls. Flaps extending from the tray bottom are wrapped around the bolsters and secured to the side walls with hook-and-loop fasteners. The flexible side walls can be driven over by vehicles. Assembly of the containment device requires no tools, and the assembled tray can be disassembled, rolled up into a compact package, and stored or transported easily for reuse at another site.

U. S. Patent No. 8,702,849, entitled ***Dust Screen and Method for Dry Bulk Storage Units*** discloses an inflatable dust bag screen that fits around the inspection hatches of a dry bulk storage unit. Such a storage unit is typically used during pneumatic transfer of frac sand or other similar material from a transport vehicle into the storage unit. The screen inflates during the transfer and contains the dust while passing the exhaust air, retaining the dust in the storage unit.

U. S. Patent No. 8,700,788, entitled ***Method and System for Automatic Login Initiated upon a Single Action with Encryption*** provides for secure automatic login to a destination website in a single action such as a mouse click. The method stores login information in a user data folder rather than a file manager, cookies, or storage in an external location. The app that enables the method, which does not require restricted access to install and use, is designed for users who daily make numerous repetitive orders for essentially similar products or services. The app includes an encryption process so that orders are placed in a secure environment.

U. S. Patent No. 8,666,031, entitled ***System and Method for Citizen Requests for Assistance*** provides a convenient touch-screen terminal in public locations such as former pay-telephone booths. The system enables citizens to quickly enter requests for assistance merely by touching the screen in sequence to (1) call for help; (2) specify the type of emergency (e.g.,

distress or injury, suspicious person or incident, unlawful activity, safety concern, etc.); and (3) specify the type of response needed (e.g., fire department, police; medical or ambulance, etc.). The system is particularly adapted to installation in large urban centers near subway, light rail, and intermodal transportation hubs.

Stephen Mosher, Registered Patent Attorney, December 1, 2015