Kansas City Business Journal: Inventors Navigate Long Patent Process for Reward of Protecting Their Product

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Inventor Gene Owen has two words of advice for anyone hoping to patent an idea: “Be patient.”

It took three years, two rejections and endless hours poring over claims and descriptions before Owen’s company, Starco LLC, received a patent for its Clean Chute collection device in August.

Protecting the invention from competitors was worth the time and effort, said Owen, who retired as a labor and employment lawyer and established Starco in 2005. He now spends much of his time working in the warehouse from which his mess-free trash-collection device is distributed throughout the United States and Canada.

“The most fun part is meeting people and seeing enthusiastic faces saying: ‘That’s a good idea,’” he said.

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