

PRESS RELEASE (Updated with Photos)
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Local Inventor Wins Reversal of Patent Office Ruling

Roy Helwig, a local Sequim architect and inventor of a Living Roof and Wall System has just obtained reversal of a Patent Office ruling. Helwig's company, Archiphyte LLC., installed the Living Roof System on the roof of Maier Hall at Peninsula College, Port Angeles WA about 4 years ago. The Helwig system supports a complex eco-system of plants to provide a green roof or wall, is fire resistant and can be retrofit on existing roofs without beefing-up the structure as it is light weight, not requiring a soil layer to sustain the plants, unlike prior systems. Nor does the Helwig system require irrigation. The US Patent Office Examiner assigned to the case ruled that the light-weight, soil-free mat system of Helwig was an obvious variation of a 1996 green rooftop system requiring a soil substrate. Helwig appealed, and the Patent Office Appeal Board reversed the Examiner's ruling. The application now goes back to the Examiner and issuance of a patent is expected shortly.



Maier Hall, Peninsula College

Living Wall Example

Jacques Dulin, Esq. of Sequim handled the Helwig application preparation, its prosecution before the Examiner, and the successful Appeal to the Board of Appeals. Dulin, who argued the Appeal on June 24 in Denver, said “The fast and clear decision of the Board on June 6, which completely rejected the Examiner’s position as erroneous, makes up in a small way for the lengthy and contentious refusal by the Patent Office to allow the Helwig application. The Helwig system is a substantial advance in the field and is deserving of patent protection.” Information on the Helwig Living Roof System can be obtained at www.ArchiphyteLLC.com.

ILG is the premier patent and trademark firm on the Olympic Peninsula, offering over 50years experience in all phases of Intellectual Property and related business counseling from its Sequim office. ILG can be reached at 360-681-7305 or www.InnovationLaw.com.