

**Senator Chuck Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate**

**Hearing entitled “Intellectual Property – Driver of Innovation: Making Our
Lives Healthier, Safer, and more Productive”**

April 25, 2017

Questions for the Record

Dr. Ashifi Gogo, Chief Executive Officer, Sproxil, Inc.

1. When Sproxil was just getting started, how did you learn about intellectual property and the importance of intellectual protection to innovation? Is this something that many entrepreneurs consider when they are starting innovative companies and are there ways that we can better educate small innovative businesses in this area?

I was fortunate to take a class on intellectual property and business law at the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, just as the school was launching a new program that equipped Ph.D. students with skills to turn their research innovations into new ventures. That course fundamentally changed my opinion on the intellectual property system and its value to business – large and small – and society. I am not aware of such a course being widely offered as part of traditional science and engineering higher education programs, even though science and engineering research institutions provide a steady flow of discoveries that spin off new products or entirely new businesses. I strongly recommend that alongside introductory ethics courses (which are regularly offered to engineering and science students and researchers), information on intellectual property protection and new venture creation be offered in colleges, particularly within science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs. It can be more effective to educate future innovators before their major discovery, so that they are better prepared for the future.