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James Bessen is a scholar on the economics of innovation and patents who has also been a successful innovator and CEO of a software company. In 1983, Bessen developed the first commercially successful “what-you-see-is-what-you-get” desktop publishing program. Currently, Mr. Bessen is Lecturer in Law at the Boston University School of Law and Fellow at the Berkman Center on Internet and Society at Harvard. His research on innovation has influenced policymakers and courts in the US, Europe and Australia. With Michael J. Meurer, he wrote *Patent Failure: How Judges, Bureaucrats, and Lawyers Put Innovators at Risk* (Princeton 2008).