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[54] **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING USER-CONTROLLED ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS**

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[58] **Field of Search** 705/37, 1, 26; 364/468.14, 222.2, 284; 379/69, 93.12; 395/200.57

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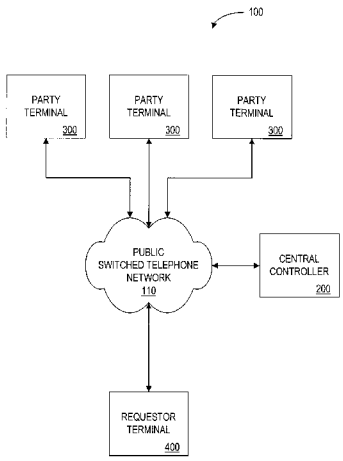
[57] **ABSTRACT**

A system for establishing anonymous communications includes a plurality of party terminals, a plurality of requester terminals, and a central controller. The system receives and stores party data about respective parties. Upon receiving criteria for parties of interest from a requestor terminal and authorization from respective parties, the central controller releases to the requester party associated with the parties. The system also establishes communications channels between parties and the requester, while maintaining their anonymity.

65 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets