

**UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



# **Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP) and Virtual Instructor Led Training (vILT)**

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# Program overview of STEPP and vILT

Program	Audience	Course Format	Continuing Legal Education (CLE)	Pre-requisites
<b>STEPP</b> Based on Patent Training Academy entry level curriculum	USPTO registered practitioners	Workshop with a sequence of modules	USPTO will sponsor Virginia CLE and selected States  Ethics CLE is offered	Completion of pre-activity homework
<b>vILT</b> Based on recent training delivered to experienced USPTO examiners	Open to all	Live interactive course with a single topic that spans 1 or 2 hours	USPTO will sponsor Virginia CLE	None



# STEPP: Agent/attorney format

- Training centers on how examiners review patent applications.
  - Module 1 focuses on the role of an examiner and steps for reading an application for the first time.
  - Module 2 focuses on search, 35 U.S.C. §101 and 35 U.S.C. §112.
  - Module 3 focuses on case reporting and mapping art to claims.
  - Module 4 focuses on writing an office action.

# FY 2021 STEPP Agent/attorney 4-day course schedule

Audience	Dates	Location	Status
Agent/Attorney	March 16-19*	Virtual	Completed
Agent/Attorney	May 18-21	Virtual	Registration Full
Agent/Attorney	June 22-25	Virtual	Registration Full
Agent/Attorney	August	Virtual	TBD
Agent/Attorney	September	Virtual	TBD

\*95% of attendees who completed a survey on this pilot event would recommend this training to others

All courses, times, and dates are subject to change and may be cancelled at any time prior to registration opening. For the most up-to-date information, visit the [STEPP page](#) of the USPTO website.



# More information on STEPP

- STEPP page:
  - [www.uspto.gov/patents/patent-quality/stakeholder-training-examination-practice-and-procedure-0](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/patent-quality/stakeholder-training-examination-practice-and-procedure-0)
- Email: [STEPP@USPTO.gov](mailto:STEPP@USPTO.gov) to receive notifications of future STEPP course offerings.

# Virtual Instructor Led Training (vILT) Program

- vILT courses are based on recent trainings provided to experienced USPTO examiners.
- Anyone may attend vILT.
- vILT courses are free to attend.
- The USPTO will sponsor Virginia CLE, when appropriate.
- vILT courses have been attended by over 9,067 external stakeholders in less than three years.
- Growth continues, with the last two vILT courses having a combined attendance of 2,158 external stakeholders.

# vILT FY 2021 course schedule

Title	Dates Offered	Audience	Duration	Registration	CLE Credit
After Final Practice*	January 26, 2021	All	1 hour	December 14, 2020 - January 25, 2021	Virginia CLE
	January 27, 2021				
	January 28, 2021				
Petitions Practice*	February 23, 2021	All	1 hour	January 12 - February 22, 2021	Virginia CLE
	February 24, 2021				
	February 25, 2021				
TBD	August 2021	All	1 hour	TBD	Applying for Virginia CLE
TBD	September 2021	All	1 hour	TBD	Applying for Virginia CLE

\*90% of attendees who completed a survey would recommend this training to others



# Prior vILT course offerings

- Examining computer-implemented functional claim limitations for compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112
- 2019 Revised Subject Matter Eligibility Guidance: Advanced Module
- Legal analysis and writing workshop
- Combined 102/103 workshop training
- Clear obviousness rejections: important lessons from *Outdry v. Geox*
- Proper anticipation rejections: reminders from recent Case Law
- Addressing 35 U.S.C. §112(f) or Means-plus-Function limitations
- Functional language workshop: claim interpretation and definiteness under 35 U.S.C. §112(b)
- Claim interpretation–product by process
- Claim interpretation–preambles
- Double Patenting
- After Final Practice
- Petitions Practice

# More information on vILT

- vILT website:
  - [www.uspto.gov/patent/patent-quality/virtual-instructor-led-training](http://www.uspto.gov/patent/patent-quality/virtual-instructor-led-training)
- Email: [vILT@USPTO.gov](mailto:vILT@USPTO.gov) to receive notifications of future vILT course offerings.

# Questions and comments

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