



Business Methods Customer Partnership Meeting

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE®

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USPTO presenters

Vaishali Udupa, Commissioner for Patents

Vaishali Udupa is the Commissioner for Patents of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). As Commissioner for Patents, Ms. Udupa manages and leads the Patents organization as its chief operating officer. She oversees the agency's 10,000 Patents employees, including more than 8,500 patent examiners responsible for fostering the country's innovation system by providing patent protections to inventors as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. (CommissionerforPatents@uspto.gov)

Gladys Corcoran, Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Ms. Corcoran directly oversees technology centers responsible for examining patent applications in the technology areas of biotechnology, organic chemistry, transportation, construction, agriculture, electronic commerce, and national security. She has served in many roles at the USPTO including patent examiner, supervisor, class manager, senior advisor, and group director. Ms. Corcoran has a bachelor of science in Chemical Engineering, a juris doctor, and is an active member of the Virginia bar. (Gladys.Corcoran@uspto.gov)

Elizabeth Dougherty, Eastern Regional Outreach Director

As the Eastern Regional Outreach Director for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Elizabeth Dougherty carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, and is responsible for leading the USPTO's East Coast stakeholder engagement. Focusing on the region and actively engaging with the community, Ms. Dougherty ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders. (Elizabeth.Dougherty@uspto.gov)

Tariq Hafiz, Director, Technology Center 3600

Tariq joined the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in 1992 as a patent examiner and in 2012 became a Group Director for Technology Center 2600 specializing in Communications and in 2016 was assigned to be a Group Director for Business Methods in TC 3600. (Tariq.Hafiz@uspto.gov)

Deborah Reynolds, Director, Technology Center 3600

Ms. Reynolds is currently a technology center director in the business methods area of Technology Center (TC) 3600. Ms. Reynolds previously held the position of deputy chief patent academic officer of the office of patent training. As the deputy she was responsible for providing critical training and education to patent examiners, patent managers and other patent employees. She joined the ranks of the senior executive service in 2011. Prior to joining the office of patent training, Ms. Reynolds was both a quality assurance specialist and a supervisory patent examiner for TC 1600. (Deborah.Reynolds@uspto.gov)

Alexa Neckel, Director, Technology Center 1700

Ms. Neckel joined the USPTO as a patent examiner after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from James Madison University, and is now a Director in TC 1700 - Chemical and Materials Engineering. She is the executive lead of the First-Time Filer Expedited Examination Pilot Program. (CI2FirstTimeFilerPilot@uspto.gov)

Michael "Mike" Kim, Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge, Patent Trial & Appeal Board, USPTO

Judge Kim started at the PTAB in 2008 as a patent attorney, before being appointed as a Judge in 2011, and as a member of the Senior Executive Service in 2020. His duties include managing the PTAB's workload inventory and overseeing the PTAB Diversity, Equity,

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Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee. Judge Kim has conducted hundreds of proceedings under the America Invents Act (AIA) and reviewed over a thousand appeals from examiner rejections, primarily in the business methods, mechanical and electrical arts. (Michael.Kim@uspto.gov)

Joshua Benitez, Executive Secretary and Program Coordinator, Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI²)

Mr. Benítez joined the USPTO in 2006 as a patent examiner in Technology Center 2800. Through his career at the USPTO, he served as Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC Operations Manager, Diversity Program Manager, and Senior Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner for Patents, among other roles. In his current role, he provides oversight to all CI² programs and leads the development of new initiatives to increase opportunities for all Americans to participate in innovation.

NaThanya Ferguson, Manager, Office of Innovation Outreach

NaThanya Ferguson serves as the manager of the Office of Innovation Outreach (OIO) and leads the development and delivery of USPTO's national outreach programs tailored to inspire, educate, and empower underserved and underresourced independent inventors, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. Under Ms. Ferguson's leadership, the OIO team forms and maintains collaborative working relationships with federal government agencies and national organizations to increase awareness of the importance of intellectual property protection and provide access to key resources to assist innovators with using their intellectual property to reach their full potential. (Nathanya.Ferguson@uspto.gov)

Patrick McAtee, Supervisory Patent Examiner, Technology Center 3600

Patrick joined the USPTO as a patent examiner in 2013. He served on details as a GS-14 Trainer and at the Patent Training Academy before becoming a SPE in 2019 and recently served on detail in the Office of the Commissioner for Patents in 2023. Patrick has a

B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Nebraska and a J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School. He is a former classroom teacher, small business owner, and environmental sustainability consultant. (Patrick.McAtee@uspto.gov)

Jamisue Plucinski, Training Quality Assurance Specialist, Technology Center 3600

Ms. Plucinski previously worked as a Natural Gas Analyst for SAIC and with the US Department of Energy. She joined the USPTO in 2000 as an examiner in Technology Center (TC) 3700, working in the area of absorbent articles. In 2004 she moved to TC 3600 and became an examiner in Business Methods. Prior to her role as a TQAS, she served as a Supervisory Patent Examiner in Business Methods. She has been in her current role as TQAS since 2017.

Will Brandenburg, Training Quality Assurance Specialist, Technology Center 3600

Will is a Training Quality Assurance Specialist (TQAS) in TC3600. Joining the USPTO in 2008, he examined in the Advertising area of Business Methods in TC3600 for over twelve years. Will currently serves as a TQAS in the Business Methods area of TC3600 supporting the wide-ranging quality and training efforts of the TC and agency-at-large. (Will.Brandenburg@uspto.gov)

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External stakeholder presenters

Elizabeth Chien-Hale, Partner, Appleton Luff International Lawyers

Elizabeth is rooted in prosecution and opinion work in electrical-mechanical arts, having started her career in Silicon Valley firms serving high tech clients. Through her Chinese language skills, she added litigation to her practice areas, serving Chinese/Taiwanese clients in ITC and district court cases. She then moved to an international law firm's Hong Kong Office, pioneering its patent practice with high-profile Hong Kong companies. She continued her practice in her in-house capacity with Apple, Industrial Technology Research Institute ("ITRI") of Taiwan, and Eaton, handling cross-border disputes in Asia Pacific. Upon returning to private practice, she continues to serve her clients in patents and other IP areas. She was a visiting scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Peking University School of Law. She is currently teaching a course on Chinese intellectual property law at the Santa Clara University School of Law. (ech@institute-ip-asia.org)

Johanna Corbin, Vice President of Intellectual Property & Strategy and R&D Legal, AbbVie

Johanna is Vice President of Intellectual Property & Strategy and R&D Legal at AbbVie. Johanna's organization has responsibility for the company's intellectual property and litigation and also supports AbbVie's research and development. Prior to her current role, Johanna headed the Abbott IP Litigation Group. (Johanna.corbin@abbvie.com)

Xiaolin (Richard) Huang, Partner, ZY Partners

Mr. Huang has practiced patent law for over 22 years and has outstanding knowledge, experience and reputation in all patent-related matters. He specializes in patent prosecution, patent invalidation proceedings, patent infringement litigation, FTO analysis, licensing, compliance to regulations of Foreign Filing License and service invention, patent drafting, and client coun-

seling with a focus on technologies related to computer science, telecommunication & IT, software, business method, electronics, semiconductor, medical devices, physics, and nuclear/solar energies. He has filed and prosecuted over 13,000 patent applications in his name before the SIPO.

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Charles R. Macedo, Partner, Amster, Rothstein, & Ebenstein LLP

Charles R. Macedo is a partner at Amster, Rothstein & Ebenstein LLP, where his practice specializes in all facets of intellectual property including patent, trademark and copyright law. He has a special emphasis in computer implemented inventions with extensive experience in blockchain technology.

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