

From: Thomas A. Ward [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2011 1:43 PM
To: ai a_implementation
Subject: Inter Partes Reexamination - Settlement Conference

Dear Sir/Madam:

To help meet the 12 month deadline for completion of Inter Partes Reexamination (IPR), I recommend that at least one settlement conference be mandatory. Similar to court rules that require settlement conferences be conducted, the PTO rules can include provisions requiring the parties meet and confer to discuss settlement. To enable both parties to be best informed, and limit duties of the PTO, notification could be required from the parties that the settlement conference has been conducted approximately 10 days after both the requester and respondent have submitted briefs, but well prior to the PTAB decision in the case.

Regards,
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