

## **Transcript of June 5, 2023 Inventor Listening Session**

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**GRANT CORBOY:** Welcome everybody and thank you for joining the listening session on the patent pro bono program. I'm going to start off by introducing our general counsel of the USPTO Dave Berdan. Please come up.

**DAVE BERDAN:** I get the privilege of introducing Derrick Brent, who is our deputy undersecretary for commerce for intellectual property and Deputy Director of the USPTO. Derrick serves as the principle advisor to Kathy Vidal who is the undersecretary for commerce for intellectual property and Director of the USPTO and manages one of the largest IP organizations in the world. It has more than 13,000 employees and an annual budget of about \$4 billion dollars. Deputy Director Brent has served in all three branches of the Federal Government and he's also worked in the private sector. First, he clerked for Judge Marbly, the chief Judge for the U.S. District for the Southern District of Ohio and served six years as senior trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division where he received a special achievement award for his work.

He also served as Chief Counsel in the U.S. Senate where he handled IP issues along with other areas such as Constitutional law, civil rights, and judicial nominations. Deputy Director Brent's

experience in the private sector includes as Vice President and Associate General Counsel for MASIMO. The leadership team of Cut Golf and as an engineer at General Motors. The Deputy Director Brent received his Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from The Ohio State University. And a juris doctorate degree from the Northwestern School of Law, now known as the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. I would like to welcome Deputy Director Brent.

**DERRICK BRENT:** I want to thank everyone. It's a true privilege to be here. This subject matter, pro bono, has been one of my passions since joining the office, and I've had the privilege of working with folks in this area who are equally impassioned such as Dave, Will, Grant, Olivia, Janet, Jim who is up here and I got to meet Jonathan earlier and to the inventors I say hello to you. This is truly an honor and a privilege to be here today at this listening session.

I want to say a big thank you to everyone beyond the folks I've already mentioned from the Office of Enrollment and Discipline for everything you do to support the program. And to our attendees, thank you for your time. Thank you for being here. You are helping to improve lives and upgrade communities through the power of patents. You are on the leading edge of our nation's commitment to broadening participation in the innovation economy.

So, on behalf of Director Vidal the senior management team at the USPTO our patents business unit and examiners and colleagues at the USPTO, thank you for your commitment to this mission and commitment to our nation's inventors and entrepreneurs. Your civic engagement is what

makes this country great and is what inspires our hopes for the future. To comply with the requirements of the Unleashing American Innovators Act of 2022, UAIA we have been asked to complete the study of the patent pro bono program. In order to assess the engagement and health of these programs, Director Vidal and I have been visiting cities across the country. We have been meeting with provides, inventors, IP law students to discuss the value of intellectual property. We are trying to determine new ways to bring up and coming entrepreneurs and inventors into the innovation ecosystem. We've heard from people like you who are here with us tonight about how the patent pro bono program helped them grow their businesses and reach the marketplace. We have solicited suggestions on how to improve all aspects of operations and our country's IP system. We continue with this important inquiry here tonight. To that end, we invite you to share your experiences, your success stories, and your challenges with us. The anecdotes that only you can provide from your experience go a long way in broadening the reach of this program, it's real data and it is stuff, things that we can act upon. You will help keep the pro bono program focused and improve its efficacy. There is a consistent theme that runs through the USPTO pro bono programs. It is providing critical assistance to under-resourced inventors and serving as the bridge to an inclusive innovation economy. We are always open to your suggestions on how to improve and expand the scope of the pro bono program which is why today's event is so important. Thanks to the UAIA, we are posed to build upon these programs. We are appointed to expand their reach, provide more

resources, services, and opportunities. To do so, we need to understand where we need to improve. Hearing from inventors and small business owners like you helps us find way for our regional programs to best serve the people for whom the services are intended.

We know that when we meet people where they are, we bring more people into the innovation system. The data backs that up. That is one of our top priorities. I would like to thank the speakers here with us today for their time and efforts. Your participation in our listening session is greatly appreciated. The information will be included in a report to Congress with recommendations on how to change the program for the better. Please stay tuned for further developments through our agency subscriber alerts, newsletters and websites. Again, thank you for your participation and I look forward to your input. >>

Now I would like to call up Dr. Covey with the Office of Enrollment and Discipline

**WILL COVEY:** Thanks, that's a tough act to follow. Let me give a little more background on why we're here tonight and the Congressional Study that we're going to hopefully gather information about tonight. As Deputy Director Brent stated, there was an act passed by Congress the President signed at the end of December which included the requirement for the Office to have a report commissioned and gather input and see how can we make the program better. The program was initially set up through the American Invents Act in 2011, section 32 and set the program up and we have learned a tremendous amount over the 11 or so, 12 plus years. The studies due one year from now. We have been actively

working on gathering information so we can make sure that's the last thing I want to do is have a late congressional report, right. The study sets forth a couple of things and I want to go over them to make sure we get the information we need to hopefully make this report as thorough and comprehensive as possible. Because these are a couple of things that the act talked to us about and asked us to take a look at. Whether the program sufficiently serves participants, whether the programs are sufficiently funded, whether the participation requirements deter participation among inventors. Whether inventors are aware of the programs. Whether there are any factors that deter attorney participation and whether the programs would benefit by including non-attorney assistance. So in addition, the Study also is going to look at things that Director Vidal and Deputy Director Brent asked us to include related to the programs and we are actively doing that. Our purpose of these listening sessions tonight, by the way we're having another one on Wednesday for the attorneys so they can give us their thoughts, is to make you aware of what the USPTO is doing in regards to the pro bono program and how we're progressing with the Study and how you can help us. A complete list of the areas of the inquiry that we published related to tonight's listening session which was back in April is through our Federal Register notice and I think we're going to have a slide and a link to provide that to you where you can take a look at that.

We're using these listening sessions and the request for comments in the notice that we published obviously to get your feedback. We want

your feedback, even if it's not good news we still want to know how can we make the program better. There are things that we don't have visibility so we need your help with that.

Tonight, we're going to set the table for obtaining the feedback through these listening sessions. We have a full agenda here. We're going to start with the brief overview of the program as we currently have it and it's going to include some of the information that we've collected regarding demographics and some of the data that inventors who have participated with the program over the last few years. Hopefully that will be helpful in formulating some of your comments and thoughts as we move forward with the program.

We're also going to have a presentation, a newly created program by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board started roughly a year ago so we're going to get information on how that program is helping under-resourced inventors who have issues before the PTO. We're going to have a moderated panel of distinguished guests so thank you for coming to Alexandria and participating in these sessions. These are various stakeholders that will share their thoughts on how the program can work better and what you see from your vantage point. We're open to questions from the panelists also to the staff here at the USPTO. Lastly, there will be an open forum where you can provide any comments that you have regarding the pro bono program and you can continue to ask us programs as we formulate our report over the next few months. Before we move to the presentations I would like to encourage the audience to

share your thoughts and ideas on this program at the open forum portion at the end of this session.

Only upon hearing from you, the users of the program, will we be able to identify what and how we can make the program better. If you don't share your comments, we won't know about it. We really want to hear how we can make the program better.

So without further ado, let's get started with the program.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thanks Will, and I want to take this time, Will had mentioned the Federal Register notice where you can provide comments and I'm going to share my screen so you can actually see where you can provide comments. Open. So if you click on this link, it will take you to that Federal Register notice and you can provide your comments and it's a little bit more in depth than the 6 areas that Will went over. There are areas the Director really wants to investigate so I encourage you to go to that site and look at all the questions that are there and available for you to comment on.

So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Olivia Scheuer. She is the patent pro bono team lead and she will go over the patent pro bono program. So, I'll turn it over to you Olivia.

**OLIVIA SCHEUER:** Bring this way down. Thanks, Grant. So I want to thank everybody for joining us here today. I'm just going to give a quick overview of the pro bono program as Will mentioned some of the demographics and data we have collected so far that you can use to generate some of your ideas where the program is and where we can take it.

So the program started in 2011 under the American Invents Act. Congress gave the USPTO the mission to start up a program to help financially under-resourced independent and small businesses access the patent system. Over the last 12 or 13 years, we have partnered with individual organizations across the country that really help do the work of matching inventors to volunteer attorneys. Currently we have 20 regional programs that do that provide matching assistance between under-resourced inventors and small businesses and the volunteer practitioners and the real work of the program is to file and prosecute patent applications.

So we have noticed that there are plenty of benefits on both the USPTO and the inventor side of this program. One of the huge impacts to the inventors is that they finally have access to practitioners that they wouldn't be able to afford because they don't have the finances to obtain legal assistance. Based on our math, AIPLA published some numbers on the average hourly cost of a patent attorney. We estimate that more than \$36 million of services have been donated by legal professionals from 2015 to the present.

Now the next impacts are listed as benefits to USPTO but also are benefits to inventors. We have seen a big increase in participation in the patent system. The USPTO we really do want to have more participation by inventors of all financial ability in the system and we're seeing that through the program. We're seeing improved patent quality so that helps our examiners, but it also makes sure that inventors are able to have patents that they can enforce in the outside



world. And the program also serves as a supplement to pro se filing. So the agency has long had pro se assistance and this is just another way to help those inventors get the assistance that they need.

So here are a few program statistics of the life of the program and by the life of the program I mean from 2015 when it found its home in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline. That's when we started keeping tabs on the data associated with this program until the end of 2022. On average we see about 12,000 hours donated every single year by patent practitioners. Over the life of the program 95,000 hours have been donated. We see a little over 200 applications filed on behalf of inventors every year which has resulted in over 2000 applications filed since 2015.

A little bit on the demographics. So, when we collect the demographics which we started doing in 2021, it is completely optional, inventors do not have to respond to the survey when they file or apply for the program. And so, this is all optional data but of the people that are responding we're seeing about 43% of them are female. This is a huge jump from a study that the USPTO did back in 2018 which showed that women only represent about 13% of patent applicants named on granted patents. So, we're seeing much bigger representation of women through the patent pro bono program. And we're also seeing that as far as minorities are concerned, a much higher percentage than the standard U.S. population being represented by our patent pro bono applicants.

So, of the people that responded to the survey 35% were black or African-American, 7% identified as two or more, races. This map is a

great representation of the program as a whole. If you go to our website which I will provide a link with later, this is displayed very prominently on the website and it provides links to the individual programs. As I mentioned, there's 20 of them that provide services to people on a regional basis and this map is a representation of where those programs are.

So, a little bit of information on our regional programs. So, they are nonprofit organizations, generally focusing on copyrights and trademarks and through our partnership they have expanded that focus into patents. They also include universities and bar associations. They are completely independent of the USPTO. They cover an individual state or a group of states on a regional basis they follow general guidelines the agency sets but they are able to run their program however they see fit. And their main goal is to screen applicants so when I provide the website in a little bit you can go to that, you apply directly with the program, the program does a screening of the initial application, matches individuals with patent practitioners, and then they exit the relationship and the relationship is really between the inventor and the practitioner.

They screen for whether there's actually an invention, income, and knowledge of the patent system. So general criteria for inventors. Again, this are general guidelines we provide to our programs but the individual programs set their own standards so we really do encourage folks to reach out to the individual programs to find out what the requirements are in their geographical area. So generally, there is an

income of 300% of the federal positivity guidelines. So just for reference for a single person in 2023, that's about 43K, a little over \$43,000 a year of income that does scale with the number of folks that might be in your household.

Some programs do cap it as low as 200% and we have a few programs that do offer up to 400% of the poverty guidelines. Applicants have to demonstrate knowledge of the patent system. We want the inventors to get the most time out of the attorneys. We require inventors show a baseline knowledge before we match them with the practitioner so they can hit the ground running and get the most out of the assistance and to do that, most programs either ask that the inventor has filed a provisional patent application but our programs accept a certificate from a program completed through the USPTO website. It's about an hour long and it really just covers the foundations of the patent program.

It's available in English and Spanish. Obviously to get a patent you have to have more than just an idea, you need a true invention so we ask to be part of the program you meet that qualification. And then just based on the financial requirements of the program, most inventors are going to qualify for micro-entity status which would qualify them for an 80% reduction in fees. Inventors are still required to meet some of the other financial obligations that would come up beyond the attorney/client relationship which might include some of the regional programs do have administrative fee and there might be ancillary fees such as drawings and then any agency fees so that 20% of filing fees would be on the inventor to cover themselves.

As I mentioned, all of these criteria are set completely by the regional program so we suggest that you reach out directly to them to find out the requirement in your area. And one of the last things is sometimes within the patent system there are deadlines that kind of create some gridlock with matching with patent practitioners. For example, if a provisional application has been filed it would start a clock and so just being cognizant of that and leaving about a 3 to 6 month window that would allow the program to match you before your opportunity to file with the Office expires.

Matching with the patent practitioner is not guaranteed. Unfortunately, our biggest limitation in the program is volunteers. There might be a number of reasons why a volunteer doesn't take a case that otherwise gets through screening which includes patent practitioners specialize in specific technology areas and there might not be a practitioner that works in that technology that's willing to take cases at the time and so there's just not somebody there. And there might also be conflicts of interest where they have another client that has a similar technology that would bar them from taking on your case. We suggest following up with the regional program periodically to verify the status of your application but most programs will send a denial of services after a certain amount of time passes if they are unable to find a match.

So, as I promised, here is the website that you should go to if you're interested in finding out more about the patent pro bono, it's U.S. [USPTO.gov/pro bono patents](https://www.uspto.gov/pro-bono-patents). On the back is that big beautiful map

I showed earlier. Scroll down, find the state and click on that state and it will take you directly to the program that provides services. Of course, my team is always here to help. So if this gets really confusing, feel free to reach out to us at any point in time. We can be reached at email at [pro bono@USPTO.gov](mailto:pro bono@USPTO.gov). The reason we're here is to solicit feedback for our Study. There are plenty of ways to do that. Of course you're at one of them right now. There will be another one of these listening sessions held this Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 and of course written comments will be accepted until July 11 through the [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) link.

And with that, I am going to invite up vice chief Janet Gongola who is going to give a nice presentation on the PTAB pro bono program

**JANET GONGOLA:** Good evening everyone. Thank you very much for having me here to talk about the PTAB pro bono program. Our program was able to make great benefit of the patent pro bono program in establishing ourselves so we stood on the shoulders of giants in coming in to be the new kid on the block.

So, I'm going to tell you similar to what Olivia shared how the program is structured, who are the players, and what the process is for an inventor to participate in the program. So similar to the patent pro bono program, PTAB pro bono is designed for financially under-resourced inventors, inventor groups, and inventor owned small businesses to be matched with a volunteer patent practitioner, either an attorney or an agent, to secure free legal help before the board and currently appeal proceedings eventually AIA trial proceedings. The goal of our program

is to assist innovators to be able to bring their innovations to impact and Director Vidal's quote on this slide indicates.

Now similar to patent pro bono and you're probably going to hear me say that phrase quite often during this presentation, we see benefits for both the inventors as well as the practitioner volunteers. For the inventors the financial barrier to entry into the patent system is lowered through this program. They also are going to receive aid in making, organizing, their arguments before the patent trial and appeal board. This isn't to say they couldn't be effective on their own, but who doesn't benefit from having a second or a third set of eyes assisting you. Teamwork is typically always better than the work of an individual.

And then on the flip side, for our volunteer practitioners, they are able to provide pro bono help in the field of their practice. So they don't have to offer their services in immigration cases or perhaps asylum cases. They are able to offer free legal help in the area where they have comfort, knowledge and experience. Hopefully by volunteering through this program, they build new contacts in the community and perhaps eventually establish a paying client.

The PTAB pro bono program is one singular program with nationwide coverage. The program is administered by one clearinghouse, the PTAB Bar Association. And we'll talk more about the role that the PTAB Bar Association plays as distinct from the USPTO momentarily.

Okay. Our program launched just about one year ago. At that point in time, the program was set up for individual inventors only. As

time went on, we realized that we could expand the program out so this past April we grew from serving inventors only to inventor groups and inventor owned small businesses.

Additionally, during the first few months of the program, we did not have any uptake of usage within the inventor community so we realized that it would be beneficial for us to maybe remove some of the eligibility requirements. We'll talk more about them in detail but we expanded the income that an inventor can earn in order to qualify for free legal help. We also opened the door to their experience with the patent system by eliminating the micro-entity requirement.

This means that an inventor is not restricted on the number of prior filed applications that they could have had to qualify for free legal help. By opening the doors to the program as we have, we have now received four applications from inventors who want to participate in the program and those four inventors have successfully been matched with volunteer attorneys. So, the change in course we made seems to be putting us on the right direction pathway.

Eventually later this year, it is our intent to grow the program from ex parte appeals into the AIA trial arena assisting patent owners with their filings in these trial proceedings. And eventually we're hoping to be able to service petitioners as well but one step at a time.

Now, for the eligibility. So first we're going to discuss who is involved. We have all the inventors, we also have our PTAB Bar Association functioning as the clearinghouse, and we have our volunteer attorneys. The PTAB Bar Association is the true administrator of the

program. They set the requirements for entry. They secure volunteers to represent the inventors. They do all of the screening of applications and all of the matchmaking. The USPTO is not listed on this slide because we are in the background as a supporting entity helping the Bar Association publicize the availability of the free legal help and assisting them in connecting with various inventor groups so that inventors are out there and know about the availability of this free legal help. Now, for an inventor and you can basically take these criteria and apply it to every inventor within an inventor group and every inventor who owns a small business. But there's a variety of eligibility requirements. The inventor has to be located in the United States. Olivia talked a bit about the income limit. The income limit is set at 400% of the federal poverty guidelines which for an individual is around \$58,000, but it is scalable and I'll show you that momentarily for a household based upon the number of members of that household. Now, because our appeal process has set time frames, there is a window within which inventors have to apply for the free legal help.

They have one month from the date of a final rejection or a second office action rejection of their invention to seek help. That will then give the program enough time to find a volunteer attorney to help them and put the papers on the record in their particular appeal. If an inventor files outside of that timing window, at this point we are not able to accept them into the program, so that's why it's very important for awareness of the program to be out in the veteran community so they know there's a clock ticking for them to ask for that free legal help.



They also have to demonstrate knowledge of the program by watching a video that we have available on our website. We want inventors to be informed about what the program can and cannot do for them. So that their expectations are set when they come in the door. That's why we ask them to make sure they inform themselves before they apply. They also have to have a rejection that is appealable and they have to be the owners of the invention they cannot be under an obligation to assign the invention over to a large sized entity. That would defeat the purpose of our pro bono program in helping under-resourced inventors if they could say transfer the invention over to a large size profitable entity but then still qualify for free legal help. As I indicated, this slide lists the requirements for an inventor but they apply if you're an inventor group or inventor own small business to each member of that business. This is intended to show you the scaling income limit based upon the size of the household. So, I indicated one person around 58,000 but if the household would include, say, four individuals, the income limit is \$120,000.

For our program, the inventor attests that they meet the income limit. We do not look behind that attestation, tax forms, anything of the sort, they don't have to prove up that the income limit is met, they simply make the statement that it is met and we facially accept it.

The clearinghouse PTAB Bar Association does our screening and our matching. As I indicated earlier, they are independent of the agency. So, they are looking at the whole United States when they are determining what the eligibility criteria should be. They also are very

proactive in seeking volunteers. On the day we launched our program, which was a little over a year ago, we had 60 volunteer attorneys raise their hand to say they want to participate. So the support that the PTAB Bar Association members has given to the program has been tremendous. We just want to find the inventors to match them up with so the dance can begin.

So, for practitioners to participate, we want the inventors to have some sense of assurance that the practitioner is qualified and competent to represent them. We don't want inventors to be left with the idea that the patent PTAB program is a teacher for that program. We ask that the volunteers have membership in a bar either a state bar or the USPTO bar. They have experience in the technology as well as the proceeding type. We don't want this opportunity to be the first time that the volunteer cuts their teeth on a matter before the board. They also must provide their own malpractice insurance. Our program does not provide malpractice insurance. And then they have to agree to do the representation that falls within the scope of the representation agreement for free.

Now maybe they will agree separately to continue representation for a service insurance, but within the scope of the program, the attorneys may not charge for the service they provide.

Now, how does the process work? So, an inventor who is interested in securing free legal help will apply on our website or on the PTAB bar association's website. There's a form made available that they have to fill out with some basic information basically tracking the individual

eligibility requirements. The PTAB Bar Association receives the application and then they will distribute it out to the network of volunteers. The volunteers look through the application, they determine are they available, do they have the requisite experience, have they done this type of proceeding before so they can actually be useful, and if so, they will raise their hand and say hey, we would like to represent this individual.

Once they are matched, then the representation basically goes outside of the scope of the USPTO and the PTAB Bar Association and it's a matter between the inventor and the volunteer attorney to continue to completion. If we are not able, and we attempt to achieve matching within one month from the date we receive the application, if we are not able to accomplish that match, we will send a letter to the inventor letting them know, unfortunately we do not have a volunteer practitioner available to help you at this point in time.

That's important for the inventors in an appeal or eventually in an AIA trial proceeding because there is a time clock ticking on these proceedings so it's not that they can wait some indefinite duration until a volunteer would become available. So, to leave you, I want to flag a few resources for you where you can find more details about what I talked about today or if you're an inventor or a volunteer out there and you're interested in signing up, on the slide I've listed for you the PTAB Bar Association website as well as our USPTO website where more information can be found.

So please check out those resources. Alternatively, feel free to contact the Bar Association or contact the USPTO. We are here, we stand ready to help. We have a small team who works on PTAB pro bono so very likely you'll get me or one of two other individuals that work on this team and we're very grateful to help you. So this concludes my portion. I look forward to any questions or comments you may have and I'll turn things back over to our moderator, Grant Corboy.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thank you very much, Janet we really appreciate that. I am the moderator for today's listening session. I'm excited about this. We have a great panel here today and these panelists, the reason we chose them, is they've either had a direct or indirect relation with the patent pro bono program, so they are going to be able to share their thoughts and experiences with the program.

And so I'd like to start by introducing this panel starting to my right, your left, with Jim Patterson. Jim Patterson is the founder of Patterson Thuente IP, located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The patent pro bono program got its start over a decade ago through Jim's leadership in launching this program in his home state. Jim has been instrumental in achieving the patent pro bono program in all 50 states. Thank you. Internationally Jim continues his lead role in the creation of ongoing expansion of the international patent pro bono program managed by the World Inventors Assistance Program, an initiative undertaking in conjunction with the World Economic Forum. As an attorney, Jim has 30 plus years' experience in all elements of intellectual property prosecution whether it's patents, trademarks or copyrights, even in

litigation. He has spent his legal career helping companies and individual inventors profit and protect their intellectual property.

Next to Jim we have John Da Silva. Jonathan Da Silva is an assistant Professor at Penn State law and the Director of the Intellectual Property Law Clinic at the Happy Valley Launch Box in State College, Pennsylvania. Jonathan develops curriculum and processes for experiential learning for law students at Penn State Law and coordinates the activity of the IP clinic with Invent Penn State initiative and launchbox network and with other economic development and public outreach initiatives. Jonathan directs the patent pro bono program through the clinic. Jonathan is the founder and principal of his solo boutique intellectual property law firm MMI located in Erie, Pennsylvania. Jonathan is global counsel for multinational corporations as well as universities, small business and vendor and creatives at all stages and development. He is admitted to practice before the United States patent and trademark office.

Next to Jonathan we have Brian Fried. Brian Fried is known as the inventors coach and highly accomplished innovator author and speaker with 15 patents to his name. He has successfully licensed and manufactured his own inventions getting recognitions through QVC, infomercials and catalogs. Brian has been working closely with inventors invention licensing agent and guiding inventors in commercializing their ideas into tangible products. As an expert speaker, Brian captivates audiences with his engaging talks and on innovation and invention. He has authored three books offering

practical advice and strategies for aspiring inventors. Brian hosts got invention show that showcases inventors and creators providing them with valuable exposure. Brian is the founder of the National Inventor Club, a community that supports and connects inventors fostering collaboration and networking opportunities. He serves as the chief invention officer of Inventor Smart that assists inventors in bringing their ideas to fruition. In June 2023, right around the corner, Brian is set to launch the Inventor Smart community app, a social media and resources center exclusively designed for inventors. This app is available for download on Google Play and the Apple app store and aims to create a vibrant community and access valuable resources. With his experience, resourcefulness, and commitment to helping inventors succeed, Brian Fried has become a trusted figure in the industry. Inventors can rely on him to navigate the complexities of the process and turn their ideas into reality. Thank you, Brian.

Finally and not lastly, we have Charles Sauer. He is a seasoned economic policy author, President and founder of the Market Institute. Charles began developing his expertise in finance and tax by working for the Chairman of the finance committee and then going on to be a legislative analyst focused on tax, immigration, and labor issues in a governor's office. Charles was named Deputy Legislative Director for the National Center For Policy Analysis or NCPA, a think tank dedicated to finding free market alternatives to government regulation. After his time with the NCPA, he was President of the Entrepreneurs for Growth that educated Hill staff on entrepreneurship. Charles then founded

Inventors Project which he uses to educate inventors and activate inventors regarding public policy effecting intellectual property. He founded the Market Institute in 2010 which he serves as President today. Charles serves on the board of the United Inventors Association. Charles has authored the book Profit Motivate, What Drives the Things We Do, and is a frequent voice appearing in outlets like the Washington Examiner, Forbes, Inventors Business Daily and many more. Charles was recently named Washington top five influencing public policy and Charles is an inventor as well as a mentor for other inventors.

Before I begin with questions, I ask you hold them until the end. We will have time to ask questions at that time. On to our first question. So Jim I'm going to start with you, then just go down the line with the same question. Just again, briefly describe your role, experience, or perspective on the patent pro bono program.

**JIM PATTERSON:** It will be hard for me to be brief on that subject. But we'll give it a try. At the very beginning there was concern about whether attorneys would volunteer and there was also concern morning inventor community about whether the program was real and whether it was something that they could trust. As to the first issue all of us involved with the program were very presently surprised by the bar, bars all across United States stepping up with lawyers that are willing to help. And seasoned lawyers. Janet mentioned earlier that the concern would it be a proving ground for attorneys and the answer is no. We've had very seasoned attorneys that step up and also seasoned attorneys that look at it as a mentoring issue for attorneys. I am sure we have

been going issues have been going on between attorneys and clients but noun have come to my awareness. In terms of the inventors, again, initially and it's good for there to know where we are now. There was a lot of push back quite frankly. Right, the government's giving me something free. We got a lot of that attitude. Well, first of all the program is greatly assisted by the patent office and thank you, Grant, for your role over the many years and all that you've done. The but it is individual nonprofit associations that coordinate the services offered by attorneys and also reaching out to inventors. And again, there is still resistance that we run into but that is been reduced I think to background noise. The program has proven itself and inventors have rightly come to trust it. In terms of looking back and looking forward, the only bar to getting more attorneys to volunteer is going out and asking them, that's been my experience. And in terms of inventors willing or unwilling to participate in the program the only bar is getting the word out which falls on all of us.

**GRANT CORBOY:** What's your role and perspective on the patent pro bono program ?

**JONATHAN D' SILVA:** I got introduced as running the intellectual property clinic. For those of you that don't know, many law schools have programs for cutting their teeth doing real working a real attorney. Unlike the patent pro bono program these are Green Law students who have never seen a client before and my job is to teach them here is what the practice is like. When I was asked to run the pro bono program for Pennsylvania, it was actually an easy step for us to do because our



network was already set up for all kind of intellectual property, things they already do. All we have to do is apply that program to the pro bono program and add volunteer attorneys.

As we're just fairly new about four months, six months now, we don't have a lot of volunteers and we haven't a chance to ask. One of the nice things about being attached to the clinical program in the law school, for things that the pro bono program is not designed trademarks, copyrights, trade secret, we do that. We fill in that gap for everything else at least that the entrepreneurs need that the patent office doesn't provide. In addition, we have our entrepreneurship clinic which does corporate formation, contracts, licensing and our network of University prototyping and our relationships with the SBA, SBCD's helping people form companies and doing the ground work and marketing and priority searching, 90% of the people who apply have not actually even done some don't even know how to use Google which is something that needs to be addressed which is nice to have students to do.

But stepping into this, the pro bono program adds another layer of respectability. We are not just flying from the seat of our pants, we are recognized by the Patent Office at the same time bringing people into the network that already exists in Pennsylvania that the patent office doesn't see and that's really helpful.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Brian?

**BRIAN FRIED:** Thank you, Grant. And by the way I wanted to say thank you. You have the best name in the United States Patent and Trademark

Office, Grant, that's what we all strive for, I've been wanting to say that and so thank you, Grant, for having me and giving me the opportunity to address you today. This is an important topic. There are inventors across America that are not aware this program is available. Personally, I have 15 issued patents. I've been running inventors' groups for 16 plus years. And just stats on that. I've had over 14,000 unique inventors come through the doors of my inventor clubs over the years and probably some that didn't put their name down on the attendance sheet. I wanted to say that being involved with PTAB, Elizabeth Doherty here, as well with the innovation outreach team, there is different platforms and different channels of ways I look to get the word out to the innovating and innovation community by letting them understand that these type of opportunities are available to them. But it's just not enough. And it seems like as much as I can get the word out, there's still inventors that are going online, searching and just not sure where they end up. But the first thing they should see is the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the guidance to assist them and be aware these type of opportunities are available to them and that's one thing that is my mission is to be able to get the word out, give them the right information, guide them to the right resources, and that's why I'm here today. So thank you.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thank you. Charles.

**CHARLES SAUER:** Thank you for having us. One of the things I find amazing about the USPTO is the engagement that each of the individuals and the organization has in the community and what's cool to me about

that is that I've had that experience on a personal level. I've had it on an organizational level and I haven't just and had it here, I've had it across the country. I went to a pinewood derby race in Berk Virginia which is suburban Virginia and Elizabeth Doherty a little table out with her thing in the middle of the girl scout event promoting innovation and had cards.

A couple of years later and at the time Director Iancu came and visited an elementary school to talk to little kindergartners who had built invention out of cardboard and tape and love. I did have to tell my daughter she wasn't going to get a patent after that. But the way that the twinkle in her eye and the idea she could invent was a fire that was lit and this is what amazes me about the patent off it didn't stop with the Director Iancu. The Patent Office came out and was with that same elementary school and that's what we don't see in government.

Now, one of the things I want to talk about the pro bono program in particular is that it's something that I think if it was around could have affected my life and my mother's life, and it's one of the problems I think that one of the reasons I want to figure out if we can solve a problem. I had a single mom. She was sitting on a couch one day trying to figure out how to feed a growing boy. Not the smallest kid. I took a lot of food to feed and she was trying to figure this out as an artist. She goes somebody developed that pet rock and if somebody can develop a pet rock I can develop an invention and I can help my family get what we need. So she developed a ball, it was a baseball, football at the time Bo Jackson was in the news. She ended up giving away 10,000

at the special Olympics getting them on the shelves of the local Wal-Mart but at the time she had to take on an inventor to get the patent. She would have qualified for the patent pro bono program she could have gotten her invention and held onto that maybe had the speed and the momentum she needed to actually get different terms with an inventor and different inventors that would help her make it to market or further into market. She made it to market it ended up not going very well but there are some great legal cases you can look it up and have fun. I think it was Debbie Sauer versus the USPTO. It's a fun case, don't worry about. At the end of the day this is a program that I think helps people but when I am talking to inventors across the country nobody comes up to me and says how do I find out more about the patent pro bono program or is the patent pro bono program real. Nobody has ever said is there a PTAB pro bono program. Nobody is asking about these programs, they always ask me if I can find them help. If I know somebody who will invest in them. If I know somebody that, a lawyer that will give them a discount. And the fact is that the program exists, it's the patent pro bono program. Nobody knows it exists so we need to figure out how to get that word out there further.

I have ideas kind of on that and I think there's just some structural problems with everything. But along with that, I think at the end of the day, everybody that's at the USPTO has their heart in the right place. It's a good program that solves the problem and that's an expensive patent system. I don't know if maybe this is the right invention to solve that problem

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thank you. Well, we can start with you then. What are the major challenges that you see that face the patent pro bono program, Charles.

**CHARLES SAUER:** On this, and you know, I really, I will almost give Jim all of my answers and cede him all of my time. The big one for me is the incentives of the program. My day job, I'm an economist. I look at the incentives and what drives people. Some way at the top level we currently have the USPTO running a program that's basically filing patents for people. So, the question becomes a moral question of well, why, don't they file for more people? Why is the cutoff where it is. And I don't think there's a good answer to that. I think that, you know, I don't have a spot in the invention space maybe I should qualify but I'm above those requirements and I don't think that you guys should necessarily pay for that.

But we can also apply those same arguments moving down the system if there was an idea about if a patent was worthwhile to spend time on, that might be the answer. That's not going to be the answer either because nobody is going to be able to make that decision on if a patent is worthwhile before it's filed or moved anyway. So, I think personally there's a problem with incentives in the system. I think that if it was out, let's say I was running the patent pro bono system, I would know the economic impact of all of those patents that have been filed. I don't think that's the role of the USPTO to figure out the value of that, but I think that's one of the hold backs on the whole system

**GRANT CORBOY:** Great. Thank you.

**BRIAN FRIED:** By empowering inventors with knowledge of the program, we can ensure that those who need assistance, that most are aware of the available resources and have a clear roadmap to follow. It's essential that inventors understand the program's eligibility practice criteria and how to navigate the process effectively. This clarity will help them make informed decisions about seeking legal assistance and pursuing the protection and commercialization of their inventions. It's crucial that we bridge the knowledge gap and ensure that inventors with limited funds have equal opportunity to commercialize their inventions. Through the PTAB pro bono program, while the USPTO sent serves as a valuable resource, we must consider alternative avenues to reach inventors who may not actively be searching for this type of information online and just a couple points because I've been working with Janet Gongola, Chief Judge and her team. Really, looking and finding ways to help and get the word out. One of the things that we came to a conclusion on is really and we've all said it already, the awareness of the program.

Many inventors are not aware that free legal help is there to file a patent application and to an appeal even an adverse examiner rejection exists because they don't know, they don't take advantage of the patent or PTAB pro bono programs. Better communication to inventors would go a long way to increase program usage and as far as eligibility requirements, the eligibility requirements are not straightforward and easy to understand. In particular, the income limit is keyed off the federal poverty guidelines. People normally are not aware of financials set forth in the federal poverty guidelines and guidance. They have to

track this information down and that's a deterrent. Additionally, the micro-entity limit is confusing. People normally don't understand what it means to be a micro-entity. They, again, have to track this information down which is another deterrent. Many are just making the eligibility or I should say making the eligibility requirements more straightforward and easier for a layperson to understand would facilitate inventors to pursue use of the program rather than run away from it as overly complex. Thank you.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thank you. Jon, you're unique you just started a program so what do you see as the challenges that face the program?

**JONATHAN D'SILVA:** Well, it seems to me that like most of the people actually apply that come to the clinic don't see themselves as inventors or entrepreneurs. They see themselves as people with ideas they want to protect. A lot of our conversations with people are explaining to them what the difference types of intellectual property are and even then understanding just having an idea isn't enough. It's got to be something that's worth your time and our time and understanding that the patent is just one step in an entire process.

If you say a patent is what I want to get, you are missing out on 80% of everything else which includes market research, prototyping, is this idea even worth something. A lot of people who come to us about 80% of them, have never even, like I said, looked up whether or not their idea exists. So, while coming to the Patent Office and getting a patent or an inventor matched with a pro bono attorney is great, but it's only 10% of the people who have applied for the pro bono program.

80% are still in the process of either doing product searching or developing their idea to a point where actually we can describe something.

So it is, I don't think it's just getting the word out the pro bono program exists but also understanding it's a process that has many, many, many steps, and very few people will actually get to the stage of filing a patent. How do you separate the weak from the chaff from your ideas. You have to let people fail fast because the sooner they fail, the sooner they can work on something that will actually work. Generally, your first idea is never the one that hits the market or the idea you come to the patent office with is never the one that's going to be the one on the shelves.

So you want to get there with as far in your development as possible and that means finding resources in the community, in the entrepreneurial space where your idea can be vetted and at least developed a little bit and that requires a lot of input and buy in from the people in your community. And we're lucky at Penn State because of our regional, state-wide network and our relations with SBA and the inventors and the like, but I know it's not the same everywhere. But it took us a long way to get there, and there are services outside of what the USPTO can provide. That includes relationships with other universities, with marketing and logistics and supply chains and all of that which are, which patents are important, but not the end-all, be-all because we all know a very small percentage of patents actually make money and there's a reason for that.



**GRANT CORBOY:** Jim.

**JIM PATTERSON:** John, I think your comment on a lack of understanding of what the patent program can do for an entrepreneur is very apt, and I don't think I really thought about it in that terms as applied to the pro bono program because that's a problem I have with my general clients and my sophisticated clients. And it is a large part of my counseling as a lawyer. That's a very good insight. And as to the economic guidelines, Brian, I have never thought about it, the fact they would be confusing, but you're absolutely right. And could be a barrier in themselves. Somebody has to prove they are not worthy because they don't make enough money and I just don't want to deal with it and I don't understand it anyway, and I think that's a very good point.

To your question, Grant, as to what I think the biggest problem going forward or that needs to be solved to keep us moving forward, comes down to one word. Money. And money for what? In order to match attorneys with inventors, you have to have something, someone, some organization in the middle that can assemble roles of attorneys that are willing and then can screen inventors so to make sure, quite frankly, among other things that once there is that match we're not wasting the time of a volunteer. And I say that not because people need to be worthy to volunteer but because the ask for the attorney to prepare a patent can be thousands if not tens of thousands of dollars. You need to conserve that resource of willing attorneys by matching them with inventors that have been screened to have at least the fundamentals of what they need before they go to an attorney.

In order to do that matching that is done appropriately so by nonprofit organizations throughout the country that are modeled after other pro bono organizations that have been in place for decades. And they need money to hire staff. So if you would say, again, what's the biggest problem, it's money. Having said that, the listeners might say the Patent Office, they are huge. They make money, what's the problem. And the problem of course is those federal dollars belong in a certain sphere and the contribution of the Patent Office is remarkable and is the only instance to my knowledge of where the federal government does fund a pro bono program. The Patent Office is doing its part, but quite frankly, as someone not associated with the patent office, I can say the ask on the money isn't that large and could be much more. Charlie, you brought up some great comments and thoughts in terms of where is the cut off level.

There's lots of ways to attack where the cut off level should be. Certainly, if a Bill Gates or his ilk walked in asking for free work, that wouldn't seem appropriate in a pro bono environment. It might be appropriate in an academic environment because the issues would be huge, they would be able to be teaching students, but for the pro bono, absolutely not.

By raising the income level of course you have more people that can apply and at some point, however, you run into the private bar and then the question is a legitimate question, well, it's like for the example of the Bill Gates type person why can't you pay for your own.

I do think that the current levels that range from 200 to 400% are a long way from running into the private bar. And could be increased but they shouldn't be increased just by let's make it another 200% and see what happens. I think it should be done in consultation with some of the state bar associations or whatever. Because you just don't want to run into that resistance for lots of good reason.

Then the idea of the economic impact of the patents that have been granted under the program and wouldn't it be great to do that study. I'll refer back to John, one of your comments that there aren't -- there are very few patents of all those that are issued that actually generate income for the owner. It's not the only reason to have patents, and this is not the forum to go into that. But that's not a function of our system, that's a function of human nature and of our society. But it is so fundamental to have that right, it was written right into our Constitution, article 1 Section 8, there will be a patent system. If you look just at the numbers, whose affected, you miss the benefit to society by having this program. Society gets the advantage of all those ideas. The number of patents granted through the program which is significant, we're not at the point yet where you can say oh, here is 10, 2 dozen, 5 dozen, they generated a lot of money but certainly it is enough to say we have advanced a long way towards tapping that resources of folks that are under-resourced in their income that have lose wonderful ideas we need to bring into the public

**GRANT CORBOY:** So along those lines, what do you see as the opportunities, this is a blank slate and if you want to improve the

program just let us know and I'll start with you, Jim, what are the opportunities or areas for improvement for the patent pro bono program as you see it.

JIM PATTERSON I said the biggest problem, money, and I wouldn't come back and say we need more money. Although that's a real thing. But when you think about the problem, these are services that are being donated gratis for those in, that need them and wouldn't otherwise get them. But you get back to the problem of you can teach someone how to fish or to give them a fish, right. When you get into pro bono helping a single mom getting thrown out of her apartment because she can't afford a lawyer and the landlord is absolutely off the rails, easy to get people, it's an easier lift to go find sponsors to go find people that are willing to give to organizations that do that. When you go out and say that is wonderful and now that the single mom has been thrown out of her apartment she has these valuable ideas and we're going to work with her and essentially teach her how to fish, right. That's harder, that's a harder case to make to somebody who has the wealth to want to donate to somebody to help somebody. I don't have an easy answer, but if we recognize that as a problem how this can be funded in the long-term to not just go the ten years it has which is remarkable to be established to go for decades, I think we have to solve that problem in terms of people willing to fund the organizations that do this sort of work to reach out to inventors and teach them that and show them that you are making a very real valuable contribution.

**GRANT CORBOY:** John, what do you see as the areas of improvement since you've come online?

**JONATHAN D'SILVA:** I think if all your tools are hammers and everything looks like a nail, patents are, like I said, part of a network of entrepreneurial economic activity. And if you, I spent a lot of time talking people out of patents either because they are not ready or other avenues that are available to them. And that's in my practice. And in the law school clinic and in the pro bono program the economics change because they are not paying for me directly. But there's a lot of benefit for connecting people for the network of economic development agencies and volunteers and students and it's a growing recognition that entrepreneurship is something that like a rising tide floats all boats. All of us benefit from the connections that exist in the community of makers that are our towns, villages, states - people connect because they say they need help and people are available to give it to them either at low cost no cost or just because they want to see their community succeed.

And for all of the people that come to our program either through the clinic or through the pro bono program that don't get passed on to the volunteer, they are not dropped they are connected to the network and they connect.

So the problem is more than just throw money at the USPTO it's what other economic development agencies and community assets need to be brought together. One of the biggest problems that I've seen in every community that I've worked at is getting past the egos of how many

people control money that for economic development how many inventors have I brought through, how many patents have I gotten and businesses have I started rather than how do all of us and something succeed more than just us. One of the reasons I do what I'm doing is because it's not about me, it's about us. I don't know how to get people to stop thinking about me. If I knew how to solve that problem we wouldn't be here, right. If I had more money I could tell people about other people helping themselves

**GRANT CORBOY:** Brian.

**BRIAN FRIED:** This is a dangerous one for me, Grant, because you're asking problem solution and as an inventor I definitely have solutions in mind. Might take a little while. I wanted to just gather my thoughts. I wrote something down. The first thing I think is consider changing the name pro bono or adding some extra words to it like free inventor legal help just something a little bit more than pro bono because some people may not necessarily know what pro bono means. They are not going online looking for pro bono help for patent filing or PTAB filing or help and what's PTAB, right. Everything should be a little bit easier defined. One effective approach is to collaborate with organizations like the national inventor club and other local inventor clubs like Kris Paul's from Virginia and DC. He has a great group and there's plenty out there locally that meet. By actively engaging with these communities we can disseminate information about the patent pro bono program directly to inventors who are already seeking support and guidance through monthly meetings online livestreaming sessions and in

person events. We can educate inventors about the program it's benefits and how to access it. The program can offer workshops, in person at local inventor clubs or at the USPTO including a tour like my national inventor club members, Janet and her staff hosted a virtual meeting where inventors came here and a tour and really learned about all the opportunities available from USPTO. There should be more people that have the opportunity to do that.

Host virtual meetings for inventors to sign up for and have USPTO representatives to guide people through the application and criteria. I think also we must leverage various communication channels to spread awareness. Public service announcements I think are really important. Local media coverage. You could talk about inventors that have gone through the program and share their experiences. I think social media is really important. Those are powerful tools to reach inventors and inform them about the pro bono program. Utilizing these channels can raise awareness among inventors at large and ensure they are informed of the resources available. We should consider Jim, maybe this might work for you, but incentivizing lawyers and patent agents who actually want to work or work closely with inventors. By providing these professionals with up-to-date information about the patent pro bono program they can serve as valuable ambassadors and ensure their inventor clients are aware of this crucial support system.

We also have the PTRC, Patent and Trademark Resource Center, helping with patent searches most likely this is at the start of an inventor's journey. They go there first to search for their inventions.

They are given guidance to go through the patent search experience. And you can connect with them and they have offices at the locations and with each appointment they can know about the patent pro bono programs available to them.

Another one that I've a chance to become really close with is the Small Business Administration - SCORE and The Small Business Development Center, SBDC. They are found on campuses throughout the USA. There are so many local campuses and the SBDC's are available there. They can be a good connection and a reciprocal arrangement because many of the people that are going there are starting new businesses. A lot of them have ideas, they are involved in some kind of intellectual property protection, possibly a patent for what they have, and I think that the two organizations can come together and find some good opportunities between them.

That's when they start their entrepreneurial side, their new business. They need appointments and they are working with entrepreneurs, inventors, startups and they can guide people to the pro bono program also. You need I have a couple good connections there but I think you guys can connect up with them too.

It's also important to simplify the eligibility and application process by removing unnecessary barriers and making the program more accessible. We can encourage inventors from all programs to take advantage of the services available to them. Just a little bit more. From the USPTO side, I think there should be better communication channels to inventors. From what I understand and I've experienced,



there's no singular way to reach inventors about the program or tools that may assist them in the innovation journey. As a result, many inventors are not aware of the various programs and tools that the USPTO has available to help inventors because inventors utilize different communication means. The USPTO may consider diversifying the way it puts out information to inventors, that way the USPTO may be able to better reach inventors where they are. The USPTO could better use social media like I mentioned earlier. Pass through publications to inventor organizations and develop an email subscription center exclusively for inventors. Right now, Grant, none of the email subscription on your website pages, they don't have the word inventor or entrepreneurship or similar descriptive terms. Inventors may not know which to select to receive relevant and basic information.

Many inventors are working folks and much of the USPTO programming is during business hours. Tough. It would be much easier if inventors a chance to attend USPTO programming in the evenings or on the weekends. Something to consider that's when they are not working. Thanks.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Yeah, I would like to point out that it is 6:58 right now so we are here after work but, yes, that's a great idea. Charles, go ahead.

**CHARLES SAUER:** Thank you. One of the major problems here, I mean we talked I think it's a 4 billion dollar budget that's coming through here that's a lot of money. This is one of the only pieces of government that's actually in the Constitution and it's at one of those important responsibilities that people don't talk about enough. But I think when

we start talking about some of the other programs and as I started off by saying what the USPTO does and the services it provides and the people that it has providing them are amazing, I think it gets a little bit lost, these other programs all get a little lost. I know that the pro se program exists. I don't think that I knew that they actually have like, you know, you can come in on like Wednesday and get additional help. That's amazing. But I don't even know that exists and that's been around for a while.

When we start talking about add on programs, these add on programs as the pro bono program is, starts getting lost, especially when you have this main Constitutional thing that's being provided. And so I'm not exactly sure how to solve it. Again, I think it's an incentive problem. I think that when you look at what the money that's coming in and where it's going to, I think it's to actually fulfill the mission of the USPTO and that's to grant patents. I like it. You now have me every time I look at him, I'm going to see Grant. He makes me happy. I think it's good but I think it's an important problem that it needs to be something that can be solved that's been solved before in other organizations but I think it's something that you have to keep bringing up. How do we let people know about these services that we do? How do we get the word out there? Because we've got this other stuff and it's going on but we need to be able to get this information to the right people and I think it needs to stay at the forefront and given the snake draft way that we're doing this tonight it's fun to debate with Jim a little bit because it takes him multiple people before he has a chance

to rebut me. When inventors come in and ask for things, the first thing that they always for is money. And that's almost the last thing that they ever need and I think in this case it fits the same. I think that we need more direction on what the patent pro bono system is doing, how it's going to help inventors, what it's actual change for society is. I think 2000 extra patents might not mean much. I think if we don't have investors that are investing in those patents. If we aren't taking the time to actually do that other than that we're just filling in numbers. But I think that the numbers that we see are good if people are investing in them and we've gone through that.

And I think Jonathan was talking about that on the extra piece that goes through it. Just as inventors come and I think money is probably the last thing here until that whole business plan is filled in.

**GRANT CORBOY:** I'm going to step in. It goes back to him and then you.

**JONATHAN D'SILVA:** The money is important for the programs to run. Right now, the limiting factor I have is I don't have enough students to meet with all of these inventors that come to me because I can't pay them over the summer. I'm paying them 13 bucks an hour over the summer that's not a huge ask. I understand but that's if that hasn't been happening and you haven't gotten outside people to donate, then the answer to all inventors are you haven't proved your market, you don't have your market. Coming in and saying more money is one the thing, like in this room I guess if you go back and you're talking inside and you're saying we need to bring money in but up here we're talking about

the Federal government. I think that's looking from one source that doesn't have that same business plan model. When I was asked one time whether the National Parks Service should put out a national parks app and I was like yeah, sure, whatever. But then you start thinking about it and the idea is in any business before you invested in an app and decided on an app, you would go talk to people and see if the need was out there and see if it was going to provide some sort of service that people actually cared about and wanted.

And I think in this case if donors are coming in and supplementing this which they should because again, it's like the only thinking in our Constitution that we talk about in Washington, D.C., then we haven't shown that need. Once we've shown that need, the investors and the donors should come in to fill out \$13 an hour. Send me a request, I'll donate and buy a couple of hours from somebody. >> Give me your card.

**GRANT CORBOY:** So this is the last one. This is your chance to ask the USPTO directly what we could do to support you, your organization, patent practitioners or inventors. And I will stop the snake draft so I'm going to start with John and we'll go to the others. >>

**JONATHAN D' SILVA:** So because the Penn State program has really been going on since January, one of the reasons we don't have money is because we haven't asked yet. We are getting support from the state but what's really helpful is introductions to sources of practitioners. It took them two years to find me to fill that position at Penn State.

There's just not that many of us around who are, one, available and, two, willing to give up their time to do this.

So frankly, for the rest of it, we already have those connections to the SBA and SBDC. Getting the word out is something that is being done on multiple fronts but obviously any additional help for sending the word out what we are and available to do, is always helpful. But right now there is a shortage, a backlog and getting more practitioners to sign up and I think we talked about that before. Don't have that many.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thank you, that's great. Okay, how about you, Brian?

**BRIAN FRIED:** Again, I wrote down because these were thoughts that I had and also from other inventors and just kind of compiling it together. So what could the USPTO do to better support us. The website, I think that easier use of the USPTO web pages. The USPTO web pages are full of amazing, great information about all aspects of patenting and trademarking, but if you go to the web pages they are a bit cumbersome to navigate especially for inventors who may not know exactly what a program is called even to find out about the pro bono program.

Within the legal assistance page of the USPTO website. I went on again to take a look and I couldn't even find the pro bono program. I had to go to patents but you also have an inventor and entrepreneur link. It's not on there. But it just says pro bono. Like I said earlier, what does pro bono even mean. For example, an inventor might search for help on the USPTO web page when looking for assistance on filing an application. When you conduct the search, has anybody done

that before? If you conduct a search and you put in free help the first few pages are in this order. TEAS help, design search codes, law school clinic certification program, search trademark databases and finally number 5, filing a patent application on your own. A novice inventor confronted with these most likely won't know which one to choose. Right.

They may eventually settle on number 5 which is the filing their own patent application, but this one is a concern, pro se steps to file when the inventor is actually looking for someone to file, to help them, right.

The next thing is positive inventor messaging. Some members of the inventor community perceive that the USPTO is there to help large corporations only. Right. When you go to the website, it looks like it's for corporations. I mean most likely corporations have patent attorneys or agents that they work with and they don't really need to go to the front page of the USPTO website. An inventor will go there, but it looks pretty corporate like and that's okay professionally, but for us to get the information is kind of tough.

So some members of the inventor community perceive they are there to help large corporations only. It would be great to see the USPTO feature more access stories about independent inventors who have succeeded in securing a patent, registering a trademark, or prevailed before PTAB board. This would help to change the negative perceptions. Additionally, the national inventor club we recently had the opportunity to visit the USPTO for a full day of education. The inventors met a

large number of employees from various business areas. Those interactions were wonderful and they are still talking about it today. They showed the inventors that the USPTO is really there to help and replete with willing employees who want to see inventors succeed. More opportunities to engage with the USPTO employees in a positive environment further helps to cement the positive impression of the USPTO and positive minds. One more point here. You're running these inventor hour webinars. The inventors are giving feedback on it, that it's great, they love it. Just need more people to see it. So, the inventor hour webinars are an excellent way to educate the community for those of you who don't know about the inventor hour webinars. You might not know where to sign up for it. You can look up inventor hour webinars and put your name on the list. They focus on PTAB proceedings but over time have expanded to include other areas of office, of the office like trademarks and patents. I had the opportunity to be a guest on their also so thank you for that to get the word out to the inventor community.

The topic expansion is really good because inventors often don't have the basics and the need and need the foundational education before they can even begin to understand what is required for an appeal or an AIA trial. Also, the webinars are recorded and made available for later viewing which is really helpful to create a library of resources for inventors especially since many work and can't view the webinars in real time in the middle of the day. To make the recordings more accessible, it would be useful to have an index so inventors can quickly identify

the covered topics and find the particular webinar featuring that topic they are looking for.

One more point here, sorry. You just recently the USPTO had Invention-Con, USPTO flagship event for the inventing community, and there's a fantastic amount of networking opportunities to be held there yet a significant amount of inventors have no idea about Invention-Con, what it is or how it can help them. Many inventors don't have the money to travel to Alexandria, Virginia, for Invention Con. It would be great if they met inventors where they are and offered them in multiple cities across the country. The topics addressed at Invention Con they are typically useful and clearly it's meaningful to inventors to learn directly from the USPTO experts about patents and trademarks and also get to meet some of the executives and some of the higher rankings of the USPTO Deputy Director Derrick. Thank you for your service to the inventor community.

Inventors, though, do however confront an array of other topics on their inventing journeys such as making a pitch, licensing, commercialization and product production. It would be instructive in Invention-Con brought in the feature topics to cover these additional areas even though they are not precisely within the USPTO's purview. Commercializing your invention, it's great that you're giving all this information. I know there's a fine line but just offer some resources available to help them commercialize it just like you mentioned also, Charlie. The USPTO is a trusted source of information for invention, so hearing from the agency about these topics carries weight and a greater



sense that the information is unbiased and accurate and thank you. Thank you for this opportunity. I appreciate it. I'm really excited about this app also that is launching called Inventor Smart Community. It's going to have a dedicated area for the USPTO where you and your team and staff can do livestreams, put updates on it and be able to communicate to the inventor community. So, I'm excited about your participation with it, thank you

**GRANT CORBOY:** Brian, I do like to take a little check for the list. One thing you had mentioned is taking Invention-Con on the road and I am happy to announce we are taking it on the road. So we are thinking alike.

**BRIAN FRIED:** When you come to my neighborhood I'll check it off.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Very good. >> Thank you.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Charles.

**CHARLES SAUER:** Money. I need money. Look, I mean, I think I set this up over the course of kind of all of my different answers. I think the USPTO is doing kind of an amazing job getting out there, doing things, providing services, and talking to people. I think that in the end what I think is needed is kind of more of a business plan, of do we want impactful patents, do we want numbers of patents, do we want outreach to educate different communities about the importance of intellectual property. What is it that this is doing. And I think that if it's -- we just want more numbers then maybe I'm going to ask just for the program to be shut down because I don't think that's necessarily helpful to anybody. But if we want to educate people about IP and help people that

are in a position where a little bit of help could get them across that start line, I think that's an amazing thing that could be done. So for me I think it's just setting up a business plan, figuring out what needs to happen to actually get us someplace. I think the AIA set out a goal to create this program and I think the program was created and it's going. I think the fact people don't know about it and that we are collecting the numbers that we're collecting today, I think it needs some work to be more impactful. But I know that with the work that the USPTO has done out in the community the goals are all in the right place, and I know the importance of intellectual property that things are there and then if anybody has questions on how to get there, I would be happy to help as a part of that. But I mean in the meantime like, you know, I think that all of the bones are there for a good program. I think the work that Jim has put into this program is getting it there and I think that there is a system there that this isn't very far away from being a phenomenal thing that is like why people care about America, kind of the good place.

Our Constitution and the fact that the right to a patent is in our Constitution is one of the things that sets us apart as a country. So, I think this is a phenomenal program and the leadership that's been done to get it to this point is important. I just think there's more that's needed to get it to where it needs to be

GRANT CORBOY: And I strategically left Jim last as a blocker. Go ahead.

**JIM PATTERSON:** Charlie and I work together on a couple of boards and we have very fruitful and good conversations and we're on the same page on many things when we highlight back and forth. So, part of my comments, which will be brief, but part of it's to answer some of your points.

And Brian, one real quick one we can answer. What does pro bono mean. Pro bono is short for pro bono publico which is Latin to translates for the good of the public. Doing legal work for citizens is for the good of the public. And we get to the point you made, it's just absolutely fundamental, very clear and you're absolutely right. I think it needs to be changed. We have to advertise in the vernacular. We have to use the language that people that are trying to access the program understand, not one that lawyers understand.

Charlie, in terms of the money, and how it funds and how it enables all the good things that we're trying to do here. There is a real distinction here and you actually made it in your comments, investing in companies and inventions to make them get out to the public and all the rest of that, that is not so much a responsibility of the Patent Office, that is private. It should be private in many instances, although public money also belongs there and can be cited for lots of inventions that have been brought to fruition.

In terms of money for administration of the program for funding those matchmaking facilities that brings attorneys and inventors together and a valid program lines for the panel's line for getting the information out, absolutely I see that as something that the Patent Office has put the cornerstones in place but more needs to be done.

Then on a more expansive note, on a policy note, and that's what we look to the Patent Office for is policy on all these issues in large part. Providing leadership to the program, absolutely essential. No one else can fulfill the role of leadership that the Patent Office can in a program such as this. Also, using the resources that you have as the bully pulpit, absolutely. Teddy Roosevelt would be proud of whatever efforts to broadcast this program where it needs to be. So I would like to add that thanks of the other panelists, it's absolutely fabulous that you created this forum. I think there's folks online in this online world, that's where the real audience is but quite frankly, the audience we're aiming for also includes the people that the patent office answers to, the Congress. So we're hoping you can take some of these ideas and bring them where they can have real effect. Thank you.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thank you. So that concludes our panelist section for today. Now we are going to open it up for questions, and there's two ways that you can ask questions of the panelists. If you raise your hand and we'll call on you and unmute your question and hear from you. The other way is there is a Q&A box. If you put your question in the Q&A box, we can then filter those questions on to the panelists.

So let me start right now with, I'm going to unmute his mic, a person by the name of Jose Cano. I will allow you to talk now.

**Audience Member:**

**GRANT CORBOY:** Jose? Okay. Nope. Jose, can you please unmute? Jose, we can come back to you so now let's go to Julia and I will not attempt this last name. Nejeschleba.

**JULIA NEJESCHLEBA:** Yes, hello.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Go ahead.

**JULIA NEJESCHLEBA::** Can you hear me?

**GRANT CORBOY:** Yes, we can hear you go ahead.

**JULIA NEJESCHLEBA:** Hi. I just wanted to let you know that I am a graduate, I'll call myself, of the pro bono program. And I was really amazed how it worked. I really think the value is there. I will say I kind of stumbled across it on your website through watching a video and they mentioned it. So, I just Googled what's this, what's that. But in the long run, I was in the North Carolina LEAP program, and was matched up with a law student overseen by a seasoned patent lawyer and through that process I received a utility patent. And I started out in 2016, got my patent in 2020. I think with the colleges it's going to take a little bit longer because of the semester breaks and summer breaks and all that.

I guess my comment is I think the language is something that needs to be almost kind of like an inventing for dummies type of thing. I think I knew what pro bono meant at the time, all the language was really a little bit overwhelming and confusing at first. I've learned and grown a lot through it. I wanted to say that the program itself is extremely valuable and the only thing, I don't know if this is outside the scope of the USPTO, but after I got it I was like okay what now. Like where do I go. And so to have some, there's a lot of sharks out there. There are a lot of shark programs where you have to pay tens of thousands of dollars and you get nothing basically. So, it would be

nice to have some credible sites where you can actually go and get real help listed on the website because it's hard out there. I found a really, really good program just within the last couple of years by going on Facebook and saying help. You know, I've gotten this far on my own and now I'm stuck. So, I don't know if that's outside of the USPTO.

But I think from a first-time inventor that that would have been really valuable and saved me a lot of time and a lot of scam calls and et cetera.

But overall, I just want to say the program is amazing and I think we're on the right track with it. Maybe needs to be a little more fine tuning if that makes sense.

**GRANT CORBOY:** With that great comment I'm going to end this presentation now. Mic drop. Thank you, Julia. And let's see if we can get to the Luke Britain, I'm going to allow you to talk, Luke. Luke, can you unmute your own mic? While we work out on that, Luke, let me open it up to somebody here in the audience.

**Audience Member:** Charlie, how are you? Good to see you again. Brian, John, I don't know you. Do you know somebody named Kyle David? Went through your program and has a product and got a patent. Jimmy worked with you a little bit on some of the pro bono stuff so I know a lot of you guys. I run the local DC Inventors group. We're in the trenches, Brian is in the trenches, I know Brian. How are you. I call it we are standing between the idea and them having inventory. I know people in all stages. The point was made patents, IP patents is one of 27 steps. First go to Google see what's out there. Then Google patents and see if

you can read about it, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, Mike a video [indiscernible] By the time they get to you, they are tired and then you give them a map and they've got a long way to go. Unless they are going to get off at licensing and many know about that the goal is to get to a certain point, initial product viability and licensing. I did have a few comments and suggestions to throw in and Brian, nicely done. Never surprised by you.

One thing is places that clubs, you mentioned them. We have a group of probably 70 to 90 clubs in the U.S. There are two in Alaska. We're trying to get a situation where we can, as somebody suggested, press a button and say this mailing list I would like to send information about the new pro bono program or about the upcoming Invention-Con or about the areas and house where national hardware show that focus on inventors and sometimes there are patent people wearing capes they got from Elizabeth I think. What does somebody need when they walk in the door from me or a lawyer. They need honest advice. They come to us for all the stuff you can't give them because you can't give them where to go for a prototype or who is about to take you to the cleaners or which of the consulting or late-night person should you actually call.

Probably none of them. And I think most of us think that -- but most of the people they are talking to they want something for free but they want to make money. We can all talk like some people do. Wonderful to give things away but the person you're talking to is more interested in machine than you are. So just to put it in

[indiscernible]. SCORE/SBDC are outstanding ideas you work with George Mason University, large University in Fairfax, Virginia, they have space, help, consults through the SBDC. It's great for the people getting there. However, there are a couple of places you missed. Makers Space, about 20% are working on a product, maybe 30%. There used to be a tech shop, there are fab labs at so many schools. We have one out here in Fairfax City right behind the headquarters 20,000 square feet of Nova labs maker space. People with hobbies coming in during regular hours you pay more and get a key and key fob. You can't run the materials without training. There's a place if you use the clubs, I say use them because I've got 1,000 people on my mailing list. Would you like me to send something I did for you. My 40 friends have the same number on their mailing list in San Antonio and Michigan has 7 clubs, they have an annual convention. What I'm suggesting is we have information we can share with them and we like to focus on. I talked to you about it already, program, pro bono, great. Let's have a Zoom. I probably can get 300 people online. All right. You've got to get out other ways. I don't know if you're going to have the money to go and do a road show or things like that.

Let me ask you a question around here everybody know what Lume deodorant is. Seen it on TV you, can put it between your butt. Laugh but you remember, don't you? How about oh, my butt is clean, this is what we're living in now.

Let me suggest we can use some of that if you want and make a joke, people laugh, people love to laugh. Okay. Make a funny video.



Go on TikTok. Probably take a student at George Mason by the time they drove over here they would have it done. When you bring them in somebody comes in I have two lawyers they keep sending me people. I've got this idea and I want to patent it, he gives them one-hour consulting. You understand what I'm talking about, he sends them to me. While they have a pretty good idea but they don't know what the hell to do. They don't know they want to go to a trade show but they are afraid they are going to get stolen from and they want to license it. Who are the players. A University, you probably have Lexis-Nexis in Gardner group, don't you. I don't. Wouldn't it be nice if a marketing department ran numbers for me on storage products for dog leashes? Okay. Found out how many dogs there are, how many leashes, what are the major players. That's all important information.

Probably inventor doesn't know how. They had an idea. I'm an engineer so I'll play with the thing in my basement from here to eternity. I have a friend who does this, tries to sell it off a list he made because he doesn't have time for the rest of the stuff. But you need, as Brian will tell you, you need a team. Five, marketing operations, all those things. Eventually that's something that would be helpful either for the clubs or something.

How do you get married, who you do you find the people. Invention-Con used to be great, three days. I met a lot of good people. People I would work with and I wouldn't. Also, part of the education could be lean start-up how to do a Kickstarter, these are not things you're going to do but this is the thing that Michael Moore down here in

Falls Church send me somebody, he says talk to them about that stuff because they aren't going to validate your product they talked to three cousins, they love it and about to order from China. Usually the guy says stop, that's me.

Paper knowledge you mentioned that was one thing, pro bono great idea get rid of the name. Question, how many inventors are there in America. I look it up and it is always how many people have applied for patents and had them issued that was not a third-party assignment like my dad is on two, Monsanto he worked for them. But how many, 150,000? Jeez Louise, most of the inventors I talked to don't have a patent so they would never be on your list. Might be headed for a patent. A six-year-old came in and actually got a patent. Her dad was pretty smart. A lot of people have an idea they come to us and we never see them again. Even to get licensing you can barely see the turn off and you're going to wait three years to get a decent check. I have people and I know well who have done it. And they persisted. Some people can beat the phone to death and have 53 no's by 10. Most people get five by the end of the day and they give up. 70% of Americans who will not make out a job application that takes more than 15 minutes. So that tells you a lot about the people you're hiring. So, my suggestions are work with the clubs primarily because there were some kind of group, IGA. Ryan has national inventors pretty broad group down in Kentucky. He's got people in Vancouver and South Africa because he opened up on Zoom. We're a regional club we try to work with other clubs. We get content that's valuable. Your stuff is huge. I get prototypers. People from

coaching companies to come in. Tell me, tell my people your program, what it costs and what you can do. After your 45 minutes they will decide if they want to talk to you after. That's how it works. In the real world like an attorney making presentations or sitting on panels like this. You decide whether you want to run up, Brian knows. Your attorney wasn't he Chicago or something. Depending which one he was part of the panel. So there's a community for lack of a better word. Not an inventor association, inventor groups of America two you might have heard from. U.S. inventor, they are more focused on say it honestly beating PTAB to death. That's because they got burnt by some people. Trust me when you get angry, you will get on YELP and tell the world. If you had a great stake you will go home and burp and not say anything.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Chris, we really appreciate you sharing this with your members, thank you. I'll go to Alex F. Alex F, if you could unmute. Alex F is no longer here. Let's go to Shawn Mary.

**SHAWN MARY:** I have a patent but I have also got a company I work with to try to promote my patent. But I've also filed another one on my own and I have a few more ideas for the future but I want to know how -- and hello Chris, I know him. Howdependable are these things through pro bono?

**GRANT CORBOY:** I'll take that. A pro bono representation has to follow the rules of ethics and should be no different than the representation for a paying client. An attorney or an agent that you get through a pro bono representation has the same duties and responsibilities as that of

a paying client. And so, you shouldn't look at it in terms of if I get a pro bono attorney I'm getting less of a patent. They are going to draft the same claims, they are going to draft the same specification to support your invention. Does that answer your question, Shawn?

**SHAWN MARY:** Okay, yeah. And I also have, I had filed one myself because I didn't have money for an attorney and it's within the -- what the process of going through I think in August there will be something there looking at it. I just, I'm not sure if that kind of will go through because I did it myself and I'm not a lawyer. Is that, does it matter?

**GRANT CORBOY:** Well, so, again the patent pro bono program is designed to help people such as you get an attorney to help you with the filing of a patent. If you've done it yourself, I would encourage you to go to the local program which is I assume you're in the local area, Shawn, is that correct?

**SHAWN MARY:** Yeah.

**GRANT CORBOY:** So if you reach out to the Federal Circuit Bar Association and go there and ask for assistance, they might be able to find you an attorney. Otherwise, we do have a pro se assistance center they can help you if you continue to go it alone.

**SHAWN MARY:** Okay, thank you.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Okay. Jose Cano. How about Luke Britain. No Luke. Can I go back to Alex F.

**ALEX F.:** Hello there, can you hear me?

**GRANT CORBOY:** Yep, we can hear you.

**ALEX F.:** I accidentally disconnected you when you called up on me before. I just wanted to ask or understand, for example, if you got a patent here in the United States that you work so hard to get, and there's copycats overseas, what protection can you have for products overseas and being brought in here selling as a copycat type product for a patent you have worked so hard to develop and apply towards.

**GRANT CORBOY:** I'll ask John that.

**ALEX F:** Go ahead, I'm sorry. >>

**JONATHAN D'SILVA:** A United States patent protects you from your invention from being made, sold, offered for sale, imported and exported into the United States as well. So, your patent issued in the United States will protect you against imports from things made outside of the country that are imported into the U.S. If you have a valid patent on an invention that is being infringed overseas, there's nothing you can do about it. As soon as they import it into the country, your patent is protection right off the bat.

Jim, I know you work a little bit with the program with WIPO and the challenges of getting patents internationally from a call at some point. Do you want to talk about that a little bit?

**JIM PATTERSON:** Sure. The World of Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva has a program with a patent cooperation treaty division where inventors in nine different countries, I think it's up to nine now, can get assistance and that is, that program is actually quite well-established, and it is very well documented and explained on the world intellectual property, WIPO website. So, if you get a web search

for patents, pro bono, WIPO it's going to come up at the top of the list and the information would be available for that.

As it happens, I was in London just a couple weeks ago and through discussions ended up talking along with the patent office with the UKWIPO. They are interested in establishing a program and getting that going. Those are the formal programs that I'm aware of in terms of pro bono assistance or under-resourced inventors around the globe

**GRANT CORBOY:** Does that answer your question?

**ALEX F:** Yes, and I have to commend this whole panel this evening. This has been very, very informative and I thank you very much for having it.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thank you for attending, Alex. So now John, is there anybody in the Q&A section that we have some questions?

**JOHN KIRKPATRICK:** Yes, Grant. We have one question. I guess it's more of a proposal but suggesting that attorneys have the benefit of taking a charitable tax deduction because they are donating their time.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Do any of the barred attorneys here want to talk about the pro bono incentives that the state bars may or may not be doing?

**JONATHAN D' SILVA:** Some states do allow pro bono hours to count towards the Continuing Learning Education (CLE) credit, and I know there are other states who also require attorneys to spend time in pro bono programs. I know New York started to implement voluntary pro bono hours as part of CLE but it seems to me they may be going towards making it mandatory. That would be kind of helpful in some respects. An attorney like me running a program, I don't know how that counts for CLE credit because I would love to do that. Getting CLE credit for doing pro bono

work would be a great incentive for some people because sometimes it's really hard to find good CLE programs.

**JIM PATTERSON:** CLE, continuing legal education, is a requirement for most, for all attorneys in most states are required to have so many hours of credit. And the idea of providing pro bono, using pro bono hours in lieu of continuing legal education is in place in some states. So that's there. The idea of donated time being as a tax deduction I'll take it up with my accountant, that's, I love the idea. I don't think it would fly, however.

**CHARLES SAUER:** I've seen it in healthcare and it doesn't seem to work. I though will take the CLE part back to healthcare because I don't think it's probably in use but I haven't seen it but I think that seems like a really good way to promote pro bono.

**JOHN KIRKPATRICK:** Grant, Luke Brennan says he may be available.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Okay, Luke, second time is a charm.

**LUKE BRENNAN:** Can you hear me now?

**GRANT CORBOY:** Yes we can hear you.

**LUKE BRENNAN:** It's a real quick question. My kids interrupted me a few times and I missed some parts is there going to be a link I can go back and rewatch this meeting?

**GRANT CORBOY:** There will be a transcript of this and we are going to put it as part of a report that's provided to Congress. So when that comes out, that will be available on the USPTO website.

**LUKE BRENNAN:** For the love of Pete, how many pages is that going to be?

**GRANT CORBOY:** I apologize for the transcript in advance but it's going to be a pretty sizable transcript plus the report.

**LUKE BRENNAN:** Okay. What about the slides that were presented, will that be part of the report?

**GRANT CORBOY:** The slides will be part of the transcript.

**LUKE BRENNAN:** Okay. About what time like when will this report come out.

**GRANT CORBOY:** The report is due to Congress December 29th, 2023.

**LUKE BRENNAN:** Okay. This isn't going to be -- shoot. All right. Thank you.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Yeah, Luke. If you need information from us, our mailbox is [probono@USPTO.gov](mailto:probono@USPTO.gov) and we can send that information over to you so you don't have to wait until the information comes out. >> One more time. >> [Probono@USPTO.gov](mailto:Probono@USPTO.gov).

**LUKE BRENNAN:** Thanks.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Thank you. Okay. We'll try Shawn Mary. Shawn Mary. >> I already asked my question, sorry, I didn't do it twice. I'm sorry.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Okay. So, John are there Q&A questions.

**JOHN KIRKPATRICK:** Yes. We have WIPO pro bono program, does WIPO have educational events that may educate independent inventors about WIPO's other programs?

**JIM PATTERSON:** I don't know about events. And I don't -- if it's not on their website. So, I'm sorry, I can't provide any information on that I don't want to say they don't have events and perhaps some of the USPTO



folks may know of something. So, there's the answer, I'm sorry I can't be informative.

**JONATHAN D'SILVA:** I will say, however, that the WIPO website is a very good resource for searching international patents in addition to Google patents but a lot of good information on the WIPO site and including the European patent office site. Espacenet is very good.

**GRANT CORBOY:** Great. That appears to be the last of the questions and no more hands are raised. And so that concludes the event and so before this concludes I do want to thank our panelists. They came here, some from great distance. I know it was an 8 or 9-hour ride for some of you, John. It's a lot to ask them to come do that and I appreciate it, the USPTO appreciates your effort do that and and we have the WIPO expert from Minnesota that flew in this morning. We really do appreciate everybody being here and contributing to this. It's your input that will make a difference in the patent pro bono program and so thank you. And to all our speakers as well. And at this point I'm going to turn it over to my boss, the Deputy General Counsel, Director of Office Enrollment Discipline Will Covey to close us out.

**WILL COVEY:** Thanks for everybody. I really can't thank you enough for participating in the comments we received. I love the idea that pro bono doesn't resonate with a lot of folks and that's the lawyers always thinking, hey, we live in the legal world everybody speaks Latin, right. So of course they know pro bono but lots of great information and food for thought for us.

And all of you came up with fantastic comments is thank you so much for traveling here far away. I know John and Jim came very far away to get here to participate in this evening's session and thank you so much, thank you for your participation those who are online and the questions we received. Our next session will be Wednesday afternoon with the attorneys and agents to get their feedback also. So, thank you so much for this evening.

**[1]  
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