Patent Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Patent Process Reengineering Team
as part of the
Patent End-To-End Processing Team

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Patent Process Reengineering

- Background
  - Challenge
  - Context
  - Initial set-up
Patent Process Reengineering

- Phase I
  - Areas analyzed:
    - Restriction Practice
    - Double Patenting Practice
    - Color Drawings
    - Elimination of Forms
    - Classification/Transfer
    - CRU/Reissue
    - Pre-Exam Streamline
    - Enhancing Technical Knowledge between Examiners
    - Management Operations
    - Applicant/Office Interface
    - Post-Exam Streamline
    - IDS Practice
    - PCT processes
• Phase I
  – Results
  • More than 200 individual process improvement recommendations
  • If all of the Phase I recommendations are implemented:
    – Increased electronic filing, revenue collection, processing efficiency, standardization, ability to accurately and easily measure core metrics and progress toward goals, examination quality; and
    – Reductions in pendency measures, examiner search time for related applications and prior art, applicant filing time, Office and applicant errors, management time for quality reviews and administrative tasks, grievances; and
    – Reduction of operating costs of Millions of dollars per year could be realized
• Phase II Areas and Results
  – Made resources available to:
    • Sequence Listings, Application/Publication System Numbering Changes
    • Clearing Oldest Patent Applications (COPA)
    • “Stuck Case” cleanup
    • Patent Reform (AIA)
  – Completed Petitions and issues identification for Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)
Patent Process Reengineering

- Phase III Areas and Status
  - Appeals/Pre-Appeals
  - Commercial Database Usage
  - 371 Case Processing
  - Technical Support Staff Implementation and Phasing
  - Workflow System Functionality and Business Rules
  - Risk Analysis
  - Management Operations – Employee Relations
  - Call Centers
Questions and Suggestions?
Please contact
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