“Building a World-Class Patent Quality System”

A new enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

PPAC Quarterly Meeting

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Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

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Building a World-Class Patent Quality System

The Right Time for a Greater Focus on Quality

- America Invents Act (AIA) provides a stable budget to pursue quality initiatives
- USPTO continues to reduce patent application inventory and pendency
- IT and other resource improvement initiatives support our employees
- Enhancing patent quality is a priority
Quality Core Elements

Enhanced Quality is built around three pillars:

I. Excellence in Work Products
II. Excellence in Measuring Patent Quality
III. Excellence in Customer Service
On-Going Internal Steps to Improve Patent Quality

- Recent initiatives to improve patent quality
- Fall 2014 - Gathered valuable ideas from USPTO
  - focus groups made up of a cross section of employees
- Issued updated examiner guidance following court rulings
- Patent Quality Forum held with Patents employees
On-Going Internal Steps to Improve Patent Quality

• Increased resources to improve patent examination quality
• Compare best practices and collaborate with foreign counterpart offices to improve quality
• Research and consider leveraging data analytics to improve the examination process
External Steps Toward Improving Patent Quality

• Understanding Our Stakeholder’s Perspective
  – What does quality mean to IP stakeholders?

• Discuss current quality measure
  – Collect and analyze feedback
  – Re-evaluate current measures

• Public comments requested through Federal Register notice
External Steps Toward Improving Patent Quality

- Patent Quality Summit
  - Scheduled for March 25 – 26, 2015
  - Stakeholder Discussion on the Importance of Quality
    - Speakers from various Intellectual Property Industries
  - Discussion of Proposals to Enhance Quality
Proposed Quality Initiatives

I. Excellence in work products
   1. Applicant requests prosecution review of selected applications
   2. Automated pre-examination search
   3. Clarity of the record

II. Excellence in measuring patent quality
   1. Review/improvements to quality metrics

III. Excellence in customer service
   1. Review of current compact prosecution model and effect on quality
   2. In-person interview capability with all examiners
Next Steps

• Analyze Quality Summit and Federal Register Notice comments
• Identify Enhanced Quality Initiatives to move forward
• Conduct Quality Enhancement Roadshows
• Continue Internal and External Patent Stakeholder Dialogue
Quality Initiative comments to

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Thank you

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