

Tom Hughes joined the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as a patent examiner after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland. He has over 26 years of experience in Intellectual Property at the USPTO examining and supervising in technologies such as mechanical manufacturing, electronic gaming and surgical instruments. Mr. Hughes has held several positions within the USPTO including Primary Examiner, Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) and Quality Assurance Specialist and has been awarded the Department of Commerce Gold Medal, Bronze Medal, Exceptional Career Award and Distinguished Career Award for exceptional performance and service. Currently, as a Supervisor in the Office of Patent Quality Assurance (OPQA), he is responsible for managing a group of Review Quality Assurance Specialists responsible for reviewing applications in the mechanical and business methods arts. Mr. Hughes is also currently the lead point of contact in TCs 3600 and 3700 (mechanical disciplines) for the First Inventor to File (FITF) provisions of the America Invents Act (AIA), responsible for developing and delivering training materials to all examiners and SPEs and also for implementing AIA/FITF protocol in both TCs. In addition, Mr. Hughes is an instructor at the Patent Training Academy on topics including 35 USC 101 Patent Eligibility and Double Patenting.

Kathleen Kahler Fonda holds a B.S. degree from Juniata College, an M.S. degree from the University of Virginia, and a Ph.D. degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, all in chemistry. Following a postdoctoral position in a biochemistry laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania, Kathleen joined the USPTO in 1993 and examined patent applications concerning the chemistry and therapeutic methods of use of carbohydrate compounds. Kathleen was recognized as examining Master's level art in 1996, became a primary examiner in 1997, and received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award in 2000. She served on a detail to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in 2000.

While an examiner, Kathleen attended George Mason University School of Law and graduated *magna cum laude* with an emphasis in intellectual property law in 2002. Kathleen left the USPTO in 2003, and clerked for Circuit Judge Pauline Newman at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit during the 2003-2004 term. Kathleen rejoined the USPTO in 2005, and is now a Senior Legal Advisor in the Office of Patent Legal Administration. She played a significant role in the development of guidance documents and training materials for obviousness determinations in view of *KSR v. Teleflex*. More recently, she has worked on implementation of the first-inventor-to-file provisions of the America Invents Act.