

## Introduction

The rulemaking process resulting in this Final Rule was initiated in response to: (1) the Administration's program for reducing the regulatory burden on the American public pursuant to the National Performance Review's objective of reinventing government; and (2) the regulatory burden hour reduction mandated by the 1995 Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. § 3501 *et seq.*). The Final Rule is a comprehensive effort to eliminate rules (more than thirty), and simplify and reduce the requirements of the remaining rules. Problem areas which lead to petitions, which is a time consuming and expensive effort, have in many cases been eliminated. For example, the elimination of the requirement that inventors be named on filing will eliminate numerous petitions to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.48, which required the time and effort of practitioners, inventors, and assignees. The changes adopted in the Final Rule were, in general, widely supported by the comments. The changes in the Final Rule should result in time and cost savings to the PTO's customers and permit the PTO and its customers to focus more on substantive issues and less on procedural matters.

The changes made in this Final Rule will be incorporated into the next revision of the MPEP. While this Training and Implementation Guide is designed to bridge the gap until publication and dissemination of the next revision of the MPEP, it is also designed to be a single source of information for PTO employees and the public concerning this Final Rule that can be used subsequent to the next revision of the MPEP.

This Final Rule was prepared and implemented under the direction of Stephen G. Kunin, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Patent Policy and Projects, Jeffrey V. Nase, former Patent Legal Administrator, and the Director and Legal Advisors of the Special Program Law Office. The following is a list of sections significantly affected by this Final Rule with the name(s) of the Legal Advisor(s), who may be contacted at (703)-305-9285, who are most knowledgeable about the sections.

§§ 1.4, 1.33	Robert Bahr
§§ 1.6, 1.41, 1.53	John Gonzales/ Fred Silverberg/ Robert Bahr
§§ 1.48, 1.324	Hiram Bernstein/ Jay Lucas
§§ 1.14, 1.59, 1.63	Karin Tyson/ Jay Lucas
§§ 1.104, 1.152	Romulo Delmendo
§§ 1.84, 1.91, 1.121, 1.125	Kenneth Schor/ Larry Anderson
§§ 1.135, 1.136, 1.137	Robert Bahr
§§ 1.11, 1.171, 1.172, 1.175	Kenneth Schor/ Joe Narcavage
§§ 1.191, 1.193, 1.196	Romulo Delmendo
§ 1.291	John Gonzales/ Fred Silverberg
§ 3.73(b)	Kenneth Schor/ Hiram Bernstein
§§ 1.510, 1.530, 1.550	Gerald Dost/ Kenneth Schor

Robert J. Spar, Director  
Special Program Law Office  
Office of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner  
for Patent Policy and Projects