

**UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



# Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) update

Scott R. Boalick, Chief Administrative Patent Judge

Jacqueline W. Bonilla, Deputy Chief Administrative Patent Judge

Janet A. Gongola, Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge

Stacey White, Lead Judge

November 18, 2021

Patent Public Advisory Committee quarterly meeting

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# Agenda

- Annual report highlights
- Interim Director review update
- PTAB pro bono pilot program
- Inventor outreach efforts
- Other PTAB updates

# Annual report highlights

- *Arthrex*
- Quality improvement initiatives
- Operational efforts
- Ex parte appeals
- AIA proceedings
- PPAC recommendations

# Interim Director review update

- The current process is envisioned as an interim procedure that may change based on input from the public and experience with conducting Director reviews.
  - Suggestions about the Director review process may be submitted to **Director\_Review\_Suggestions@uspto.gov**
- For more details on the interim Director review procedure:
  - USPTO *Arthrex* information webpage
    - [www.uspto.gov/patents/patent-trial-and-appeal-board/procedures/uspto-implementation-interim-director-review](https://www.uspto.gov/patents/patent-trial-and-appeal-board/procedures/uspto-implementation-interim-director-review)
  - *Arthrex* Q&As
    - [www.uspto.gov/patents/patent-trial-and-appeal-board/procedures/arthrex-qas](https://www.uspto.gov/patents/patent-trial-and-appeal-board/procedures/arthrex-qas)
  - July 1, 2021, Boardside Chat presentation
    - [www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/learn-about-interim-director-review-process-following-us-v-arthrex-inc](https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/learn-about-interim-director-review-process-following-us-v-arthrex-inc)

# PTAB pro bono pilot program

- Announced at the PTAB Bar Association Annual Conference on September 23, 2021
- Collaborating with the PTAB Bar Association to create a clearinghouse to bring together volunteer attorneys and pro bono clients
- More detailed information forthcoming

# Inventor outreach efforts

- New to PTAB website
  - Features appeal brief tool to guide preparation of an appeal brief
- Inventor Digest articles
- Inventor Hour webinar series
  - Content to cover all aspects of PTAB

# PTAB updates

- Virtual Hearings
- Pilot programs (new and extended)
- Latest information on ex parte appeals
- Legal Experience and Advancement Program (LEAP)



# Questions and comments

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