

USPTO resources for independent inventors, small business owners, and entrepreneurs

Office of Innovation Outreach

Office of the Chief Communications Officer

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Visit us at www.uspto.gov



Driving innovation

Audrey Sherman, a leading inventor of adhesives at 3M, shows what's possible through persistence and collaboration. [FULL STORY >](#)

Find It Fast

Quick links to applications and tools.

[Patents](#) ▾

[Trademarks](#) ▾

New to IP?

Learn the basics of intellectual property.



[Patent basics >](#)

[Trademark basics >](#)

[Inventor & entrepreneur resources >](#)

[COVID-19 Response Resource Center](#)

[Expanding innovation](#)

[Artificial intelligence](#)

[USPTO in your region](#)

Inventor and entrepreneur resources

Resources to help you navigate the patent and trademark application processes



Get started

Learn about types of intellectual property (IP) and how to protect your idea or product.

- > Types of IP protection
- > Attend a free training
- > Patents basics
- > Trademark basics



After you apply

As your patent or trademark is examined you may need to take additional steps.

- > Check application status
- > Respond to a Patent decision
- > Prepare for a patent interview
- > Respond to a Trademark decision



Before you apply

Search existing patents and trademarks to find out if your idea is unique. If it is, create an account.

- > Search patents
- > Search trademarks
- > Create an account to apply



Appeal or fix an issue

An applicant may petition a procedural rule or issue, or appeal a patent rejection or trademark refusal.

- > Learn about patent petitions
- > Learn about patent appeals
- > Learn about trademark petitions
- > Learn about trademark appeals



Get help to apply

Set yourself up for success by learning via USPTO's free resources and find expert help.

- > Find resources near you
- > Watch our videos [🔗](#)
- > Find a patent attorney
- > Do I need a trademark attorney?



Entrepreneur resources

Learn about small business resources at the USPTO and other federal agencies.

- > Startup resources
- > License or sell your IP
- > Change patent owner
- > Change trademark owner
- > Other federal resources



Apply for IP rights

Submit your application for a patent or trademark. See if you qualify for reduced patent fees.

- > Apply for a patent
- > Apply for a trademark
- > Costs to file
- > Reduced patent fees



Protect yourself

Don't be misled by false claims, scams, or companies offering services for unusually low prices.

- > Known patent scams
- > Known trademark scams
- > Prevent or report a scam

www.uspto.gov/inventors

USPTO assistance centers

Inventor Assistance Center (IAC)

- Provides general information about the patent examination policy and procedure.
- 8:30 a.m.- 8 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday
- (571) 272-1000
- (800) 786-9199 (press 2)

www.uspto.gov/InventorAssistance

Trademark Assistance Center (TAC)

- Provides general information about the trademark registration process.
- 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday
- (571) 272-9250
- (800) 786-9199 (press 1)

www.uspto.gov/TrademarkAssistance



Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs)

Nationwide network of public, state, and academic libraries that are designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information and to support intellectual property needs of the public.



www.uspto.gov/PTRC

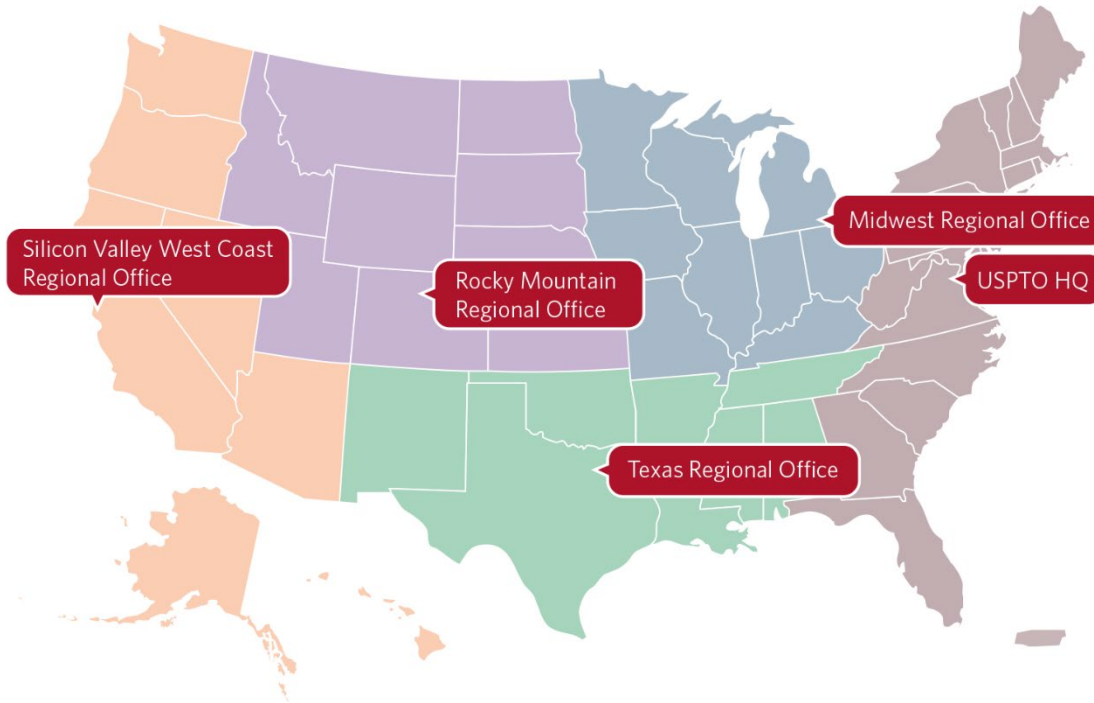
Free legal assistance programs*

- **Patent Pro Bono Program** works nationwide to match financially underresourced inventors and small businesses with volunteer practitioners to file and prosecute patent applications.
 - www.uspto.gov/ProBonoPatents
 - probono@uspto.gov
- **Law School Clinic Certification Program** permits law students under the supervision of a participating law school's clinic to practice patent and/or trademark law before the USPTO while providing those services to applicants, *pro bono*.
 - www.uspto.gov/LawSchoolClinic
 - Lawschoolinformation@uspto.gov

**Applicant(s) must pay for all USPTO fees*



USPTO offices across the nation



USPTO headquarters: Alexandria, VA

**Eastern Regional Outreach Office
Alexandria, VA**

– www.uspto.gov/EastCoast

**Midwest Regional Office
Detroit, MI**

– www.uspto.gov/Midwest

**Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Denver, CO**

– www.uspto.gov/RockyMountain

**Silicon Valley Regional Office
San Jose, CA**

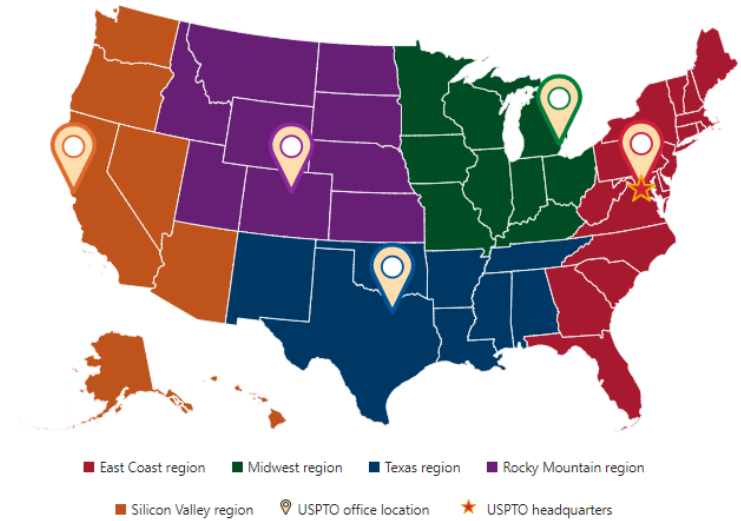
– www.uspto.gov/SiliconValley

**Texas Regional Office
Dallas, TX**

– www.uspto.gov/Texas

Find help in your area

- Free legal assistance for filing for a patent or registering a trademark
- Registered patent attorney or agent
- Inventor and entrepreneur organizations in your state
- Accessible via [uspto.gov](https://www.uspto.gov) homepage
 - USPTO in your region



State Names					
Alabama	Georgia	Maryland	New Jersey	Rhode Island	Wisconsin
Alaska	Hawaii	Massachusetts	New Mexico	South Carolina	Wyoming
Arizona	Idaho	Michigan	New York	South Dakota	
Arkansas	Illinois	Minnesota	North Carolina	Tennessee	
California	Indiana	Mississippi	North Dakota	Texas	
Colorado	Iowa	Missouri	Ohio	Utah	
Connecticut	Kansas	Montana	Oklahoma	Vermont	
Delaware	Kentucky	Nebraska	Oregon	Virginia	
District of Columbia	Louisiana	Nevada	Pennsylvania	Washington	
Florida	Maine	New Hampshire	Puerto Rico	West Virginia	

www.uspto.gov/about-us/uspto-office-locations

The USPTO's kids pages

- Fun hands-on activities
- Inspiring stories
- Engaging lessons in IP for students of all ages

The screenshot shows the USPTO Kids page with the following elements:

- Header:** "uspto UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" logo and navigation links for "About Us", "Jobs", "Contact Us", and "MyUSPTO". A search bar contains the word "kids".
- Navigation:** Tabs for "Home", "Kids", "Teens", and "Parents & Teachers".
- Section Title:** "ACTIVITIES" in bold yellow text.
- Introductory Text:** "At the USPTO, we're always thinking of ways to promote innovation. Here are a few fun activities for makers, builder, tinkerers and all to enjoy. Check back for new activities from time to time."
- Activity Cards:**
 - COLORING PAGES:** Features a cartoon character with a lightbulb head and a pencil, labeled "EASY LEVEL".
 - BUILD AN INVENTION:** Shows a diagram with a dashed line and arrows, labeled "MEDIUM LEVEL".
 - SPOT THE INVENTION:** Shows a city street scene with numbered callouts (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12), labeled "EXPERT LEVEL".
- Footer Navigation:** A row of icons for "EVENTS", "DOWNLOADS", "VIDEOS", "ACTIVITIES", "COLLECTIBLES", "IP PATCH", "COOL IP", and "LINKS".

education@uspto.gov
www.uspto.gov/kids

Upcoming events

- Trademark Basics Boot Camp
- The Path to a Patent
- Meet the Patent Experts
- Do You Know @ USPTO
- Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) Inventor Hour
- Hispanic Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program
- Veterans Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program
- Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium
- Black Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program

www.uspto.gov/events



Thank you



Office of Innovation Outreach

innovationoutreach@uspto.gov