

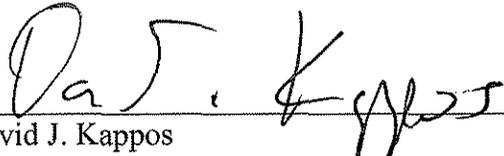
**Continuation of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program
between the USPTO and Finland**

On July 6, 2009, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced a Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program which enabled an applicant whose claims have been determined allowable/patentable in an application filed in the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR) to have the corresponding application filed in the USPTO advanced out of turn for examination. See notice entitled "Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland," 1344 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 165 (July 21, 2009). The USPTO indicated that the pilot program would last for a period of one year ending on July 6, 2010, but may be extended for an additional time period thereafter.

In order to adequately assess the feasibility of the PPH pilot program, the USPTO and NBPR have agreed to extend the pilot in its current state in order to collect more information before any formal decision on the program is made.

Please continue to direct inquiries on the PPH pilot program to Magdalen Greenlief at 571-272-8800 or via e-mail addressed to Magdalen.greenlief@uspto.gov.

Date: 7/1/10



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Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office