



“Building a World-Class Patent Quality System”

A new enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

PPAC Quarterly Meeting

Valencia Martin Wallace

Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

February 19, 2015

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

An agency of the Department of Commerce



Building a World-Class Patent Quality System

The Right Time for a Greater Focus on Quality

- **America Invents Act (AIA) provides a stable budget to pursue quality initiatives**
- **USPTO continues to reduce patent application inventory and pendency**
- **IT and other resource improvement initiatives support our employees**
- **Enhancing patent quality is a priority**



Quality Core Elements

Enhanced Quality is built around three pillars:

- I. Excellence in Work Products**
- II. Excellence in Measuring Patent Quality**
- III. Excellence in Customer Service**



On-Going Internal Steps to Improve Patent Quality

- **Recent initiatives to improve patent quality**
- **Fall 2014 - Gathered valuable ideas from USPTO**
 - focus groups made up of a cross section of employees
- **Issued updated examiner guidance following court rulings**
- **Patent Quality Forum held with Patents employees**



On-Going Internal Steps to Improve Patent Quality

- **Increased resources to improve patent examination quality**
- **Compare best practices and collaborate with foreign counterpart offices to improve quality**
- **Research and consider leveraging data analytics to improve the examination process**



External Steps Toward Improving Patent Quality

- **Understanding Our Stakeholder's Perspective**
 - What does quality mean to IP stakeholders?
- **Discuss current quality measure**
 - Collect and analyze feedback
 - Re-evaluate current measures
- **Public comments requested through Federal Register notice**



External Steps Toward Improving Patent Quality

- **Patent Quality Summit**
 - Scheduled for March 25 – 26, 2015
 - Stakeholder Discussion on the Importance of Quality
 - Speakers from various Intellectual Property Industries
 - Discussion of Proposals to Enhance Quality



Proposed Quality Initiatives

I. Excellence in work products

- 1. Applicant requests prosecution review of selected applications**
- 2. Automated pre-examination search**
- 3. Clarity of the record**

II. Excellence in measuring patent quality

- 1. Review/improvements to quality metrics**

III. Excellence in customer service

- 1. Review of current compact prosecution model and effect on quality**
- 2. In-person interview capability with all examiners**



Next Steps

- **Analyze Quality Summit and Federal Register Notice comments**
- **Identify Enhanced Quality Initiatives to move forward**
- **Conduct Quality Enhancement Roadshows**
- **Continue Internal and External Patent Stakeholder Dialogue**



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

An Agency of the Department of Commerce

uspto UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patents Trademarks Learning and Resources

First time here? Let us help you find your bearings.

Has your invention already been patented at the USPTO?

Learn how a federal trademark registration can help you protect your rights to a brand name or logo, and how federal trademark registration will enhance your rights.

Get Started

Learn About the Process

Patents

- General Information Concerning Patents**
Find out if a utility, design, or plant patent is right for you
- Patent Process Overview**
An overview of a patent application and maintenance process
- Search for Patents**
Find existing patents, published patent applications and other published patent documentation
- Fee Schedule**
Application, maintenance fees & payment information for Patents and Trademarks...

See More Patents Resources

Trademarks

- Trademark Basics**
Learn about trademarks and find out if it's right for you to apply for registration
- Trademark Process**
An overview of a trademark application and maintenance process
- Search Trademark Database**
Search database for trademark registrations and applications by mark, owner, or serial/registration number with Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)
- Fee Schedule**
Application, maintenance fees & payment information for Patents and Trademarks...

See More Trademarks Resources

News & Updates

FEBRUARY 5, 2015
USPTO to Host First-Ever Summit on Patent Quality
Tuesday event to include discussions among USPTO leadership and experts from industry, academia,...

DECEMBER 19, 2014
Deputy Commissioner for Trademarks Mary Denison Appointed as New Commissioner
Washington—Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker appointed Mary Bunney Denison to be the...

DECEMBER 11, 2014
World's Five Largest Intellectual Property Offices Release Annual IP Statistics Report
Washington—A coalition of the world's five largest patent offices—the IP5—recently announced...

See all news & updates

uspto UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patents Trademarks Learning and Resources

Home / Patents / Initiatives / Patent Quality Initiative

Patent Quality Initiative

Building a World-Class Patent Quality System

Leading in Quality Excellence - Every Interaction Counts

Intellectual property (IP) intensive industries support at least 40 million jobs in the U.S. and contribute more than \$5 trillion - or nearly 35 percent - to our gross domestic product. Our new quality initiative comes as there is increased recognition and appreciation around the world of the importance of IP.

The dedicated efforts of our employees over the last few years have significantly reduced our patent application backlog and pendency. We want to continue to build on those efforts, and recent America Invents Act (AIA) legislation passed by Congress supports doing just that.

The AIA allows us to set our fees and retain fees collected above our appropriated level. This means our financial health is more stable than in the past, giving us a unique opportunity to further expand our quality efforts throughout the entire process.

We have heard from many stakeholders that they would prefer we invest any excess fees we collect back into our organization and that's the approach we will follow as we focus on our new quality initiative.

The goal is to build more confidence in our patent system by improving patent quality and the public perception of the patent system overall, making the system understandable and usable by all inventors, and ensuring each of our customers' fees they have been treated fairly and professionally throughout the patent application process.

Quality Focus

- Provide the best work products and services at every stage of the patent process
- Improve the customer experience with emphasis on excellent customer service
- Provide excellence in measuring patent quality ensuring appropriate quality metrics target examination issues requiring attention

Quality Summit

The USPTO will hold a Quality Summit on March 25 and 26, 2015 at the Madison Building, USPTO Headquarters, in Alexandria, Virginia. This Summit will be broadcast via webinar and recorded for later viewing. For webinar participants, participation in all Summit sessions, including the group brainstorming sessions, will be possible. In order to best prepare for the Quality Summit, the USPTO requests that those interested in attending the Quality Summit send an email to WorldClassPatentQuality@uspto.gov indicating their planned attendance by March 18, 2015. [View Proposed Agenda](#)

Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

- Biography**

Resources

- Director's Forum:** A Blog from USPTO's Leadership - USPTO Launches Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative
- Federal Register Notice - Request for Comments on Enhancing Patent Quality - Meeting #**
- Effective Date: February 5, 2015
- Videos**
 - Patent Quality Composite Video 1 YouTube# | USPTO hosted video
 - Patent Quality Composite Video 2 YouTube# | USPTO hosted video
- Quality Index Reporting (QIR) Variables for Patent Quality Composite.pdf
- Patent Quality - Quality Index Reporting Variables with FY11-FY13 volumes_v3.pdf

Upcoming Events

PPAC Quarterly Meeting - February 19, 2015
February 19, 2015 9:00 AM ET
Feb. 19, 2015 9:00 AM ET
Alexandria, VA

USPTO Quality Summit
Mar. 25, 2015 8:30 AM ET
Alexandria, VA

See the full events calendar





UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

An Agency of the Department of Commerce

Quality Initiative comments to
WorldClassPatentQuality@uspto.gov

Thank you

Point of contact:

Valencia Martin Wallace

Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

valencia.martinwallace@USPTO.GOV

571-272-4020