

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

uspto

Patent Public Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedures (STEPP)

Gary Jones

Director, Office of Patent Training
August 18, 2016

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP) – Goals

- To further the USPTO's mission of delivering intellectual property information and education to external customers
- To improve the customer experience throughout the patent process
- To increase transparency with respect to how an application is examined at the USPTO

STEPP Program

- 3-day training program that focuses on the life of an application from docketing to allowance
- Training materials were derived from training delivered to patent examiners and other USPTO employees
- Training delivered by USPTO trainers

STEPP: 3-Day Training Program

Day 1: Courses

The Role of a Patent Examiner

Reading and Understanding an Application

Claim Interpretation

Wrap Up Q&A

35 USC 101, 112(a), and 112(b)

STEPP: 3-Day Training Program

Day 2: Courses

Planning a Search

Mapping Art to Claims

Overview of 35 U.S.C. 102 and 102

Q&A

STEPP: 3-Day Training Program

Day 3: Courses

Writing an Office Action and
Responding to Applicant

Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB)

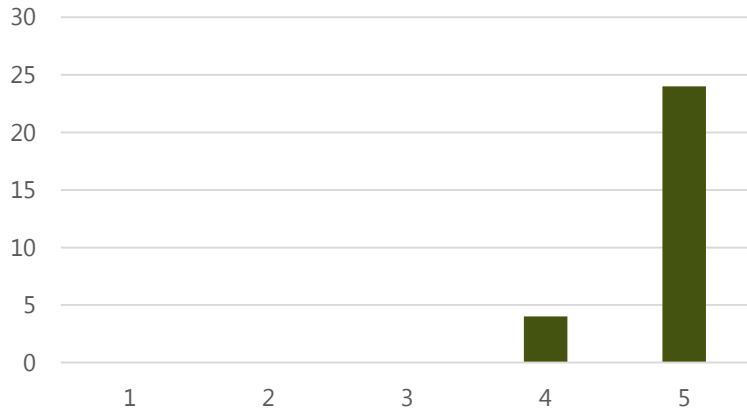
Double Patenting and Restrictions

Central Reexam Unit (CRU)

Course Wrap Up and Q&A

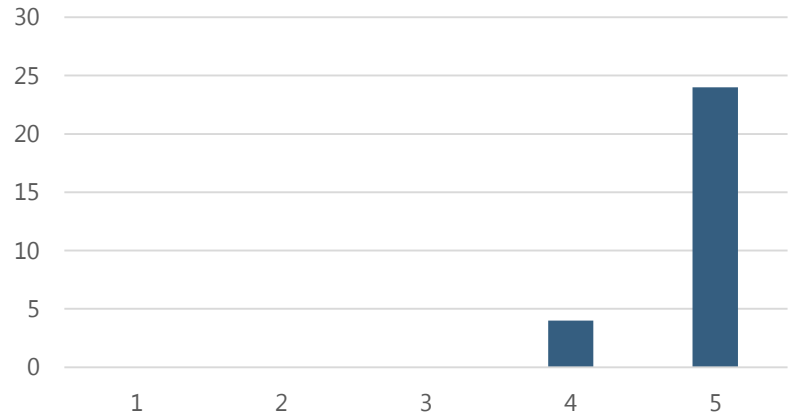
Course Ratings

My knowledge and skills increased as a result of this course.



■ My knowledge and skills increased as a result of this course.

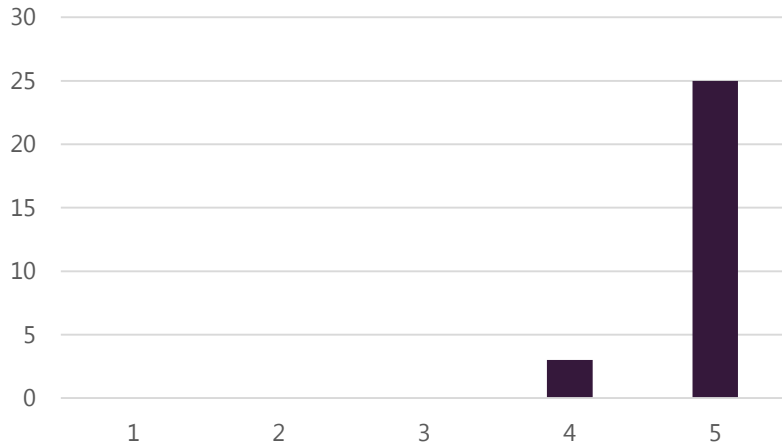
I would recommend this course to someone else.



■ I would recommend this course to someone else.

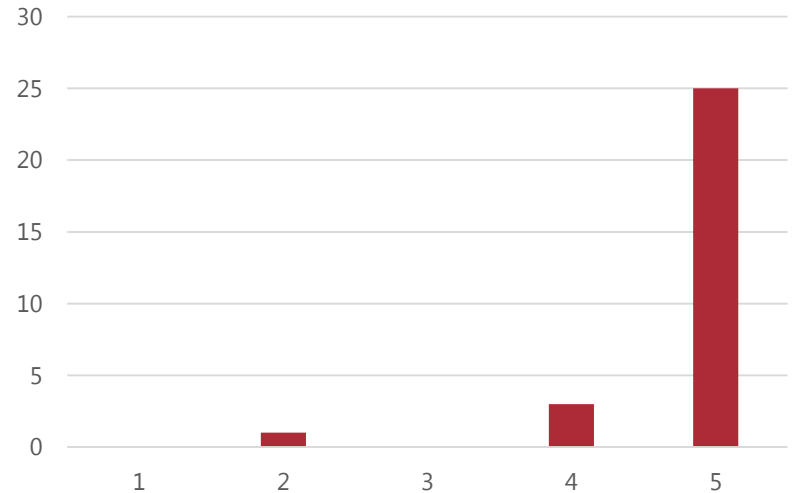
Course Ratings

I plan to apply the knowledge and skills learned in this course.



■ I plan to apply the knowledge and skills learned in this course.

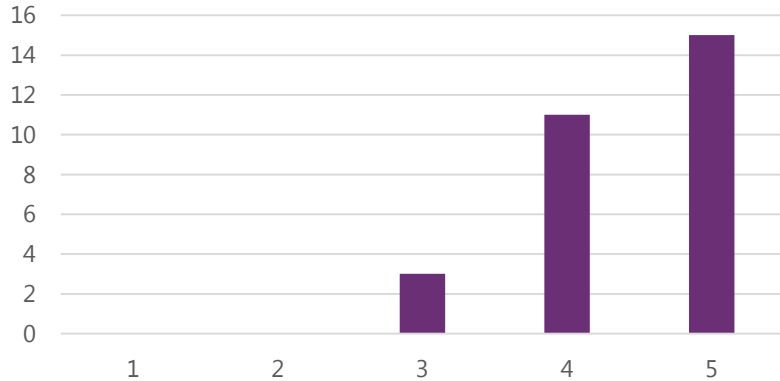
I understood the learning objectives



■ I understood the learning objectives

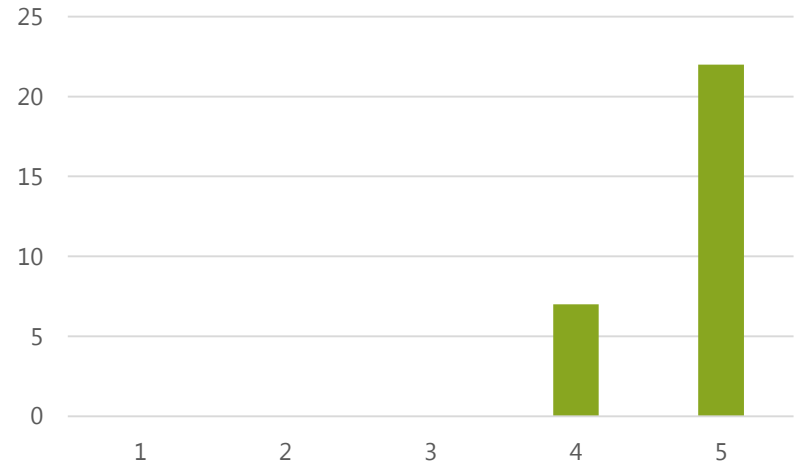
Course Ratings

There was a sufficient amount of time for me to understand the content.



■ There was a sufficient amount of time for me to understand the content.

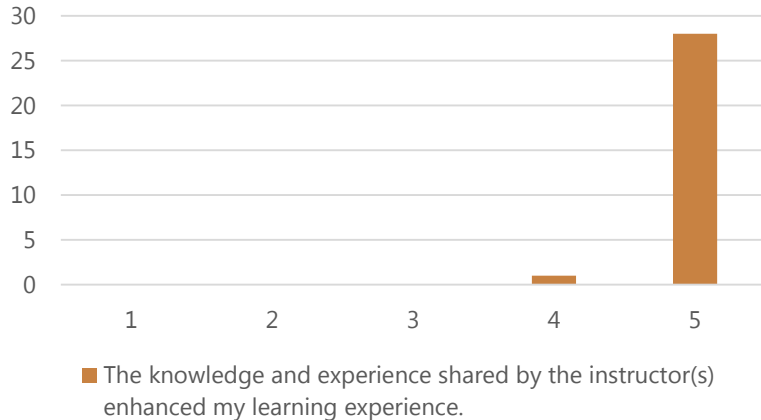
This course was easy to follow.



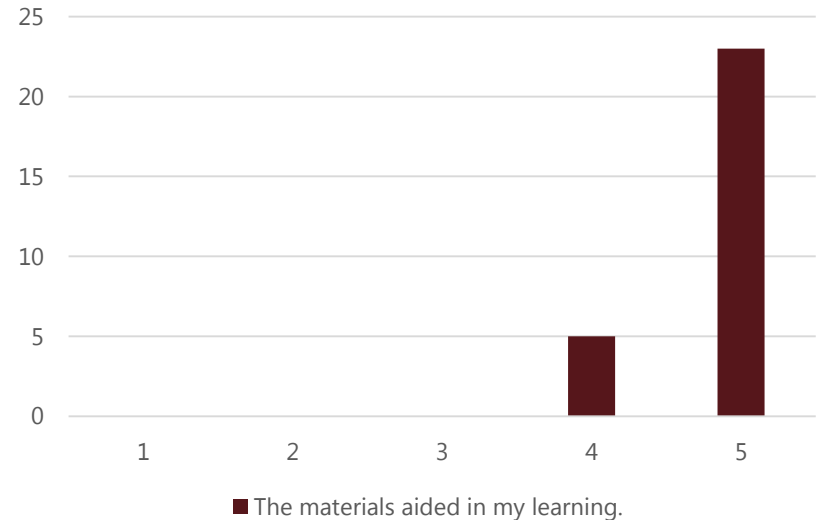
■ This course was easy to follow.

Course Ratings

The knowledge and experience shared by the instructor(s) enhanced my learning experience.

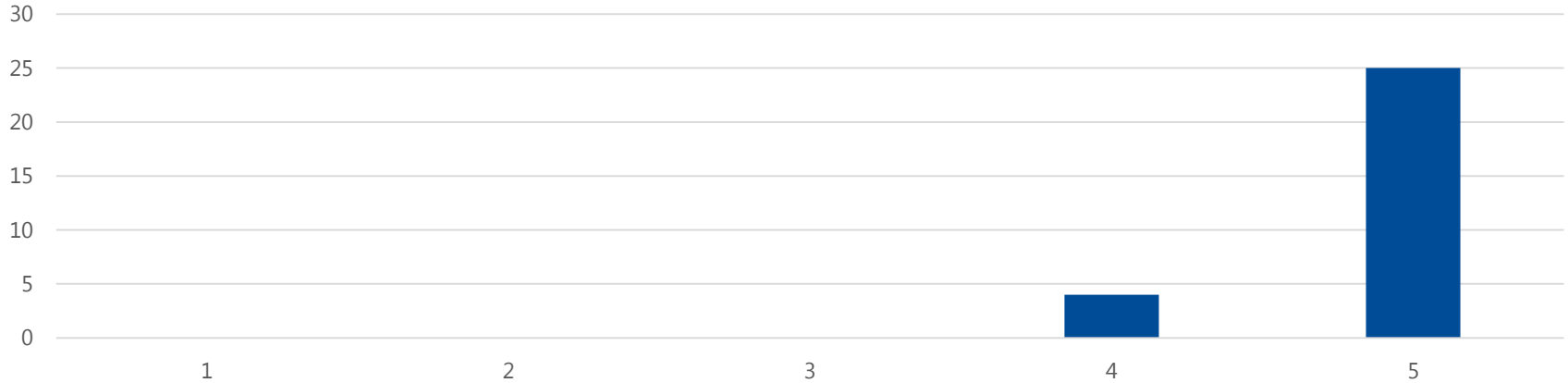


The materials aided in my learning.



Course Ratings

I was given ample opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the course material.



■ I was given ample opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the course material.

Course Ratings

Do you have any additional comments regarding the STEPP Program?

- "Overall, I think this is a very beneficial program. I learned a lot of useful information that I can use in my practice"
- "The program was beyond my expectations and the approachability of the staff made this 3 day program a delight. I hope that future programs continue as this makes the USPTO seem more transparent and willing to assist the public and practitioners get strong valid patents"
- "I can't thank you enough! This was tremendous for my clients, my practice, my career, and my optimism about the US continuing as a leader of innovation! My commitment to fostering innovation is reinvigorated. Keep offering these types of training to the public!"

Course Ratings

- "Fantastic course. As someone who is transitioning into IP Law this was invaluable. The instructors were well prepared and accessible. The course materials were well developed. Truly amazing. Would definitely recommend this course to any practitioner, whether experienced or a novice practitioner"
- "Great program with tons of information, presented with clear resources, knowledgeable speakers and great organization. Everyone was very engaging"

Course Ratings

What was the best part of this course?

- "By far the hands on exercises were the most informative and impactful"
- "Information about the office's emphasis on 'compact prosecution' shed new light on the back and forth"

What recommendations do you have for improving this course?

- "Much less lecture and much more hands on. Possibly make lecture slides/videos available before the start of the program and jumping into the hands on exercises after brief lectures."

Next Steps

- Deliver STEPP workshops in each of the four regional offices over the next four quarters.
- Provide additional STEPP workshops in Alexandria. (frequency to be determined)
- Increase workshop size somewhat, while maintaining the ability to maintain the hands-on and answer questions.

Questions and Comments

Gary Jones

Director, Office of Patent Training

(571) 272-7400

Gary.Jones@USPTO.GOV

