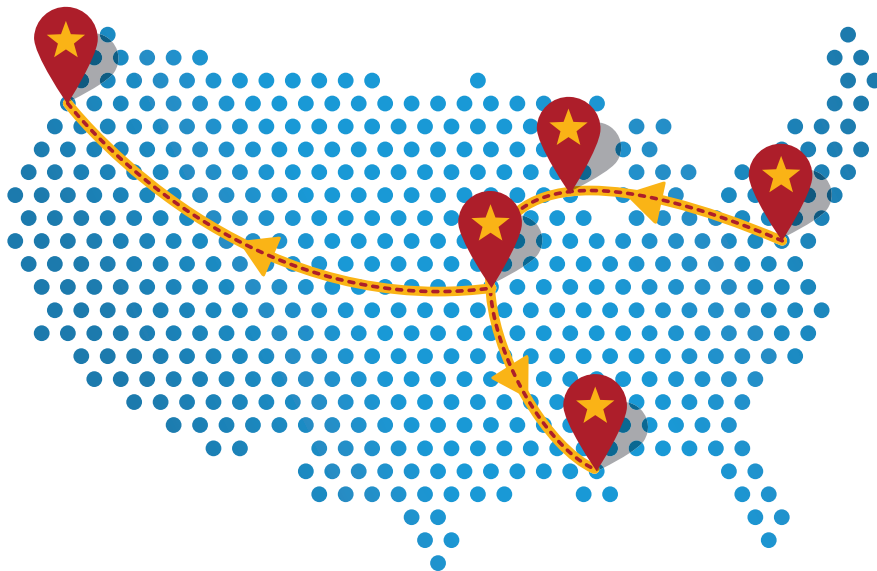


Patent Quality Forum Series

Join us for presentations and a panel discussion on the latest achievements of the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI)



Washington, DC*

November 3

Milwaukee, WI

November 10

Kansas City, MO

November 14

Baton Rouge, LA

November 16

Portland, OR

November 16

Informative and interactive Forum Series events are open to the public



For agenda, location, and registration information, please visit the Patent Quality Forum Series web page at www.uspto.gov/patent/patent-quality-forum-series



*The Washington DC Forum will be webcast. Please visit the Patent Quality Forum Series web page for webcast registration information listed for the Washington, DC event.

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Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP)



Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP) is a program designed to further the USPTO's mission of delivering intellectual property information and education to external stakeholders.

The program falls under the third pillar (*Pillar 3, "Excellence in Customer Service"*), of the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI), which places focus on improving the customer experience throughout the patent process. STEPP was developed to increase transparency with respect to how an application is examined at the USPTO.

Program Description

The STEPP program provides unique, day-in-the-life, experiences to those attending training. Material used within the program is derived from training delivered to patent examiners and other USPTO employees. In addition, training is delivered by USPTO trainers.

What does STEPP Cover?

Training delivered through STEPP focuses on the life of an application after the application is placed on an examiner's docket until the application is allowed.

Why Participate?

STEPP is designed to provide perspective by detailing what an examiner considers in preparing an office action. Training focuses on how an examiner is taught to use the MPEP to make patentability determinations and write an office action. Gaining perspective of an examiner's point of view will increase your situational awareness which can aid in compact prosecution.

Payment and Credit Currently, there is no cost to attend a course in the STEPP program.

The USPTO is currently in the process of determining whether CLE credits will be provided for attending a course within STEPP.



Please visit the STEPP website for more information:

<http://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/stakeholder-training-examination-practice-and-procedure-stepp>

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Upcoming Events

Description	Date(s)	Duration	Location
3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure	January 10-12, 2017	3 Days	Dallas, TX Texas Regional Office
3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure	March 14-16, 2017	3 Days	San Jose, CA Silicon Valley Regional Office
3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure	May 9-11, 2017	3 Days	Denver, CO Rocky Mountain Regional Office
3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure	July 11-13, 2017	3 Days	Alexandria, VA USPTO Campus
3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure	September 19-21, 2017	3 Days	Detroit, MI Midwest Regional Office

Course Description: 3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure

This training is intended for those who have recently passed the Patent Bar for the purpose of representing applicants before the USPTO. The training will make use of statutes, rules, and guidelines relevant to practicing before the USPTO.

Training focuses on how patent examiners examine patent applications according to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP). The training is broken into three separate modules (Day 1, Day 2, and Day 3). Day 1 focuses on the role of an examiner and the steps an examiner would take when reading an application for the first time. Claim interpretation and 35 USC 101 and 112 are emphasized on Day 1. Day 2 uses the information gathered during Day 1 to plan a search, conduct a search, and map prior art to claims using 35 USC 102 and 103. Day 3 focuses on writing of an office action, including a discussion of restriction practices, as well as post-examination options such as the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) and the Central Reexamination Unit (CRU). Similar to the training of entry level examiners a sample application will be provided to each trainee and will be the focus of exercises during each module.

Please note, the content and schedule of this course is subject to change.