Patent Public Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting

Congressional/Governmental Affairs Update

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March 2, 2017
Early Congressional Activity
115th Congress (first session)

U.S. Senate
• Nominations
• House-Passed Bills
• FY 2017 Appropriations
• FY 2018 President’s Budget – Mid-March (budget “pass-back” released 2/27)

U.S. House of Representatives
• Bills per Congressional Review Act
• Regulatory Process Legislation
• FY 2017 Appropriations
• FY 2018 President’s Budget – Mid-March
Early Congressional Activity
115th Congress (first session)

NOMINATIONS REQUIRING SENATE CONFIRMATION

**Cabinet (In Succession Order)**
- State
- Treasury
- Defense
- Justice
- Interior
- Agriculture
- **Commerce (Wilber Ross confirmed 2/27)**
- Labor
- HHS
- HUD
- Transportation
- Energy
- Education
- Veterans Affairs
- Homeland Security

**Cabinet Level**
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)
- U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

**1,200 Other Positions**
Early Congressional Activity

115th Congress (first session)

OGA Congressional Member and Staff Engagement Activities

Efforts include:
- “Day in the Life” of USPTO for Congressional Staff, Feb. 24
- Individual Staff meetings (ongoing, including Judiciary, CJS and new member targets)
- Possible Caucus Briefings and meetings
- Upcoming Congressional Events
  - Congressional Inventions Caucus, “Women in Tech” Event, March 22
  - Congressional App Challenge “House of Code” Event, April 4
- Regional Office Programs Support
  - China Roadshows in Houston, Dallas (May), Boston (April 18)
  - IP Enforcement program in Dallas (August/September)
IP and USPTO Issues likely to be discussed

115th Congress (first session)

• Patent Litigation Reform
  o Venue *(TC Heartland case before the Supreme Court)*
  o Sec. 101 (USPTO Roundtables and Proposed Stakeholder Legislative Recommendations)
  o Adjustment of IPR Proceedings

• Copyright Issues
  o New Register of Copyrights
  o Structure of the Copyright Office – Funding and IT Modernization
  o Small Claims Court Legislation
  o Treaties – Marrakesh (VIP) and Beijing (Audiovisual Performers)

• TM Disparagement *(Slants case before the Supreme Court)*

• Fee Setting Authority Extension

• “TEAPP” Extension (Telework Enhancement Act Pilot Program)
OGA Background Materials
## Authorizing Committees

**Committee on the Judiciary**

- **Bob Goodlatte (R-VA-6), Chairman**
- **John Conyers (D-MI-13), Ranking Member**

**Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet**

- **Darrell Issa (R-CA-49), Chairman**
- **Jerry Nadler (D-NY-10), Ranking Member**

## Appropriation Committees

**Committee on Appropriations**

- **Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ-11), Chairman**
- **Nita Lowey (D-NY-17), Ranking Member**

**Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

- **John Culberson (R-TX-7), Chairman**
- **Jose Serrano (D-NY-15), Ranking Member**
USPTO Congressional Committees of Jurisdiction

115th Congress – U.S. Senate

**Authorizing Committees**

*Committee on the Judiciary*

Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Chairman → Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Ranking Member

**Appropriation Committees**

*Committee on Appropriations*

Thad Cochran (R-MS), Chairman → Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Vice Chairman

*Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies*

Richard Shelby (R-AL), Chairman → Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Vice Chairwoman
USPTO’s Office of Governmental Affairs

**Structure:** 10 Staff (mixture of attorneys and policy professionals)
Situated within the Office of Policy and International Affairs

**Core Mission**

Represent USPTO on Capitol Hill

(Advance PTO's legislative agenda, prepare testimony, brief staff, provide technical advice)

Respond to Requests from Members of Congress and Facilitate Clearance

(constituent issues, facilitate clearance of IP policy documents within the USG)

Build Relationships and Maintain Goodwill with Elected Officials

(Support regional office engagement, build fed/state relationships & stakeholder outreach)

Updated Jan. 2017