

Business Methods Customer Partnership Meeting

March 15, 2018

Andrew I. Faile

Deputy Commissioner for Patents, USPTO

As the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations, Andrew Faile is responsible for coordinating the examination of approximately 600,000 patent application filings annually, including proper execution of examination practice and procedure, as well as ensuring timely and quality customer service to our external stakeholders. He leads five Assistant Deputy Commissioners, 33 Technology Center (TC) Group Directors across nine Patent Technology Centers, the Central Reexamination Unit, over 600 Supervisory Patent Examiners and more than 8,000 highly skilled scientists, engineers, and design examiners, as well as support service employees to facilitate examination of applications. Andy was the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations for the Electrical Discipline and has over 20 years of experience in patent examining and operations management. He first joined the USPTO in 1989 as a patent examiner in the areas of cellular telephony, radio frequency communications, and cable television. In 1994, he earned an examiner master's rating in telecommunications. He was awarded the Department of Commerce Silver Medal for his work on a joint management/union task force in charge of modernizing the examiner production system, and in 2014 was awarded the Presidential Meritorious Rank Award.

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Tariq Hafiz

Director, Technology Center 3600, USPTO

Tariq Hafiz joined the USPTO in 1992 as a patent examiner and in 2016 became a Director for Technology Center (TC) 3600 specializing in Business Methods. He first became a Director in TC 2600 specializing in communications. Prior to becoming a Director, Tariq served as a Supervisory Patent Examiner in Business Methods where he managed the examination of applications in the operations research technologies.

At the USPTO, he has led efforts to revamp the initial After Final Consideration Pilot to increase collaboration between the examiner and applicant. He is also a lead for examiner interview practice, which provides training to examiners as well as increases communication between the examiner and applicant. Prior to the USPTO, he worked in software development at the Computer Sciences Corporation for over three years. Mr. Hafiz earned a bachelor's degree in physics from the College of William and Mary with graduate work in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech.

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James (Jim) P. Trammell
Director, Technology Center 3600, USPTO

James (Jim) P. Trammell is currently a Technology Center (TC) Director in TC 3600 and oversees patent examination operations in the areas of business methods.

James P. Trammell received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Colorado State University in 1989. He joined the USPTO in August of 1989 as a Patent Examiner in Examining Group 230, Art Unit 236 examining applications in computer control systems and manufacturing. He received his Primary Certification in 1994 and was selected as a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in 1998. As a SPE he managed various art units in the business methods area from cryptography to finance and then in 2011, he moved to 3660s and managed an art unit in vehicle controls. In 2013 he was selected as TC 3600's SASME (Selecting Authority Subject Matter Expert) responsible for overseeing all the hiring of examiners in 3600. From April of 2016 to January 2017, he was selected and served as the Quality Lead for 3600 responsible for leading 3600's QAS shop. He was a Director in 2800 from January 2017 to February 2018.

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Robert Weinhardt

Technology Quality Assurance Specialist, Technology Center 3600, USPTO

Robert Weinhardt received a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University in 1985 and started his career at the USPTO later that year. Over the years he examined patent applications in the areas of optical disc drives, bar code scanners, automated teller machines, smart cards, document processing, linguistics, and business methods, among others. In 2000, Robert accepted a position that has over the years evolved from Special Programs Examiner, dealing with special law cases, to Business Practice Specialist, supporting the TC in addressing the challenges of the then emerging business methods area, to Quality Assurance Specialist, involved in quality initiatives across various arts in the TC. While in this position, Robert is also a member of the Office of Patent Training's Curriculum Committee, has also developed and delivered training at the Patent Training Academy, and delivered training at the USPTO's Global Intellectual Property Academy for visitors from foreign patent offices.

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Namrata (Pinky) Boveja (Moderator)

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Technology Center 3600, USPTO

Namrata (Pinky) Boveja is currently serving as a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) for Art Unit 3696 focused on examining Insurance, Finance, and Banking related patent applications in the Business Methods section of Technology Center 3600 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Prior to this, she served as the Acting Deputy Director in the Office of Petitions and as a SPE for Art Unit 3682 focused on examining Incentive Programs, Coupons, and Advertising related patent applications. She began her career at the USPTO in 2005 as a Patent Examiner in the Incentive Programs, Coupons, and Advertising area, became a Primary Patent Examiner in 2010, and was promoted to become a SPE in the same area in 2011. As a supervisor, she has led several projects in the Technology Center including the White House Initiative Glossary Pilot and the Business Methods External Website Development Project. Additionally, she served as an instructor for numerous topics concerning patent examination at the USPTO. Ms. Boveja served as the first Vice President of the Women in Science and Engineering affinity group. She also served as an Appeals Specialist at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board assisting Administrative Patent Judges in drafting written opinions on appeals. She received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal for patent examination and supervisory accomplishments, a Career Achievement Award, and Leadership in Action Awards. Ms. Boveja is also a senior fellow of the year-long Partnership for Public Service's Excellence in Government Fellows Program.

During law school, Ms. Boveja served as a Legislative Analyst for the Council of District of Columbia's Economic Development Committee. Prior to joining the USPTO, Ms. Boveja participated in the two-year Technical Sales Leadership Program with General Electric Consumer & Industrial where she worked as a Technical Sales Engineer. She also worked as a Financial Management Consultant for International Business Machines. Ms. Boveja is a licensed attorney in Maryland and the District of Columbia (inactive). She has a BS in Mechanical Engineering and received her MBA from the University of Maryland College Park. Additionally, she received her JD from the University of District of Columbia.

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Michael W. Kim

Lead Administrative Patent Judge, Patent Trial & Appeal Board, USPTO

Judge Michael W. Kim was appointed as an Administrative Patent Judge on April 24, 2011, and as a Lead Judge in August of 2013. In addition to his management responsibilities, Judge Kim conducts inter partes reviews and post-grant reviews under the America Invents Act, and also reviews adverse decisions of examiners upon applications for patents. He works primarily in the business methods, mechanical, and electrical technology areas. Prior to his appointment, Judge Kim was a Patent Attorney at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. Prior to joining the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Judge Kim was a Patent Attorney at the law firm of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, before spending a year on a presidential election campaign. Judge Kim received his law degree from the Duke University School of Law, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a member of the bars of the District of Columbia and the State of California.

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Hubert Lorin

Administrative Patent Judge, Patent Trial & Appeal Board, USPTO

Judge Hubert Lorin joined the USPTO in 1983 and was appointed as an Administrative Patent Judge in 1999. He works primarily in the business methods technology area, although he has also worked in the biotechnology and chemical technology areas. Prior to his appointment, Judge Lorin was a Primary Examiner in the Plastic and Nonmetallic Article Shaping or Treating area, a Quality Review Examiner at the Office of Patent Quality Assurance and later promoted to the position of Director. Judge Lorin received his law degree from the Washington College of Law, a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Bachelors of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from West Virginia University. He is a member of the bar of the State of Virginia.

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