Legislative/governmental affairs update

Branden Ritchie
Kim Alton
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Patent Public Advisory Committee quarterly meeting
The 116th Congress

• USPTO-related hearings:
  – Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property: Fraudulent Trademarks: How They Undermine the Trademark System and Harm American Consumers and Businesses (December 3, 2019)
Legislative activity
116th Congress

- Hot issues in Congress related to patents:
  - Inventor Rights Act (H.R. 5478)
  - Patents for Humanity Program Improvement Act (S. 2814)
  - Counterfeit Goods Seizure Act of 2019 (S. 2987)
  - Patent-related drug pricing legislation
- Federal Budget FY2020: (P.L. 116-93) (December 20, 2019)
  - Provides $3.45 billion for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
- Arthrex Decision
- Section 101 reform
- The USPTO is actively monitoring these efforts
Legislative activity
116th Congress

- Study of Underrepresented Classes Chasing Engineering and Science Success (SUCCESS) Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-273)
- The USPTO submitted the study to Congress as required by the SUCCESS Act on October 31, 2019
- Available on the USPTO website
Legislative activity
116th Congress

• The USPTO’s legislative priorities:
  – Continuity of service during lapse in funding
  – Elevate IP attaché rank
  – Work with Congress on section 101 reform
  – Ensure that congressional efforts to rein in drug prices do not cause harm to the patent system
  – Extension of USPTO’s TEAPP telework program
  – Address Arthrex decision
Thank you!

Branden Ritchie
Kim Alton

Office of Government Affairs and Oversight

branden.ritchie@uspto.gov
kimberley.alton@uspto.gov

571-272-7300

www.uspto.gov