USPTO 2021 National Patent Application Drafting Competition

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What’s it all about?

- Started as a regional competition
- Expanded to a national competition in 2020
- Opportunity to bolster your school’s reputation
- Only competition providing direct access to USPTO resources and experts
Director Iancu video

- Director’s remarks
Never considered intellectual property before?

• Learn the basics of intellectual property (IP)
• Learn the patent application process
• Gain exposure to daily life of patent attorneys
Real life simulation of IP law

• Clients
  – Interpreting client’s vision and description into claims and formal patent application
  – Balancing patentability and scope

• Patent application process
  – Searching using USPTO databases
  – Drafting claims
  – Preparing drawings and writing specifications
  – Amending claims
  – Arguing validity
Learn valuable patent skills

• Experience first-hand what patent attorneys do
• Work with coaches who have decades of patent experience
• Showcase your work as a writing sample
• Talk about the experience in job interviews
Webex poll

• How do we conduct networking virtually?
2021 key dates

• October 1–registration opens
• November 7–registration closes
• November 13–team invitations sent
• November 16–invention statement released
• February 8, 2021–applications due
• March 6, 2021–virtual regional round
• April 9, 2021–National Finals at the USPTO headquarters
But wait, there’s more!

• Patent Prosecution Boot Camp—Four module series:
  – Module one—Learn the basics of patent law and how to file a patent application.
  – Module two—Learn about patent claims and how to interpret them.
  – Module three—Learn about prior art, prior art rejections, and why understanding them is key to understanding the patent prosecution process.
  – Module four—Learn the basics of claim drafting.
Webex poll

• What is the preferred day of the week?
  – Weekday–afternoon
  – Weekday–evening
  – Weekend–afternoon
  – Weekend–evening
  – Other
Resources

• See 2021 National Patent Application Drafting Competition for:
  – 2021 rules
  – 2020 invention statement
  – 2020 past winners
  – Boot camp schedule and registration
Questions?

• www.uspto.gov/midwest
• www.facebook.com/uspto.gov
• www.youtube.com/user/USPTOvideo/
• Social media: @uspto
And the Winner is........