Legislative/Governmental Affairs update

Kim Alton and Tammy Foley
May 6, 2021
Patent Public Advisory Committee quarterly meeting
Legislative Activity
117th Congress

- IDEA Act (S. 632/H.R. 1728)
  - *Inventor Diversity for Economic Advancement Act (IDEA) of 2021*
  - Requires the USPTO to provide for the collection of voluntary demographic information of patent applicants
  - Introduced in the Senate and the House on March 9, 2021 (S. 632/H.R. 1728)
  - Similar versions introduced in the 115th and 116th Congress
  - Reported favorably out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 29, 2021 (15-7)
Legislative Activity
117th Congress

• Endless Frontier Act
  – Designate and support regional technology hubs in key areas that will spread innovation throughout the U.S.
  – Hearing held in the Senate Commerce Committee on April 14, 2021
  – Bill markup expected in May

• Drug pricing bills
Congressional Activity
117th Congress

• Nomination hearing for Mr. Don Graves to be Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce
  – Hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held on March 10, 2021
  – Reported favorably out of committee on April 28, 2021 (25-3)

• Nomination hearing for Ms. Leslie Kiernan to be General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Commerce
  – Hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held on April 21, 2021
Congressional Activity
117th Congress


• Letters from Senators
  – Patent Subject Matter Eligibility Study
  – Pilot program for sequenced examination of patent applications
  – Closing the gender gap in the patent bar
Thank you!

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