Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP) and Virtual Instructor Led Training (vILT)

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Patent Training Advisors
May 6, 2021
Patent Public Advisory Committee quarterly Meeting
## Program overview of STEPP and vILT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Course Format</th>
<th>Continuing Legal Education (CLE)</th>
<th>Pre-requisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>STEPP</strong></td>
<td>USPTO registered practitioners</td>
<td>Workshop with a sequence of modules</td>
<td>USPTO will sponsor Virginia CLE and selected StatesEthics CLE is offered</td>
<td>Completion of pre-activity homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on Patent Training Academy entry level curriculum</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>vILT</strong></td>
<td>Open to all</td>
<td>Live interactive course with a single topic that spans 1 or 2 hours</td>
<td>USPTO will sponsor Virginia CLE</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Based on recent training delivered to experienced USPTO examiners</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
STEPP: Agent/attorney format

- Training centers on how examiners review patent applications.
  - Module 1 focuses on the role of an examiner and steps for reading an application for the first time.
  - Module 3 focuses on case reporting and mapping art to claims.
  - Module 4 focuses on writing an office action.
FY 2021 STEPP Agent/attorney 4-day course schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agent/Attorney</td>
<td>March 16-19*</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agent/Attorney</td>
<td>May 18-21</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>Registration Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agent/Attorney</td>
<td>June 22-25</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>Registration Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agent/Attorney</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agent/Attorney</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*95% of attendees who completed a survey on this pilot event would recommend this training to others

All courses, times, and dates are subject to change and may be cancelled at any time prior to registration opening. For the most up-to-date information, visit the [STEPP page](https://www.uspto.gov/stepp) of the USPTO website.
More information on STEPP

• STEPP page:

• Email: STEPP@USPTO.gov to receive notifications of future STEPP course offerings.
Virtual Instructor Led Training (vILT) Program

• vILT courses are based on recent trainings provided to experienced USPTO examiners.
• Anyone may attend vILT.
• vILT courses are free to attend.
• The USPTO will sponsor Virginia CLE, when appropriate.
• vILT courses have been attended by over 9,067 external stakeholders in less than three years.
• Growth continues, with the last two vILT courses having a combined attendance of 2,158 external stakeholders.
### vILT FY 2021 course schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates Offered</th>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Registration</th>
<th>CLE Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After Final Practice*</td>
<td>January 26, 2021</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>December 14, 2020 - January 25, 2021</td>
<td>Virginia CLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 27, 2021</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 28, 2021</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petitions Practice*</td>
<td>February 23, 2021</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>January 12 - February 22, 2021</td>
<td>Virginia CLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 24, 2021</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 25, 2021</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>August 2021</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Applying for Virginia CLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Applying for Virginia CLE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*90% of attendees who completed a survey would recommend this training to others*
Prior vILT course offerings

- Examining computer-implemented functional claim limitations for compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112
- 2019 Revised Subject Matter Eligibility Guidance: Advanced Module
- Legal analysis and writing workshop
- Combined 102/103 workshop training
- Clear obviousness rejections: important lessons from *Outdry v. Geox*
- Proper anticipation rejections: reminders from recent Case Law
- Addressing 35 U.S.C. §112(f) or Means-plus-Function limitations
- Functional language workshop: claim interpretation and definiteness under 35 U.S.C. §112(b)
- Claim interpretation–product by process
- Claim interpretation–preambles
- Double Patenting
- After Final Practice
- Petitions Practice
More information on vILT

• vILT website:
  – www.uspto.gov/patent/patent-quality/virtual-instructor-led-training

• Email: vILT@USPTO.gov to receive notifications of future vILT course offerings.
Questions and comments

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