

BECOME AN ATTACHÉ

USPTO IP experts working for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders around the world



IP attachés at the annual USPTO IP Attaché Consultations in Alexandria, VA.

IP attachés are intellectual property (IP) experts assigned to a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad. They serve an initial two-year limited appointment, which may be extended for up to three additional years.

Role of an IP attaché

- Promotes and explains U.S. government IP policy overseas
- Advises U.S. government officials on foreign governments' IP systems
- Advocates for improvements to foreign countries' IP-related laws and regulations
- Conducts IP education and awareness programs for government officials and the public

Helping U.S. stakeholders

IP attachés have assisted many U.S. industry associations and businesses in doing business abroad protecting and enforcing IP rights. IP-protected products can include:

- Software and semiconductors
- Pharmaceuticals
- Books and magazines
- Movies and television programs
- Musical works and recordings
- Electronic games
- Food and beverages
- Medical devices
- Automobiles and other manufactured products



IP attachés frequently speak with U.S. stakeholders throughout the United States.



IP attaché, Jennifer Chicowski (third from the left), presented a Memorandum of Understanding to the Tribunal de Justicia de la Comunidad Andina (Court of Justice of the Andean Community).



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“There aren’t many career opportunities where one has the chance to represent the United States abroad and to help shape policies that truly bring hope (through new medicines or medical devices), joy (through new entertainment choices and new personal technologies), and comfort broadly to the people of the world.”

– John Santamauro, former IP attaché



Benefits of becoming an intellectual property (IP) attaché

- A high-profile diplomatic position
- An opportunity to impact foreign IP policy
- Developing international experience

Qualifications

- IP expertise
- Law degree for most postings
- Foreign language proficiency welcome but not required

Job vacancies

Positions are announced through USAJobs.gov by the International Trade Administration, and are posted on the IP Attaché Program’s webpage, www.uspto.gov/ipattache. The announcements are for U.S. embassy and consulate-based positions that are titled Attorney-Adviser (Intellectual Property)” or Commercial Officer (Intellectual Property).”

Locations and coverage

- **Belgium—Brussels:** European Union, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, and United Kingdom
- **Brazil—Rio de Janeiro:** Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela
- **China—Beijing:** National-level issues in China, plus Beijing and Shenyang, and Mongolia
- **China—Guangzhou:** Southern, Southwestern, and Southeastern China (including Hong Kong and Macao)
- **China—Shanghai:** Eastern and Central China, plus Taiwan
- **India—New Delhi:** South Asia
- **Mexico—Mexico City:** Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean (including French Guiana, Guyana, and Suriname)
- **Peru—Lima:** Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru
- **South Africa—Johannesburg:** Sub-Saharan Africa
- **Switzerland—Geneva:** World Trade Organization and World Intellectual Property Organization
- **Thailand—Bangkok:** Southeast Asia
- **Ukraine—Kyiv:** Central Eurasia and the Western Balkans
- **United Arab Emirates—Abu Dhabi:** Middle East and North Africa



IP attachés regularly speak with U.S. and foreign stakeholders about pressing IP issues.

IP attaché careers

www.uspto.gov/ipattache

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Office of Policy and International Affairs

600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

