

Become an IP attaché

Intellectual property (IP) attachés are IP experts and diplomats who directly assist U.S. businesses and advocate to improve IP policies, laws, and regulations abroad. The backgrounds of IP attachés are quite diverse. Most begin their careers as private or public sector attorneys, patent examiners, or trademark examining attorneys.

Three pathways to becoming an IP attaché:

Federal attorney - Patent examiner - Private firm attorney

Federal attorney

Patent examiner

Private firm attorney



Debbie's IP attaché location



Switzerland

Debbie Lashley-Johnson

Debbie Lashley-Johnson was working as an attorney for the International Trade Administration before her career interest and experience led her to become an IP attaché in Geneva.

In fact, the career satisfaction and excitement of raising her daughters in an international context led her to hold a second IP attaché post in Geneva.

Federal attorney

Patent examiner

Private firm attorney



Karin's IP attaché location



Switzerland

Karin Ferriter

Karin Ferriter didn't know her career as a patent examiner would eventually lead her to serve as an IP attaché. After gaining experience as a patent examiner, she moved to being an attorney in the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA).

Her "homegrown" talent and varied experience made her a great fit for the IP attaché role in Geneva when it became available. This opportunity led to her current leadership role as Deputy Chief Policy Officer.

Did you know?

Many pathways have led individuals with law degrees to serve as IP attachés, such as past work with non-profits, corporate firms, university teaching, and more. **Could you be the next one to serve?**

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Three pathways to becoming an IP attaché (continued)

Federal attorney

Patent examiner

Private firm attorney



Mike Mangelson

Mike Mangelson's experience with IP law at a private firm led him to become the ideal fit for the IP attaché role in Shanghai.

This fantastic international opportunity led him to his current role as co-China team lead with the USPTO, resulting in continuity of impact in the region.

This is a dream job if you:

- love to travel, meet new people, and can easily adapt to any new environment.
- are a self-starter and problem solver.
- have experience working with senior government officials.
- get energized by challenging and creative work.
- are a great communicator.
- like forging new and meaningful business alliances on a global scale.
- have a passion for public service—especially protecting U.S. innovation.

Qualifications

- U.S. citizenship
- Expertise in IP, foreign language fluency is a plus
- Law degree

Learn more

- Visit www.uspto.gov/ip-policy/ip-attache-program.
- Go to <https://uspto.usajobs.gov> to search and set up alerts.



IP attachés and local staff with headquarters-based IP Attaché Program team at the annual USPTO IP attaché consultations in Alexandria, Virginia. *Amando Carigo/USPTO*

What does an IP attaché do?

- The USPTO's IP attachés advocate for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders to improve policies, laws, and regulations that protect IP abroad, including:
 - raising issues with foreign government officials to explain why changes and improvements to policies, laws, and regulations would be advantageous to that country
 - training host government officials on IP law, enforcement, and administration
 - conducting public awareness programs on U.S. IP perspectives, and why IP should be protected, respected, and enforced
- IP attachés provide assistance across a broad range of IP from protection to preventing online piracy, to licensing issues and combating counterfeit trade
- The attachés also provide information to help U.S. stakeholders entering foreign markets or conducting business abroad, including:
 - how to navigate foreign laws and regulations
 - how foreign courts and governments work
 - how to protect and enforce IP abroad

13 ACTIVE ATTACHÉ POSTS
AT U.S. EMBASSIES &
MISSIONS AROUND THE GLOBE

EARN UP TO

\$170,800
ANNUALLY

THEIR WORK TO PROTECT
IP GLOBALLY
POSITIVELY IMPACTS
ONGOING EFFORTS TO:

SAVE OVER
45 MILLION
JOBS IN THE U.S.

COMBAT GLOBAL
LOSSES OF MORE THAN

461

BILLION DOLLARS

2.5 PERCENT
OF THE WORLD GDP FROM
COUNTERFEITING

7 REGIONS
COVERED BY IP ATTACHÉS

Where are IP attachés located around the globe?

- Brazil
- China- Beijing
- China - Guangzhou
- China - Shanghai
- European Union
- India
- Kuwait
- Mexico
- Peru
- U.S. mission to WIPO/WTO
- Thailand
- Ukraine

