KATHY BERRY
Dallas Public Library

Kathy Berry joined the Dallas Public Library in November, 2014 as a Library Associate and soon became the Patent & Trademark Specialist for the Government Information Center located at the Central Library. In March 2015 Kathy attended her first USPTO Annual Conference as the PTRC specialist from Dallas and continues to help her patrons with their questions with the patent and trademark process. She received her Master’s in Educational Technology from Texas A&M University-Commerce in 2006. She is a retired teacher with 32 years of service to the children of Texas. Kathy is married to David and has two daughters and four grandsons.
TREY BOWLES
Co-Founder & CEO of the
Dallas Entrepreneur Center

Trey Bowles is a serial entrepreneur, social capitalist, and educator. Trey cofounded the Dallas Entrepreneur Center (DEC), a central location for entrepreneurs to learn how to start, build and grow businesses through training, education, mentorship, promotion, and capital investment. As Co-Founder and CEO, Trey leads strategy, vision, and drives the overall planning and development efforts for the DEC. Trey oversees the day-to-day operations of the DEC, including management of all areas of the business. Trey also works closely with the DEC staff to engage executives, mentors and other valuable experts within the Dallas community and across the country to maintain a strong and robust resource offering for DEC startups/members).

In addition to his work with the DEC, Trey works closely with the Startup America Partnership, a non-profit organization started by Steve Case and the Kauffman Foundation, leading a team of entrepreneurial experts across the state to help high-growth startups find greater success through Startup Texas. Trey also helped launch the Arts Entrepreneurship Department in the Meadows School of Arts at Southern Methodist University and currently serves as an Adjunct Professor on staff teaching Social Entrepreneurship and an Accelerate Your Startup Class where each team is giving actual investment to help make their business viable. Bowles also cofounded the Mayor’s Star Council with Mayor Mike Rawlings of Dallas to find a culturally diverse and civically minded group of emerging leaders who want to embrace and engage the City of Dallas as opposed to inheriting the city in 20 years. Trey has also been recognized as one of the “Top 40 Under 40 Business Professionals” in Dallas according to the Dallas Business Journal.

Trey has spent his career starting and building companies in both the for-profit and non-profit space with an expertise in strategy, operations, and marketing. Bowles has held key leadership roles in the industries of music, entertainment, and disruptive technology including running the popular peer-to-peer file-sharing site, Morpheus. He most recently led the turn-around and sale of Big Jump Media Inc. to Salem Communications (NASDAQ: SALM) in 2010.

Trey lives in Dallas with his wife and two children and is committed to helping build a collaborative ecosystem at the intersection of technology, entrepreneurship and education within the DFW Metroplex.
Wynn Coggins is the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She is responsible for supporting the development and delivery of administrative functions for the agency. Prior to her role as the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, she was a patent group director in the USPTO electrical and mechanical technologies business units. She has been a frequent public speaker for many public and private organizations on patents, both nationally and internationally, and has represented the USPTO to Congressional staff, national interest groups and the media.

Mrs. Coggins joined the Patent and Trademark Office in 1990, after spending four years working for an engineering and architectural consulting firm in Fairfax, Virginia. She received an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University in 1986, and a Master of Science in Information Systems Technology with a concentration in Information Resources Management in 1999 from The George Washington University School of Business and Public Management (M.S.I.S.T.). She also received a Certificate of Advanced Public Management through The Maxwell School of Syracuse University in 2002. She is a member of Chi Epsilon, the civil engineering honor society.
Elizabeth Dougherty is the Director of Inventor Education, Outreach, and Recognition in the Office of Innovation Development at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). In this capacity, she develops, implements, and supervises programs that support the independent inventor community, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and the intellectual property interests of colleges and universities. Elizabeth has spearheaded a number of special projects with federal, state and local governments, and private organizations to promote and support invention and innovation in the United States. She oversees a portfolio of ongoing and future initiatives designed to assist independent inventors, entrepreneurs, and underserved communities.

Prior to her current assignment at the USPTO, Elizabeth served in various executive service roles, most recently as Acting Deputy Director in the Office of Patent Legal Administration. In this capacity, she was responsible for the oversight and direction of a team of senior legal advisors and staff assisting the Patent Examining Corps in matters of legal policy. Having begun her career at the USPTO as a patent examiner, Elizabeth examined patent applications filed in the area of Class 73, Electric Devices used for Measuring or Testing.

Elizabeth is frequently called upon to lecture, often to student groups of all ages, about the USPTO, the patent process, innovation and creativity, and legal aspects of obtaining and maintaining a U.S. patent.

Elizabeth received a bachelor’s degree in physics from the Catholic University of America in 1991 and a juris doctorate from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in 1996. She is a member of the Virginia Bar, the Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court, the Pauline Newman American Inn of Court, the American Bar Association, the Federal Circuit Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the Patent and Trademark Office Society, the Supervisory Patent Examiners and Classifiers Organization, Women in Science and Engineering, and the Prince George’s County Historical Society.

Elizabeth enjoys history, living in an 1854 home on the Maryland Historic Register and is the owner of nearly eighty patent models. In addition, she collects other books, documents, and artifacts of USPTO history.
Tony is a graduate of Drexel University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1985. Upon graduation he joined the United States Patent and Trademark Office as an examiner in pipefittings technology. While working at the USPTO, Tony attended George Mason University School of Law and earned his juris doctorate in 1990. From 1990 to 1992, he was in private practice and prosecuted applications for various technologies throughout the USPTO. In 1992, Tony returned to the USPTO. After achieving the grade of primary examiner, he was promoted to supervisory patent examiner in 1998 and supervised examiners in such diverse fields as hinges and hardware to computer controls.

In 2007 Tony was named to the position of supervisor in the Office of Petitions and in March 2010 became Director of the Office of Petitions. In June 2013, he was asked to serve as the Acting Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development.
Dr. Simon Mak is professor of practice in the department of strategy, entrepreneurship, and business economics and the associate director of the Caruth Institute for Entrepreneurship at the SMU Cox School of Business. He specializes in opportunity identification, start-up business planning, and corporate entrepreneurship. He is also the faculty advisor to the SMU Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Club and the SMU Cox MBA Entrepreneurship Club.

Prior to changing careers and joining SMU in 2004, he worked in engineering, manufacturing, sales and marketing for Fortune 100 companies Raytheon and Digital Equipment Corporation, and then joined venture capital-backed software start-up Mercury Interactive in Silicon Valley that went IPO. He was involved in his own dental dot.com start-up and presented to top-tier venture capital firms in Silicon Valley, and then was the vice president of sales and marketing for a start-up Asian business magazine, and most recently he was vice president of marketing and business development for a small private equity-backed Linux software company in Dallas and led the sales expansion into the Japanese market and the eventual company sale to a large Japanese systems integration company.

Dr. Mak’s research articles focus on the economic impact of technology entrepreneurship and improving investment methodologies, such as “The Economic Impact of Technology Entrepreneurship on Job Creation: An Analysis of Job Growth of Technology Firms Listed in the Fortune 1000 and Best Places To Work 2008 Rankings” and “Economic Value Creation from Technology Entrepreneurship: A Comparative Analysis of Sales Growth of High-Technology Industries Listed in the Fortune 1000 Rankings from 2006-2009”, and his PhD dissertation was on Improving Investment Performance of Venture Financing Utilizing Bayesian Fundamentals.

Dr. Mak earned his SB in Mechanical Engineering from MIT, an MBA in Finance from SMU Cox School of Business, and a PhD in Applied Science (Systems Engineering focus) from the SMU Lyle School of Engineering, and was recently awarded the 2015 SMU Distinguished University Citizen Award for promoting and supporting entrepreneurship at SMU. Dr. Mak can be followed on Twitter @profsmak where he created a new hashtag #PeaceLoveStartups
Craig Morris works within the Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria, Virginia. Currently, he is the Managing Attorney for Educational Outreach, spearheading the effort for increased USPTO activities in the area of trademark fundamentals for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and business students. For fourteen years prior, he was the Managing Attorney for the Trademark Electronic Application System, focusing on making the Trademark Operation a total e-government environment. Mr. Morris has been with the USPTO since 1983, previously serving as a Law Office Examining Attorney, Senior Attorney, and Managing Attorney.
As Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Russell Slifer provides strategic leadership and oversight to one of the largest intellectual property offices in the world.

Most recently, Mr. Slifer served as the Director of the Rocky Mountain United States Patent and Trademark Office, where he led efforts to foster business and technological innovation. His team promoted economic development and intellectual property knowledge throughout the Rocky Mountain region. He encouraged increase cooperation between USPTO stakeholders, the patent and trademark applicants, the intellectual property bar, businesses, and the education community in the region. In addition, Mr. Slifer advised the USPTO on a variety of policy matters.

Before joining the USPTO, Mr. Slifer served as Chief Patent Counsel for Micron Technology in Boise, Idaho where he developed an effective worldwide patent portfolio strategy. He was also a Principal at Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner in Minneapolis, advising a wide range of high-technology clients from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies on intellectual property matters.

Mr. Slifer has also held a number of leadership positions, including President of the Association of Corporate Patent Counsel and Board Member of the Intellectual Property Owners Association. Prior to his legal career, Mr. Slifer was a design engineer for Honeywell.

Mr. Slifer received his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University, as well as a J.D. from Northern Illinois University.
Ingrid Vanderveldt (iV) is the Founder and CEO of Empowering a Billion Women by 2020 (EBW2020). Previously, she was the first Entrepreneur-in-Residence (“EIR”) for Dell Inc. where she oversaw entrepreneurial initiatives worldwide helping to build a $250 million business segment and founded the $125M Dell Innovators Credit Fund, Dell Founders Club, and the Dell Center for Entrepreneurs during her 3-year term.

iV sits on the United Nations Foundation’s Global Entrepreneurs Council, is a Managing Partner of Belle Capital, founding organizer of the GLASS Forum (Global Leadership & Sustainable Success), and co-founder of The Billionaire Girls Club. She also created and hosted CNBC’s first original primetime series, “American Made,” reaching over 1M viewers around the globe and serves on the Advisory boards of Springboard Enterprises, Current Motor, and is a Dell Women’s Entrepreneur Network (DWEN) Member.

iV has been featured on outlets including NBC, CNBC, FOX, ABC, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Bloomberg, CNN Money, Fortune Magazine, Fast Company, Inc Magazine and Entrepreneur Magazine. She holds a Masters in Architecture at the Savannah College of Art & Design and an MBA in Entrepreneurship from UT at Austin.