

Evolving Programs of the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative



Data Analysis

Topic Submission for Case Studies

This **Pillar 1 program** is to develop a way for applicants to suggest to the Office of Patent Quality Assurance (OPQA) some general examination topics for case studies. Case studies of proposed topics could include analysis of rejections, MPEP guidance, Office policy, etc. Any suggestion that includes a specific application number or examiner data will not be considered. Results of the case studies will be used to enhance work product quality.

Clarity and Correctness Data Capture (Master Review Form or MRF)

This **Pillar 2 program** is to develop a single form to be used to collect data from various reviews done by OPQA and supervisors in Patents Operations.

Quality Metrics

This **Pillar 2 program** is to develop world-class, patent quality metrics using existing data, such as Quality Index Report (QIR) data, and new data, such as MRF data.

Examiners' Resources, Tools and Training

Automated Pre-Examination Search Pilot

This **Pillar 1 program** is to make a pre-examination search available automatically in every application.

STIC Awareness Campaign

This **Pillar 1 program** is to inform examiners about the tools and resources for searching prior art that are currently available in the Scientific and Technical Information Center (STIC).

Clarity of Record Training: Improving Clarity and Reasoning in Office Actions Training (ICR Training)

This **Pillar 1 program** is to develop and provide training modules for examiners on effective ways to improve all aspects of the clarity of the prosecution record.

Post Grant Outcomes

This **Pillar 1 program** is to develop a process for providing post-grant outcomes from sources, such as the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), to the examiner of record and the examiners of related applications.

Interview Specialist

This **Pillar 3 program** is to provide subject matter experts in each Technology Center (TC) and Regional Office on interview practice and policy to assist both Applicant and Examiners with interviews, including facilitating and assisting with technical issues that may arise (e.g. WebEx problems, public interview room setup).

Changes to Process/Product

Clarity of the Record Pilot

This **Pillar 1 program** is to develop best practices for enhancing the clarity of all aspects of the prosecution record and then study the impact of implementing these best practices during examination.

Re-evaluate AFCP, Pre-Appeal, and QPIDS

This **Pillar 3 program** is to determine the feasibility of modifying the After Final Consideration Pilot (AFCP) 2.0, the Pre-Appeal Conference and the Quick Path Information Disclosure Statement (QPIDS) programs to make them more efficient.

Design Patent Publication Quality

This **Pillar 3 program** is to investigate the feasibility of improving the image quality of published design patents.

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

