

Join the Trademark Legal Team at the USPTO

United States
Patent and Trademark Office

600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22313



Kamal Preet

"The benefits of working in a collegial environment with flexible work schedules really make this the dream job that everyone strives for in a career and in life."

Obieze Mmeje

"If you desire a career that allows you to achieve fulfillment in your professional and personal life, the Trademark Office is definitely the place to be."

Jaclyn Kidwell-Walker

"The USPTO is a top-notch agency to work for... Simply stated I love what I do and I love who I work with."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTORNEYS

The USPTO offers opportunities for attorneys to practice trademark law, part of the flourishing field of intellectual property law. The USPTO is a highly innovative agency that offers career growth in a diverse environment and a quality of life that is unique in the legal profession.

TRADEMARK ORGANIZATION

The Trademark organization is part of the USPTO, an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. We are rapidly growing, employing over 600 attorneys. The mission of the Trademark organization is to register trademarks with exceptional quality and excellent customer service.

TRADEMARK EXAMINING ATTORNEYS

Trademark examining attorneys review trademark applications for compliance with the Lanham Act for the purpose of determining registrability in the United States. Trademark examining attorneys research and write decisions on various statutory and procedural issues, work with applicants to correct informal defects in applications, and approve applications for publication and registration. They also draft appeal briefs and represent the USPTO before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB).

TRAINING OF NEW ATTORNEYS

The Trademark organization proudly offers a comprehensive training program. No previous trademark experience is necessary. Training is a two-year process, where the new attorney gains successive competence and independence, and becomes a Trademark legal expert.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

There is ample opportunity for growth for a trademark examining attorney. Former examining attorneys have led the organization as the Commissioner of Trademarks and serve at many levels of management. Others oversee the Legal Policy Office, serve abroad as Intellectual Property Attaches, or are judges and interlocutory attorneys at the TTAB. There are also myriad avenues for enhancing legal skills through participation in temporary assignments throughout the agency, which may include details and work projects with the TTAB, the Legal Policy Office and the Office of the Solicitor. Career development also includes continuing legal education both at the USPTO and at various bar association conferences.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Trademark attorneys are paid according to the GS pay scale. Trademark examining attorneys start at the GS 9 level (law graduates) or GS 11 level (bar members), and advance through the GS 12/13/14 levels within a few years.

Trademark attorneys receive federal employee benefits, including health, life and long-term care insurance, paid annual and sick leave, and retirement benefits under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) including a Roth TSP feature. Employees also are eligible for public transportation subsidies and have access to an on-site, state of the art fitness center, a daycare center and a health unit.

Please consult www.opm.gov for more information about salary and benefits.

FLEXIBLE WORK SCHEDULES

The USPTO features an award winning telework program that allows experienced attorneys the opportunity to work at home full time and utilize flexible work schedules.

BONUSES AND OVERTIME

Experienced trademark examining attorneys who produce excellent quality and high volumes of work may earn substantial production and quality bonuses throughout the year. Depending on Office need, attorneys may also earn overtime pay or compensatory time. All of these opportunities, along with flexible scheduling, require supervisory approval and new attorneys must complete specific levels of training before being eligible for these options.

LOCATION

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is located in historic Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, near downtown Washington, D.C. The USPTO is a modern, technologically-advanced campus in close proximity to gardens and parks, shopping areas and a multitude of restaurants. The Office is also conveniently located within walking distance of the King Street Metro stop.



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