

USPTO Executives

Hirshfeld, Andrew

Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Andrew (Drew) Hirshfeld is Commissioner for Patents for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He was appointed to the position in July 2015. He leads and manages more than 10,000 employees as the patent organization's chief operating officer and also manages and directs all aspects of patent operations, examination policy, patent quality management, international patent cooperation, resources and planning, and budget administration. In his previous role as Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, Mr. Hirshfeld served as an authority on patent laws, rules, and examining practice and procedure, and provided oversight and direction for the Offices of Petitions, Patent Legal Administration, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. Mr. Hirshfeld previously served as Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. He began his career at the USPTO in 1994 as a Patent Examiner, became a supervisory Patent Examiner in 2001, and was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 2008 as a Group Director in Technology Center 2100, Computer Architecture and Software. Mr. Hirshfeld holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Vermont, and a J.D. from Western New England College School of Law.

Bickel, Mindy

Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Mindy Bickel was appointed Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development in December 2015. The Office of Innovation Development ensures that independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, university inventors, and minority and underserved populations better understand, secure, and use Intellectual Property (IP) with a focus on patents.

Since 1999, Ms. Bickel has coordinated and conducted stakeholder outreach and partnership efforts for the United States Patent and Trademark Office. She served as the Office's New York City Engagement Manager, where she worked in partnership with Cornell University to provide education and direct access to resources that assist innovators and entrepreneurs with bringing their ideas to market. Ms. Bickel managed the Patents Ombudsman Program, a program that enhances the USPTO's ability to assist applicants and their representatives with issues that arise during patent application prosecution. She also served as Chief of Staff to the Commissioner for Patents and was responsible for the oversight of independent inventor programs.

Ms. Bickel began her career at the USPTO in 1989 as a Patent Examiner in the biotechnology area and became a Supervisory Patent Examiner in 1995. Throughout her career, Ms. Bickel has received numerous awards, including the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal for patent examination and supervisory accomplishments, a Silver Medal for improvements in customer service, and a Hammer Award from Vice President Gore for work in establishing a new customer outreach program in the biotechnology group.

Ms. Bickel received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Bryn Mawr College. She also received an M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in biophysical inorganic chemistry from Columbia University.

Bonilla, Jacqueline

Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge, Patent Trial and Appeal Board, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Jacqueline Wright Bonilla serves as a Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. PTAB conducts trials, including inter partes, post-grant, and covered business method patent reviews and derivation proceedings; hears appeals from adverse examiner decisions in patent applications and reexamination proceedings; and renders decisions in interferences. Previously, Judge Bonilla worked for 12 years in private practice, including as a partner at Foley & Lardner, LLP. She also served as a judicial law clerk to the now-retired Chief Judge Randall Rader at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Judge Bonilla graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law, holds a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Virginia, and a B.A. in Biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley.

Isom, Pamela

Executive Director, Office of Application Engineering and Development

Pamela K. Isom is the Executive Director of the Office of Application Engineering and Development (AED), an office of the CIO at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She joined USPTO in January 2015 from the private sector, bringing a wealth of leadership and innovative information and technology experiences to the Federal Government. Ms. Isom launched her career as a computer programmer for municipalities shortly after graduating from Chaminade University of Honolulu. Today she holds a Master of Information Systems Management degree with concentration in business intelligence from Walden University. Her customer base includes both public and private sector citizens, the Department of Commerce, and Congress. She is the founder and chairperson of the Dev/Ops Council, an initiative that promotes collaboration and efficiencies across OCIO towards delivery of information and technology (IT). Ms. Isom remains a board member of USPTO's Network of Executive Women (NEW) affinity group since its inception in 2015 supporting the mission of inspiring women executives and promoting STEM.

Kocialski, Molly

Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional USPTO, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Mollybeth (Molly) Kocialski serves as the Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Director since January 2016, Ms. Kocialski carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, and is responsible for leading the Rocky Mountain regional office. Focusing on the nine states within this region and actively engaging with the community, Ms. Kocialski ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders. Ms. Kocialski brings more than 20 years of intellectual property experience to the USPTO. Most recently, Ms. Kocialski was the Senior Patent Counsel for Oracle America, Inc, where she was responsible for managing an active patent prosecution docket and was also responsible for all of the post-grant procedures and patent investigations for Oracle and its subsidiaries. Prior to Oracle, she worked at Qwest Corporation and was also in private practice in both New York and Colorado, focusing on intellectual property litigation for multiple high-tech companies while maintaining an active prosecution docket.

Ms. Kocialski is a recognized IP leader in the Rocky Mountain region. She currently serves on the Colorado Federal Executive Board's Executive Committee, is the Vice President of the Colorado IP Inn of Court, and was previously the Chair of the Planning Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado IP Inn of Court. Further, Ms. Kocialski is a member of the Planning Committee for the Rocky Mountain Intellectual Property Institute, an annual two-day conference on intellectual property that attracts more than 500 attendees. She was the Chair of the Intellectual Property Section of the Colorado Bar Association and served on the Colorado Bar Association's Board of Governors. Ms. Kocialski served as the head of the IP Committee and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel, and she served on the National IP Committee of the Association of the Corporate Counsel. In 2015 Ms. Kocialski was recognized by ManagingIP magazine as one of its North America Corporate IP Stars.

Ms. Kocialski is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law and received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of New Mexico. She is a registered patent attorney and is admitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the New York and Colorado state bars as well as to the United States Courts in those jurisdictions.