

## USPTO and External Speakers

### **Amos, Tanya**

Trademark Legal Administrator, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Tanya Amos is an attorney in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Administration at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Tanya administers the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) and is responsible for maintaining legal documents on the USPTO's internet and intranet websites. She provides expert policy guidance and support to employees on legal and procedural matters related to the filing and prosecution of trademark applications.

Previously, Tanya worked as an examining attorney where, in addition to examining applications, she mentored newly hired attorneys and participated in an electronic commerce work project to help automate the Office. Tanya received her law degree from the University of Oklahoma, College of Law, and her undergraduate degree from Macalester College.

### **Ascolese, Lisa**

Founder of Invention A-Z

Lisa Ascolese is a mentor, entrepreneur, keynote speaker, inventor, and independent TV product agent. For more than 25 years, Ms. Ascolese has invented, marketed, and launched products on QVC, HSN, EVINE Live, and ShopNBC. She is the CEO and founder of Inventing A to Z and also launched a non-profit, The Association of Women Inventors & Entrepreneurs, (AOWIE). She has appeared on Bravo TV, ABC, and Sirius XM as well as major publications such as Black Enterprise Magazine, Ebony Magazine, Essence Magazine, and The New York Times. Ms. Ascolese's first product was The Bosom Buddy nursing cape followed by the Bun-Tie hair accessory, The Wrap and Store Organizer, and The Perfect Pockets Organizer, which generated \$6,000 in less than six minutes on QVC.

Ms. Ascolese is the daughter of a veteran, wife, and mother and hails from Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from Brooklyn College in Brooklyn. She lives by the advice of her grandmother, "when you believe, you will achieve".

### **Batts, Robert "R.J."**

CEO, Picklehead

Robert "R.J." Batts is the 15-year-old inventor of Tip Tough- a simple and inexpensive kitchen tool that can protect professional chefs and home cooks from knife injuries. When R.J. was 12, he became consumed with protecting his father's hands, which would often come with home cut and bandaged fingers that sometimes kept him out of work. A year later, with 3-D printouts in hand, R.J. was accepted to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy at the Salisbury (MD) Area Chamber of Commerce. Once there, he formed his company, Picklehead LLC. He spent months attending classes and taking field trips after school learning to find funding, craft a pitch, and bring the Tip Tough to market – all while attending middle school and playing on his school's soccer team.

In October 2016, R.J. received start-up funding from the Shore Hatchery Competition at Salisbury University, beating out adults from 30 businesses for a Second Place award of \$15,000. Later that fall, TEDCo awarded Picklehead grant money for the design and prototype of the professional Chef Tip Tough in stainless steel. In March 2017, R.J. was featured as the youngest inventor at the International Home and Housewares Show in Chicago, and was chosen to pitch to the Home Shopping Network. In April 2017, he was honored with the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce's "Entrepreneurial Spirit Award". That was followed in June with the Maryland Small Business Administration's (SBA) 2017 Maryland "Rising Star" Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award. R.J.'s vision is that "Home Chef" Tip Tough – to be made of plastic – will one day be in every kitchen drawer. He is committed to producing Tip Tough in the USA, noting "I grew up in an area hit hard by the Recession. People think kids don't notice that stuff, but it's important to me and my family because we want to create local jobs for local people". R.J. likes to cook and is an expert gamer with more than 2000 hours on "Ark." Now a sophomore, he plays on his high school soccer team and is already planning his next two products.

## **Blackwell, Gwendolyn**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Gwen Blackwell is a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in the Chemical and Material Engineering Technology Center 1700 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Ms. Blackwell delivers lectures to new examiners at the Patent Training Academy on various topics concerning effective patent examination processes. She also has completed a nine month detail as a Resource SPE at the Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional Office located in Detroit, Michigan, where she helped to develop the K-12 outreach program. Ms. Blackwell began her career at the USPTO in December 2000 as an examiner in TC 1700, specifically addressing applications in areas such as semiconductors, nonstructural laminates, glass substrates with coatings, and artificial flora and fauna. In 2008, she became a Primary Examiner, allowing her to exercise independent judgment with regards to the applications upon which she worked. In January 2012 she was promoted to a Supervisory Patent Examiner and served as a Trainer for new examiners in the Patent Training Academy. She transitioned in the fall of 2012 and began supervising an Art Unit of 13 examiners in TC 1700. She has worked in various parts of the USPTO, on temporary assignments, including periods at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, in the office of Patent Cooperation Treaty, and as a Training Assistant and Supervisory Patent Examiner at the Patent Training Academy. Ms. Blackwell received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She also received a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

## **Boveja, Namrata**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Namrata Boveja is currently serving as an Acting Deputy Director in the Office of Petitions and as a Supervisory Patent Examiner for Art Unit 3682 in the Business Methods section of Technology Center 3600 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). At the USPTO, Ms. Namrata has also served as an Appeals Specialist at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board assisting Administrative Patent Judges in drafting written opinions on appeals. She is a licensed attorney in Maryland and the District of Columbia, has a BS in Mechanical Engineering, and received her MBA from the University of Maryland College Park. Additionally, Ms. Namrata received her JD from the University of District of Columbia.

## **Chriss, Andrew W.**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Andrew Chriss is a Supervisory Patent Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in the Multiplexing area of Technology Center 2400, overseeing examination of applications related to wireless and wireline telecommunications. Prior to joining the USPTO, Mr. Chriss was an Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton, where he was responsible for leadership and delivery of timely and accurate analysis of public, proprietary, and classified telecommunications data sets. He has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech and a Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. In his free time, Mr. Chriss enjoys playing music, practicing yoga, and running.

## **Contag, Katharine**

CEO, Color Clutch

Katharine Contag is the founder and CEO of Color Clutch, a beauty start-up dedicated to making women's lives easier through innovative storage solutions for nail polish. Color Clutch's best-selling product is a case that holds nearly any type of nail polish in just two inches of space. Color Clutch launched in September 2014 through the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter. The brand has been featured on the TODAY Show and in top publications such as O The Oprah Magazine, and has even partnered with several top nail brands including essie, ZOYA, and Jamberry. Color Clutch is currently sold in The Container Store and online at ColorClutch.com.

Prior to Color Clutch, Ms. Contag held Finance and Marketing positions at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and BaubleBar, an online jewelry retailer based in New York City. She started her career as a sales associate at Nordstrom, where she immediately fell in love with the world of beauty and retail. Ms. Contag graduated from Stanford University with a BA in Political Science and earned her MBA from Harvard Business School.

## **Corboy, William Grant**

Patent Attorney, United States Patent and Trademark Office

William Grant Corboy is a Patent Attorney for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He joined the Office of Enrollment Discipline (OED) as a Patent Attorney in 2016. As a member of the Patent Pro Bono Team, he is dedicated to making sure that all inventors have access to the patent system, including those who are financially under-resourced. In addition to his Patent Pro Bono responsibilities, Mr. Corboy also serves as a Staff Attorney investigating discipline and enrollment matters. Mr. Corboy was a Primary Patent Examiner for the USPTO and, prior to joining the USPTO in 2010, he worked for 15 years as a design engineer, project manager, and government contracts manager with DuPont and Lockheed Martin. Mr. Corboy is a member of the Maryland bar, and he is registered to practice before the USPTO. He graduated, cum laude, from The University of Baltimore School of Law and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and his Masters of Science in Structural Engineering from the University of Delaware.

## **Donlon, Ryan**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Ryan Donlon is a Supervisory Patent Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in the Businesses Methods Finance area of Technology center 3600. Prior to joining the USPTO, Mr. Donlon was a software developer for Vertex, Inc., where he developed backend payroll tax accounting software for large scale, human resource management systems. He has also served four years as the Director of Finance for the Journal of the Patent and Trademark Office Society. Mr. Donlon has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Kutztown University and a Master of Business Administration from Villanova University. In his free time, he enjoys volunteering with the National Park service and the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria, VA, to help maintain the Nation's tree canopy in the Washington, D.C. metro region.

## **Duncan, Natalie Lui**

National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Enforcement Fairness (Acting with the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA))

Natalie Lui Duncan, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, is the National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Enforcement Fairness (Acting) with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). She works with Federal agencies on behalf of small businesses to resolve regulatory disputes in accordance with the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

Ms. Duncan is the Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer of the SBA. From October 2015 to June 2016, she served as the Agency's Acting Chief Human Capital Officer and represented SBA on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM's) Chief Human Capital Officers Council.

Ms. Duncan currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Senior Executives Association Professional Development League and the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Region. She previously served on the Board of Visitors of the National Defense University, the Nation's preeminent national security institution for Joint Professional Military Education and interagency education, for 4 ½ years.

Ms. Duncan was awarded two degrees by Stanford University—including a Master of Arts Degree in Sociology-Organizational Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. She is a SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP) in Human Resource Management.

## **Floodie Team**

Caroline Maloney and Prasan Chari

Caroline Maloney is a senior at Freedom High School in South Riding, Virginia. She has participated in FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge robotics for more than five years. Caroline and her robotics team developed a life jacket, "the Floodie," that looks like an everyday garment and has several life-saving features as the solution to an FLL research project dealing with natural disasters. The team won the first-place research award at the DC/VA State Championship in 2014. The team filed for a U.S. Patent in 2014, and their patent issued in 2016. The team has been featured in local publications and video interviews about their invention and the patent process.

Last summer, Caroline completed a SEAP (Science Engineering Apprentice Program) internship with neural networks in the Space Robotics division at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. This summer she is currently working as an intern at the Janelia Research Campus in Ashburn, VA, working in computational neuroscience. Caroline has volunteered with ReSet for several years, teaching science classes to inspire underprivileged children in STEM and is in the planning stages for organizing a maker day in her community, Loudoun MakerFest.

Caroline enjoys travel and has participated in two exchange programs to China and Germany. She is also president of her high school Science Olympiad team, student council representative, and a staff member of the school art and literature magazine. Caroline enjoys photography, tennis, and flying lessons to obtain her private pilot's license.

Prasan Chari is a junior at Muscle Shoals High School, in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. At only 15 years of age, he joins the list of young entrepreneurs that have strived to make a name for themselves in innovation. Along with his teammates, he has achieved the mountainous feat of attaining a U.S. Patent for an auto-inflation, live saving device, affectionately known as the Floodie. Prasan has also been extremely active within his school community, from having been elected Class Vice President to leading the Quiz Bowl team to a division championship. Prasan has also enjoyed representing his school every Friday night on the field as a member of the varsity football team at Muscle Shoals High School. These immense commitments to his school and his community have garnered him both the Shoals Big Idea Award and the Post of Muscle Shoals High School Ambassador. And still, his entrepreneurial spirit continues to fly, as his he and his family have started a Youth Stem Summer Learning Center in Florence, Alabama, called Hi-5 Creative Club. It is surely this entrepreneurial spirit that has driven him to this day.

## **Foreman, Louis**

Founder and Chief Executive of Enventys and Edison Nation

Louis Foreman is founder and Chief Executive of Enventys, an integrated product design and engineering firm. He is also CEO of Edison Nation, and Edison Nation Medical. Mr. Foreman graduated from The University of Illinois with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Economics. His interest in starting businesses and developing innovative products began as sophomore, with his first company founded in his fraternity room. Over the past 30 years Mr. Foreman has created nine successful start-ups and has been directly responsible for the creation of more than 20 others. A prolific inventor, he has 10 registered US Patents, and his firm is responsible for the development and filing of well over 700 more. Mr. Foreman currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the James Dyson Foundation, the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO), Ventureprise, New Dominion Bank, and is President of the Intellectual Property Owners Educational Foundation (IPOEF).

In addition to being an inventor, Mr. Foreman is also committed to inspiring others to be innovative. He was the creator of the Emmy® Award winning PBS TV show, *Everyday Edisons*, and served as the Executive Producer and lead judge. The show won two Emmys in four seasons and appeared nationally on PBS. In 2007, Mr. Foreman became the publisher of *Inventors Digest*, a 33-year-old publication devoted to the topic of American Innovation. In 2009, his first book, *The Independent Inventor's Handbook*, was published by Workman Publishing. In 2015, he was awarded the IP Champion Award by the US Chamber of Commerce.

## **Geisel, Kara**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Kara Geisel is a Supervisory Patent Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She graduated with a degree in Physics from Virginia Tech in 2002. Ms. Geisel started working at the USPTO right after graduation as a patent examiner in the field of optical testing and measuring. Her main areas of focus are hyperspectral imaging, Raman scattering, and colorimetry. During her time as an examiner, she participated in many programs to help facilitate the quality of patent examination, including the CPC transition program as a QN. In 2014 she accepted a temporary detail as an acting SPE. In 2015, she was promoted to the position of Supervisory Patent Examiner in the same field she examined in. Since becoming a SPE, Ms. Geisel has been involved in several programs to help improve examination quality and examiner's work/life quality. She currently lives in Woodbridge with her husband and two rescue dogs.

## **Hattan, Susan B.**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Susan Bennett Hattan is a Supervisory Patent Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in Technology Center 2900– Designs, overseeing examination of applications related to the ornamental design for articles of manufacture. The design patent protects only the appearance of an article, but not its structural or functional features. Prior to joining the USPTO, Ms. Hattan practiced interior architectural design, space planning, and project management in private practice and for several architectural firms in Washington D.C. She has a Bachelor of Science in Design from the University of Cincinnati, College of design, Architecture, Art and Planning. In her free time, she enjoys biking, beading, photography, and dogs.

## **Henry, David**

Professor of Patent Law and Entrepreneurship and MBA Instructor in Intellectual Property and Export Control Law (Baylor University School of Law and Hankamer School of Business, respectively) and Registered Patent Attorney

Professor David G. Henry, Sr. is a member and Practice Group Chair of the Gray, Reed & McGraw law firm, specializing in patent, trademark and copyright litigation, prosecution, and transactions, as well as export control law. Professor Henry advises businesses, universities and research institutions on issues, strategies and management of Intellectual Property (Patents, Trademarks and Copyrights). In addition to being an Intellectual Property advisor, Professor Henry litigates in intellectual property cases throughout the United States and North America and processes patent and trademark applications before the United States Patent & Trademark Office, and other international Intellectual Property Offices. He also speaks frequently at professional conferences and business conventions on Intellectual Property and Export Control Law topics.

## **Hodge, Robert**

OID Pro Se Assistance Program Coordinator and Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 3600

Robert Hodge is the OID Pro Se Assistance Program Coordinator and Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in TC 3600 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Mr. Hodge received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN. He joined the USPTO in August of 2004 examining fuel cells and batteries in TC 1700. In 2007 he accepted a detail in the Office of Patent Training (OPT) as a Training Assistant. In 2011 he accepted a detail in the PCT Legal office as an Assistant Special Programs Examiner. In April of 2012 Mr. Hodge accepted a detail in the OPT as a Patent Training Academy Trainer. In September of 2012 he became a Supervisory Patent Examiner – Trainer in OPT. In October of 2014 he became a Supervisory Patent Examiner in TC 3600, supervising examiners who review applications related to clutches, transmissions, and hybrid drive systems. In October of 2016 he accepted a detail in the Office of Innovation Development (OID) as the Pro Se Assistance Program Coordinator. Prior to beginning his career at the USPTO, Mr. Hodge worked at Teledyne Energy Systems in Hunt Valley, MD performing R&D on Fuel Cells and developing Fuel Cell test stands and Monsanto in St. Louis MO, performing R&D on the RoundUp® production process. He also had the unique opportunity to work as an intern at the main Volkswagen Factory in Wolfsburg, Germany in their R&D department working on a gas purification project for Fuel Cell Vehicles, during a young professional exchange program in 2001.

## **Jackson, Robin**

Technical Information Specialist, Public Search Facility, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Robin Jackson serves as a Technical Information Specialist at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a position she has held since she joined the USPTO in 1989. Over the years she has taught classes for the Automated Patent System (APS), Examiner Automated Search Tool (EAST, Web-Based Search Tool (WEST), and X-Search. Ms. Jackson conducted site visits to train the staff at three of the four satellite offices in preparation of their grand openings. Her current duties include assisting public user with searches of the patent and trademark databases using the Universal Public Workstation (UPWS), answering questions and letters from around the world, and conducting tours of the PSK. She worked as a writer/editor for the federal Register under the Reagan and Bush administrations and worked for four years as a finger print examiner at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Robin received the Bronze Medal Award in 1999 for outstanding contributions in the PSF. She received Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Political Science from Morgan State University. In her spare time she is a Docent at the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

## **Jayne, Darnell**

Technical Information Specialist, Public Search Facility, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Darnell Jayne is a 27-year veteran at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and currently supervises a team of primary examiners who specialize in working with unrepresented independent inventors as part of USPTO's current Pro Se Assistance Program Pilot. Darnell works closely with the Office of Innovation Development at the USPTO and has assisted in technology transfer, independent inventor, and small business outreach initiatives. She has served in the capacities of primary examiner, legal advisor, quality assurance specialist, and supervisory patent examiner. Because of her range of experience and knowledge, Ms. Jayne is often called upon to lecture on many aspects of the patent examination process. Her technology area of expertise lies mainly in mechanical devices. She received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Central Florida in 1990 and her juris doctorate from George Mason University School of Law in 1997. She is a member of the Colorado Bar.

## **Jensen, Nicholas**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Office of Patent Training, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Nicholas Jensen is a Supervisory Patent Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). His primary role is to supervise and train new patent examiners. Prior to his current position, he was an International Patent Classifier for the Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC), Classification Quality and International Coordination (CQIC) Division, where he administered Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) training and developed CPC Objective Quality Metrics as a Contract Officer Representative. Mr. Jensen passion for CPC Search training began while serving Patent Training Academy details as a Trainer and Teaching Assistant. He has a USPTO Master Level Audit Certification in his prior field of patent examination of Multiplexed Communications and Networking. Mr. Jensen received a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Iowa State University.

## **Kadievitch, Natalie**

Patent Attorney, Fredrikson & Byron

Natalie Kadievitch is a registered patent attorney with more than 20 years of patent experience representing clients in the medical device, telecommunication, software, and consumer goods industries. She is a resident shareholder practicing in the area of intellectual property law with an emphasis in patent prosecution and client counseling. She obtains utility and design patent protection for clients in a variety of industry sectors. Ms. Kadievitch has obtained hundreds of patents to date. She represents a nationally recognized celebrity entrepreneur in growing her patent portfolio to more than 120 patents for innovations she sells on a television shopping network. Natalie has significant experience in opining on infringement and validity issues in the electrical and mechanical arts and conducting due diligence investigations regarding target acquisitions for her clients. In addition, Ms. Kadievitch has experience in post grant proceedings. She received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and her juris doctorate from George Washington University.

## **Kearney, Colleen**

Attorney Advisor, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Colleen Kearney is an attorney in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Trademarks at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Ms. Kearney handles Petitions to the Director, Letters of Protest, congressional inquiries, and is the primary legal advisor to the Electronic Filing & Public Web Services group, which includes providing legal guidance on all aspects of electronic prosecution. Prior to joining the Deputy Commissioner's staff, she was a trademark examining attorney. Ms. Kearney came to the USPTO in 2005 from the United States Copyright Office, where she focused on visual and performing arts copyright issues. She obtained her B.A. at American University and her J.D. from University of Baltimore School of Law.

## **Kirkpatrick, John**

Patent Pro Bono Administrator & Patent Attorney, United States Patent and Trademark Office

John Kirkpatrick is a Patent Pro Bono Administrator and Patent Attorney at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He is dedicated to making sure that all inventors have access to the patent system, including those who are financially under-resourced. He works with patent pro bono programs across the nation to guarantee pro bono coverage in all 50 states pursuant to the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA). Previously, Mr. Kirkpatrick served as a patent examiner and was employed by a private intellectual property firm. Mr. Kirkpatrick received his undergraduate degree in electrical engineering from Villanova University and graduated, cum laude, from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. He is a member of the Virginia Bar.

## **Lee, Debbie**

Trademark Attorney, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Debbie Lee has been a trademark attorney with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for more than 12 years. She currently works in the Legal Policy Office of the Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks where she serves as the policy liaison for the Madrid Processing Unit, provides advice on domestic trademark law, and helps to formulate domestic trademark registration policy. Ms. Lee previously worked in the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA) where she provided advice on domestic and international IP legal and judicial regimes and U.S. treaty obligations and helped to formulate U.S. domestic and international policy regarding the protection of trademarks and geographical indications. During her tenure with OPIA, she led the Sub-Saharan Africa team; provided trademark advice and technical assistance for the South Asia, Russia/CIS, European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand territories; and served as the lead trademark attorney for the Madrid Protocol, WHO issues, 3D printing, and secondary liability for trademark infringement. She is a frequent lecturer at the USPTO's Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA) where foreign judges and intellectual property officials are trained. Ms. Lee earned her J.D. and M.P.P. degrees from the College of William and Mary and A.B. degree in Modern Languages from Sweet Briar College.

## **Leggette, Jacob**

Maker, Entrepreneur (Toy Manufacturing Business)

Jacob Leggette is a 10-year-old homeschooling student, from Baltimore, who loves to help others. His studies focus on programming, engineering, mathematics, and entrepreneurship. John's current interests are 3D printing, coding, video games, and Apple products.

One Saturday morning, Jacob and his father went to the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. There, they were introduced to 3D printing! That was the moment that changed everything for Jacob. Luckily, the presenters were local and were running a summer program. Jacob began summer camp and afterschool programs at Digital Harbor Foundation (DHF). He took to the 3D printing program so much that all he talked about and all he wanted was a 3D printer. At the age of 8, Jacob began writing to 3D printer companies asking them to donate a printer to him; in exchange he would provide feedback to the company. A 3D printer company, Print-r-bot, happily obliged. Around the same time, Jacob was learning about toy production and manufacturing at DHF. He was later invited to present in the April 2016 annual White House Science Fair. His project was on additive and subtractive toy manufacturing. The then President of the United States blew bubbles from one of Jacob's 3D printed bubble wands. Jacob mentioned to the President that kids should have a say in what they learn in science. He told the President he should have a student science advisory board. The White House took Jacob's suggestion seriously and in June 2016 opened a blog for students all over our nation to suggest ideas to improve science education for our young people.



## **Levy, Michael**

Senior Staff Attorney, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Michael Levy is a Senior Staff Attorney at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He joined the USPTO in 1990. Mr. Levy graduated, with honors, from the Johns Hopkins University in 1986. He has a J.D. from the New York University School of Law and is a member of the Pennsylvania bar.

Mr. Levy was an Examining Attorney from 1990 to 1998. In 1998, Mr. Levy was promoted to the position of Supervisory Senior Attorney. As a Senior Attorney, Mr. Levy's duties include mentoring new Examining Attorneys, assisting Examining Attorneys on complex cases, improving quality of examination within the law office, and various management functions. Since 2012, Michael has been a Senior Staff Attorney in the Office of Trademark Quality Review and Training.

## **Maina, Julius V.**

Policy and Inclusive Innovation Specialist, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), United States Department of Commerce

Julius Valentine Maina is a Policy and Inclusive Innovation Specialist at the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) under the Department of Commerce. In his role, works to build and strengthen relationships with federal agencies, business/trade associations, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and other organizations working to support and advocate for the growth of Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs). Prior to this role, he worked as a First Year Instructor/Retention Advisor within the Earl G. Graves School of Business at Morgan State University. He has also previously served as an Education Pioneers Fellow and a Thurgood Marshall College Fund Teacher Quality and Retention Fellow.

Mr. Maina holds a Bachelor's Degree in Quantitative Methods, minor in Economics, from University of Maryland Baltimore-County and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Development from Bowie State University. He also recently attained his J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law.

## **Morris, Craig**

Managing Attorney for Trademark Educational Outreach, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Craig Morris works within the Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Currently, he is the Managing Attorney for Trademark Educational Outreach, spearheading the effort for increased USPTO educational activities in the area of trademark fundamentals. For 14 years prior, he headed the Trademark Electronic Application System, helping move the Trademark Operation toward 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. He is a graduate of The College of William and Mary in 1979 with a B.A. in English earned his law degree in 1982 from Washington & Lee University School of Law.

## **Patterson, James H.**

Partner, Patterson Thuente IP

Jim Patterson is the founding partner of Patterson Thuente IP, a mid-sized, full-service intellectual property law firm in Minneapolis. A recognized leader in the legal community, Mr. Patterson's practice over the past 35 years has encompassed all aspects of intellectual property law, including patent prosecution, licensing, dispute mediation, and litigation. In addition to providing senior-level strategic counsel to Global Fortune 500 companies, Mr. Patterson is dedicated to access to justice for the disadvantaged. He has been providing pro bono services through various organizations over his entire career and was named Volunteer of the Year by Volunteer Lawyers Network in 2001. Most recently, he has been working closely with the USPTO to successfully launch a pro bono patent law pilot program in Minnesota, and now serves as chair of the AIA Pro Bono Task Force, a national organization coordinating the efforts of 20 regional pro bono programs. He is also a liaison to the WIPO Inventor Assistance Program, an initiative in cooperation with the World Economic Forum.

Mr. Patterson is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, BSEE, and earned his law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law, Order of the Coif. He is a retired captain of the U.S. Naval Reserves



## **Rando, Robert**

Founder and Lead Counsel, Rando Law Firm P.C.

Robert Rando is a Fellow of the Academy of Court-Appointed Masters and, since 2004, has enjoyed the privilege and honor of judicial appointment as a Special Master in numerous cases involving complex patent law issues. He is a published author and frequent lecturer at law schools and CLE programs on patent law and other IP and constitutional law issues. He is the Chairperson for the Federal Bar Association ("FBA") Intellectual Property Law Section. He is also the current Treasurer for the New York Intellectual Property Law Association ("NYIPLA"), an active member of the NYIPLA Amicus, Legislative Action and Programs Committees, and is a Master in the Honorable William C. Conner Inn of Court.

Mr. Rando received his Juris Doctor, with academic honors, from St. John's University School of Law in 1989. He was the Executive Publications Editor of the St. John's Law Review and the recipient of an Academic Scholarship, Civil Trial Institute Honors and the American Jurisprudence Award for Excellence in Constitutional Law. He received his Bachelor of Science, with academic honors, in mathematics and computer science, from Hofstra University in 1983.

He has authored and filed numerous Amicus briefs before the United States Supreme Court on various patent law issues from 2006 to the present. He is experienced in a wide range of patented technologies, including: computer hardware and software, silicon chip manufacturing, biotechnology products, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, chemical compounds, food additives, alternative energy products, consumer electronics, communications, security, Internet, and e-commerce.

## **Rao, G. Nagesh**

Chief Technologist & Entrepreneur, U.S. Small Business Administration

G. Nagesh Rao serves as Chief Technologist & Entrepreneur in Residence with the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Investment & Innovation. His credentials include an M.B.A. (Global Strategy and Entrepreneurship) from the University of Maryland-College Park, a M.Sc. in Legal Studies-Intellectual Property Law from Albany Law School, a B.Sc. dual major in Materials Engineering and Philosophy from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a Patent Bar License from the USPTO. His portfolio of work includes advising senior leadership around the SBIR/STTR programs, leading the SBA Growth Accelerator program, and Co-Leading Coordination of the Fueling Small Business Innovation Interagency Policy Committee for the White House's Lab to Market Commercialization Agenda. Over the last 15 years, Mr. Rao has been afforded the privilege to work and/or consult with numerous organizations in the public, private, and not for profit space, which culminated in his helping create programmatic endeavors such as i6 Green, FLoW, Patents for Humanity, VT-Arc Additive Manufacturing Prize Challenge, and SBA Growth Accelerator Competition. His musings (written and oratorical) have been featured and/or quoted via TechCrunch, WAMC-NPR, The Scientist, The National Academies, MIT XPrize Lab, Stanford d-School, The Hill, FedTech Magazine, DC Inno, Technical.ly DC, NextGov, Daily Mirror (Sri Lankan version), Financial Times (Sri Lankan version), and The Courier-Journal.

## **Shaw, Dale**

Deputy Director, Stakeholder Outreach, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Dale Shaw is the Deputy Director of Stakeholder Outreach and the Patents Ombudsman Program at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He received both an Associate's Degree in Electronic Technology and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. After earning his degrees in 1983, Mr. Shaw joined the United States Patent and Trademark Office as an examiner in the arithmetic circuit technology where he examined applications on calculators, digital filters, and digital signal processors. In 1990, he was promoted to the level of Primary Examiner and promoted to a Supervisory Patent Examiner in 1991 where he oversaw the work of examiner in the following technologies: Point of Sale Terminals and Speech Processing. In 1994, he advanced to an Administrator for the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (now, The Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB)). As of 2013, Mr. Shaw has worked in the Patents Ombudsman Administrator. In 2016, The Patents Ombudsman Program became the Office of Stakeholder Outreach and Patents Ombudsman.

## **Smith, Eric**

Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Economic Development Administration

Eric Paul Smith currently serves as the Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIE) at the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC). He manages Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) program, OIE's grant program that fosters sustainable and agile innovation-based economies by building regional capacity to translate research into jobs, including the evaluation of its applications and its resulting grant portfolio—currently nearly 100 grants with an aggregate budget of more than \$85 million. He co-leads the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE), which develops actionable Federal policies and programs to foster innovation, increase access to capital, and catalyze the creation of new, scalable businesses. Mr. Smith also represents EDA and OIE in a variety of interagency and external initiatives that support innovators and entrepreneurs throughout the country and provides intellectual property expertise.

Prior to his tenure at OIE, Mr. Smith served as a patent examiner focused on telecommunications technologies at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). There, he led interactions with patent applicants and attorneys to resolve complex legal and technical questions and to efficiently identify patentable subject matter and helped lead his unit's transition to a new, US-EU joint patent classification system. Prior to government service, he practiced in-house in the fintech sector, where he focused on software licensing, revenue management and recognition, and legal process management. Mr. Smith received his J.D. from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and his B.S. in computer science and mathematics, along with a technical translation certificate in German, from the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. He is licensed to practice in the State of New York.

## **Smith, Zandra**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Zandra Smith is a Supervisory Patent Examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She started at the USPTO in June 1996 as an examiner in Optical Measuring and Testing in Electrical Technology Center 2800. Prior to coming to USPTO, Ms. Smith obtained a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Virginia Tech. In 2005 She became a trainer in the Patent Training Academy and trained new examiners when they were hired into the Patent Office. Later that same year she became a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in the semiconductor art area, where she supervised more than 20 examiners who worked a variety of patent applications related to semiconductors and the method of making semiconductors. As a supervisor she has had the opportunity to work on several projects within the TC and the Patent Corps. The projects include being the TC lead of the Diversity Council which helps plan Community Day and the TC2800 annual Taste of the TC, which is a highly attended gathering where the various cultures within the TC have an opportunity to share unique foods and drink. Ms. Smith has also worked on creating career development opportunities for the Patents Technical Support Staff and currently serves as the Transition Coordinator for TC2800 assisting new examiners in their move from the Training Academy to their home art unit. She enjoys cooking, reading and good wine and lives in Virginia with her kids and her dog.

## **Tippett, Janice**

Management and Program Analyst, Office of Patent Application Processing, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Janice Tippett is a management and program analyst at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in the Office of Patent Application Processing (OPAP), where she translates the existing rules and new legislation into understandable procedures for the processing of incoming patent applications. She has been working with the incoming patent application processing for 23 out of her 27 years at the USPTO. In that time, she has established and maintained written procedures for the consistent processing of patent applications, including updates needed when new legislation has been passed. She is very knowledgeable in the Oath/Dec and micro entity provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA), as well as the changes to filing date requirements and reference filing provisions of the Patent Law Treaty (PLT).

## **Tran, Lisa**

Communications Manager, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Lisa Tran is a Communications Manager for eCommerce at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Currently, she is primarily responsible for communicating with stakeholders and gathering feedback for the eMod project. She also supports the EFS-Web and PAIR team. Prior to working with eCommerce, she worked in several different business units within Patents, including the technology centers, information management, and business planning. Ms. Tran received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from University of Texas at Austin in 2010, and started her career at the USPTO in 2011.

## **Tuttle, Warren**

President, United Inventors Association

Warren Tuttle is the President of the United Inventors Association and also the Open Innovation Director for both Lifetime Brands and Techtronic Industries NA. As Open Innovation Director, Tuttle focuses on external product development, constantly working with independent inventors to find new inventions to bring to market. Prior to developing and marketing products for the housewares industry, Mr. Tuttle owned five of his own gourmet specialty kitchenware stores (The Complete Kitchen of Southern CT), a prepared food and catering business (The Good Food Store of Darien, CT), a nationally recognized cooking school, and a partnership in a kitchen design business. He speaks regularly around the country on licensing and open innovation at Inventor Clubs, industry trade shows, and USPTO functions. Mr. Tuttle has a B.A. from St. Lawrence University, and currently resides in Connecticut with his wife and three daughters.

## **Wagner, Jenny**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Jenny Wagner has been a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for four years in Art Unit 2848, where she has been examining electrical housings, cables, and capacitors. Prior to that she was an examiner in semiconductor devices and manufacturing for seven years. She graduated with a B.S. in chemical engineering from Case Western Reserve University and a J.S. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Prior to joining the USPTO, she clerked for the Honorable William F. Morgan in the Warren/Forest County Court of Common Pleas in Warren, Pennsylvania. She also worked as an associate in patent prosecution and litigation with the law firm of Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg and Ellers in Philadelphia, PA. While at the USPTO, she has served on details as a law clerk at the Patent Training Academy and as a Resource SPE at the Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional Office in Detroit. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, her two dogs, and cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers.

## **Wagner, Kathryn**

Executive Director, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts

Kathryn (Katie) Wagner is the Executive Director of Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA), which provides legal and education services to the New York arts community. She is responsible for developing VLA's legal services, education, and advocacy programming, and facilitating pro bono legal representation for hundreds of artists and arts and cultural organizations in need each year. Most recently, she developed and launched the Tri-State Patent Pro Bono Program, serving inventors in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, with the assistance of the Patent Bar in these areas and the USPTO. She also oversees the overall operations of VLA, and regularly consults with artists seeking legal assistance. Ms. Wagner develops curriculum and teaches VLA educational programs, raising awareness of the legal and business issues facing the arts community. She also works closely with VLA's Board of Directors on strategic planning and governance of the organization.

Prior to joining VLA, Ms. Wagner was Vice President and Counsel for the National Music Publishers' Association, the leading trade organization representing the interests of music publishers in the United States. Ms. Wagner served as a legal advisor for the litigation and policy initiatives of the association. She also focused on NMPA's overall litigation efforts and related licensing offerings. Through her efforts, the association was instrumental in establishing a fair digital marketplace for its music publisher and songwriter members.

Ms. Wagner previously practiced in the litigation group at Pryor Cashman LLP where she specialized in intellectual property and complex business transaction proceedings. Ms. Wagner has been a member of the Entertainment Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association. She holds a law degree from Tulane University, where she served as editor-in-chief of the Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law, and a bachelor of arts in Comparative Area Studies from Duke University.

## **Ward, Joyce**

Director of Education and Outreach, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Joyce Ward is the Director of Education and Outreach programs for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Under her leadership the USPTO has launched several projects for educators and students such as the Science of Innovation series, a collaboration between the USPTO, the National Science Foundation, and NBC Learn; a national summer institute for teachers with a focus on intellectual property and the resources of the USPTO; intellectual property and STEM/STEAM/Entrepreneurship professional development workshops for K-12 educators; an Intellectual Property patch; and the first USPTO Inventor Trading Card series. Prior to her current position Ms. Ward served as the Director of Program Support and Intellectual Property for the National Inventors Hall of Fame. From 1994 to 2002, she worked for the USPTO as a Trademark Examining Attorney and later as an Education Specialist in the Office of Public Affairs. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC.

## **Witz, Jean**

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Jean Witz is a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She has worked for the USPTO since 1988. Ms. Witz was born and raised in the Northern Virginia area. She attended George Washington University and received a B.S. in Biology in 1981 and an M.S. from George Washington University in Biology with emphasis in Ecology and Physiology in 1985. She received her J.D. from George Washington University Law School in 1994 and is a member of the Pennsylvania state bar. After receiving her masters, she worked for Battelle Laboratories and Hazelton Laboratories, evaluating toxicity studies of drugs submitted for approval to the FDA. Upon joining the USPTO as a Patent Examiner in biotechnology, she examined a variety of applications covering subject matter as diverse as cosmetics to therapeutic treatments involving animal extracts, enzymes, and tissue and cell culture. In 2006, Ms. Witz was selected as the Appeals Specialist for Technology Center 1600, where she participated in all pre-appeal conferences as well as a large number of appeal conferences. In 2007, she became a Quality Assurance Specialist for TC 1600, where she prepared and presented numerous Technology Center training as well as providing presentations to PTO stakeholders. In 2015, she accepted a position as a Supervisory Patent Reexamination Specialist in the Central Reexamination Unit, where she supervises a group of examiners who review reexamination requests, supplemental examination requests and reissue applications in the areas of chemistry, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and chemical engineering. She also has more than 25 years of experience teaching anatomy, physiology, microbiology, general biology, and intellectual property at colleges both in North Carolina and in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. In her spare time, Jean enjoys hiking, biking, kayaking, and golf.

## **Wolf, Jill Leyden**

Customer Experience Administrator for Trademarks, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Jill Leyden Wolf is the Customer Experience Administrator for Trademarks at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She is responsible for enhancing customer experience for trademark customers across all touchpoints. Prior to joining the Trademarks team, Ms. Wolf worked in the Office of the Under Secretary as the USPTO website editor-in-chief. Before coming to the USPTO, she worked for Exelis Inc., a top-tier aerospace and defense company, as a communications manager. She also managed the company's corporate philanthropy program, which included global communication development, employee engagement, and the use of customer relationship management technology. Ms. Wolf served on active duty in the Marine Corps for eight years as a public affairs officer. Her service included a deployment to Fallujah, Iraq in 2006. She remains a reservist assigned to the Pentagon and is the communications director for the Marine Corps Executive Forum, a community relations program. She holds a master's degree in Communication and Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University and has worked in various aspects of communication, public affairs, and customer experience for 20 years.

## **Wooden, Lynne**

Independent Inventor, Entrepreneur

Lynne Wooden has been one of Washington, D.C.'s most sought after stylists for more than 16 years. She has been providing innovative custom color, beauty enhancements via a variety of natural hair extensions, styling, and hair care consultations. Her "A-list" clientele includes Washington, D.C.'s most beautiful women. The city's power brokers have looked to her for her unique talents and expertise. Her success extends to leading national beauty and lifestyle media where she is often consulted as a leading beauty expert. Ms. Wooden has been credited by her clients with restoring healthy hair and beauty by guiding them through challenging hair transitions stemming from medical, stress, and dietary issues.