



INVENTION-CON 2023

The Place for **Inventors**, **Makers**, & **Entrepreneurs**

USPTO's Inventors Conference • May 10 – 12 • In person/virtual



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

Building Tomorrow's Innovation



"There is a crucial need for a new era of innovation, and for all of us to unite in helping every potential innovator in our country bring their innovation to impact.

We can help to make those dreams become reality and, in the process, turbocharge access to the American innovation system for everyone."

— Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce
for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO



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Building Tomorrow's Innovation

Day 1: Understanding Your Value

Agenda

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

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| 12:00 - 12:10 p.m. | Welcome and USPTO leadership greeting <i>Kathi Vidal</i> , Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) |
| 12:10 - 12:55 p.m. | Turning passion into profits: Hear personal stories of inventors who took their product to market <i>Leeanna Golden Gantt</i> , Founder and CEO, tooktake LLC <i>Sheilisa McNeal-Burgess</i> , Founder and CEO, Fria LLC <i>Daria Walsh</i> , Inventor and Founder, Eleven Eleven Studios, LLC and InfinityClips Moderator: Carlos Gutierrez , Innovation Outreach Specialist — National Programs, USPTO |
| 12:55 - 1:00 p.m. | Break |
| 1:00 - 1:50 p.m. | Know your value, equity, and ownership: Learn what you should offer to attract investors <i>Amber Lambke</i> , Founder and CEO Maine Grains, Inc. <i>Shawn Mastrian</i> , Co-Founder and CEO, Darkside Scientific, Inc. <i>Delanie West</i> , Founding Director/Creative Fixer, Be Super Creative Moderator: Alford Kindred , Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO |

2:00 – 2:45 p.m.**Branding and Trademark Protection: Learn about the importance of intellectual property (IP) protection for your brand**

Andrea Evans, IP Attorney, The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, LLC

Cherie Monson, Inventor and Founder, CLM Creations and CLM Volumizer

Matt Nuccio, President, Design Edge, Inc.

Moderator: Mariessa Terrell, Attorney Advisor,
Trademarks Customer Outreach, USPTO

2:45 – 2:50 p.m.**Break****2:50 – 3:35 a.m.****Licensing your intellectual property: Learn when, why, and how to license your IP**

Chinwenwa Ohanele, Founder/Managing Partner, Ohanele Law Firm

Warren Tuttle, Open Innovation Director, MarketBlast

Daniella Zakon, Founder and CEO Upwell Cosmetics, PBC

Moderator: Charesse Evans, Senior Advisor to the Director, USPTO

3:35 – 3:50 p.m.**Resource review and wrap up**

Day 2: Connecting to opportunities

Thursday, May 11, 2023

- 12:00 – 12:05 p.m.** **Welcome and USPTO leadership greeting**
David S. Gooder, Commissioner for Trademarks, USPTO
- 12:05 – 12:45 p.m.** **Resources for Innovators: Hear about key programs and services from trusted resource partners that will empower your small business to be fully successful**
Mark Madrid, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, Small Business Administration (SBA)
Charles “Tee” Rowe, President/CEO, Association of Small Business Development Centers (ASBDC)
Bridget Weston, CEO, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)
Moderator: Amy Cohen Johnson, Patents Training Advisor, Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience, USPTO
- 12:45 – 12:50 p.m.** **Break**
- 12:50 – 1:35 p.m.** **Breakout Sessions:**
- Roadmap to Success: Building your business plan**
Learn how to chart your path towards success.
Cynthia Rhodes, Certified Business Mentor Volunteer, SCORE Association; Founder, Rhodes Porter, LLC
- How to swim with sharks! Hear what it takes to position yourself for success**
Brandon Andrews, Co-Founder, Gauge; Senior Consultant, Values Partnerships (casting for Shark Tank)
- Prototypes: Design to delivery**
Learn about research and design fundamentals, how to engineer designs, and the best ways to maximize your dollars when building prototypes.
Angela Alban, President and CEO, SIMETRI
Dr. Tom Driscoll, Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Echodyne
- How to do business with the government**
The United States government is the largest purchaser of products and services (\$500 billion a year). Learn how to do business with the federal government.
Gregory Grant, Assistant Director of Special Programs, Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the University of North Florida (UNF)
Dr. Karen Vieira, CEO, The Med Writers (SBA)

1:35 – 1:40 p.m.

Break

1:40 – 2:25 p.m.

Breakout Sessions:

Concept to Commerce

Learn how to connect with local incubators and accelerators who can assist with bringing your vision to market.

Greta Spivey, Senior Associate, FedTech

Robert Wines, Senior Analyst, FedTech

Cyber security for small businesses

Hear about cybersecurity resources to help protect your small business and your customers.

Abel Herrera, President and CEO, IT Data Solutions

Kelley Kiernan, Blue Cyber Director and Chief Technology Officer, Department of the Navy SBIR/STTR Program

Show me the money! Access to capital

Learn about Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs to help start, grow, or expand your business. Find out about venture capital, crowdsourced funding, and alternative financing.

Jonel Hein, District Director, North Florida District Office, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Raju Mohandas, Venture Capital and Private Equity Consultant, BridgePoint Financial Group

Perfecting the Pitch

Your business plan is solid—now perfect your pitch to secure funding. Learn how to tailor your pitch based on audience, time, and other key factors.

Orlando Espinosa, Co-Founder, Emineo Media

Jennifer Smith-Funn, Regional Director, Baltimore Region, Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

2:25 – 2:30 p.m.

Introduction: Virtual booths and regional office programming

2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Virtual booths and regional office programming

Day 3: Moving your business forward

Friday, May 12, 2023

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|---------------------------|--|
| 12:00 – 12:10 p.m. | Welcome and USPTO leadership greeting <i>Derrick Brent</i> , Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the USPTO |
| 12:10 – 12:55 p.m. | Turning passion into profits: Hear personal stories of inventors who took their products to market <i>Robyn Dolores James</i> , Owner and Inventor, Birdie Everything, LLC; Inventor and Founder, InfusenClip <i>Eric Pearson, Jr.</i> , Founder and CEO, ALPEN Storage, Inc. Moderator: <i>Sean Wilkerson</i> , Innovation Outreach Specialist — National Programs, USPTO |
| 12:55 – 1:00 p.m. | Break |
| 1:00 – 1:50 p.m. | Funding for growth: Learn how to find grants, investors, and opportunities <i>Jamilah Corbitt</i> , Engagement Director, Established <i>Dahna Goldstein</i> , Chief Investment Officer, Halcyon <i>Elden Hawkes</i> , Partnership and Innovation Specialist, SBIR/STTR Program, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) <i>Jon Abboud</i> , Strategic Communications Branch Chief, Office of the Chief Communications Officer, USPTO |
| 1:50 – 2:00 p.m. | Break |
| 2:00 – 2:45 p.m. | Understanding manufacturing: Learn how to find help and overcome obstacles <i>Steve Dalton</i> , Regional Growth Manager, Shenandoah Valley/Blue Ridge Region, GENEDGE Alliance <i>Dr. John Gaskins</i> , CEO, Laser Thermal <i>Dr. Marlon Walker</i> , Manager, Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)-Assisted Technology and Technical Resource (MATTR), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Moderator: <i>Dr. José Colucci-Rios</i> , Industrial Specialist, NIST |

2:45 – 2:50 p.m.**Break****2:50 – 3:35 p.m.****Pivoting in the marketplace: Learn how to make necessary changes based on demand and consumption*****Connie Inukai**, Owner, Tip 'n Split Solutions, LLC****Jumoke Jackson**, Private Chef, Motivational Speaker, and Author, Mr. Foodtastic; Executive Chef, Slutty Vegan****Bob Thorsen**, Managing Partner, The Little Burros****Moderator: NaThanya Ferguson**, Manager, Office of Innovation Outreach, USPTO***3:35 – 3:50 p.m.****Resource review and wrap up****4:00 – 5:30 p.m.****In-person networking event***Network with other Invention-Con attendees, talk with exhibitors from the USPTO and other federal agencies, and get one-on-one time with IP subject matter experts.*

A message from the Director of the USPTO

Building tomorrow's innovation system with a strong intellectual property framework

By Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Welcome to Invention-Con 2023: Building tomorrow's innovation. I am so pleased that you have joined us for this annual conference, one of the USPTO's premiere events. Since it was launched almost 30 years ago, Invention-Con has been an indispensable resource for innovators, inventors, and entrepreneurs. Thousands of individuals have used what they have learned at this conference to refine their technologies and their brands. Many of them have created thriving businesses based upon the value of their intellectual property (IP).

Being here today means that you, too, have the ability to take advantage of our country's world-class, and world-changing, IP system. Your novel ideas, backed by the protections granted by the federal government in the form of patents and trademarks, will generate a bright future for yourselves and our nation. You deliver impact.

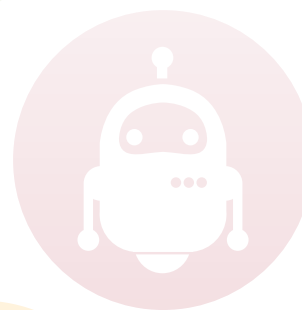
As our theme of "Building tomorrow's innovation" suggests, intellectual property forms the "foundation" of our economy. Patents and trademarks enable inventors and entrepreneurs to raise money, hire workers, bring

new products to market, and improve the quality of life for people around the world. Protecting an individual's right to their inventions is a primary reason for our nation's enduring success.

We've got an exciting lineup of panelists over the next three days, featuring accomplished inventors, business owners, and IP experts. All of them will provide you with information and resources that can help you succeed. It is my sincere hope that each of you will leave here with the confidence to take the next step.

Finally, thank you to all the people who have organized this year's Invention-Con. Every one of them believes deeply in the value of your work as innovators and entrepreneurs.

On behalf of the 13,000 public servants working at the USPTO, I pledge that we will work with each of you to build a successful and hopeful future for yourself and the country. We are committed to doing whatever we can to help you succeed, and to build tomorrow's innovation.



Resource booths

The Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI²)

The Council for Inclusive Innovation's (CI²) mission is to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) develop a comprehensive national strategy to increase participation in our innovation ecosystem by encouraging, empowering, and supporting all future innovators. That includes increasing the involvement of women and other underrepresented groups.

CI² members are intellectual property leaders in corporate, academic, professional, and government organizations. Together they lead the commitment to encourage and support all future American innovators.

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

MBDA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce that promotes the growth of minority-owned business through the mobilization and advancement of public and private sector programs, policy, and research. We work throughout the nation to link minority-owned businesses with the capital, contracts, and markets they need to grow. We advocate and promote minority-owned business with elected officials, policy makers, and business leaders. Our programs and services better equip minority-owned firms to create jobs, build scale and capacity, increase revenues, and expand regionally, nationally, and internationally.

National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF)

The National Inventors Hall of Fame is the premier nonprofit organization in America dedicated to recognizing inventors and invention, promoting creativity, and advancing the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. We inspire emerging creators and entrepreneurs through our education programs and honor the history of innovation through our museum and Hall of Fame Inductees.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Innovation programs at the National Science Foundation (NSF) advance ideas from the laboratory to the marketplace to strengthen America's economy, health, and security. NSF has several programs to translate fundamental research into market solutions, and supports and trains researchers with promising technologies, as well as funding high-tech startups. Learn about the NSF's central role in accelerating the growth of the national ecosystem and hear about specific funding opportunities.

United States Census Bureau (Census)

The Census Bureau's mission is to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy. Our primary dissemination platform, data.census.gov, allows you to access these data from our most popular surveys and programs free of charge. With these demographic and business data, you can learn more about potential customers, potential workforce, and other businesses.

USPTO — Patent Examination Policy

Office of Petitions (OPET)

Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA)

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP)

OPET is a centralized office within Patents that is responsible for reviewing and deciding most petitions, requests, and inquiries related to the prosecution of patent applications. OPET also maintains a help desk available to assist customers with petitions-related matters.

OPLA drafts rules and develops practices for the examination of patent applications, as well as assists in the implementation of these new rules and practices.

MPEP is a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications before the USPTO. It contains instructions to examiners, as well as other material in the nature of information and interpretation, and outlines the current procedures which the examiners are required or authorized to follow in appropriate cases in the normal examination of a patent application.

USPTO Regional Outreach Offices

The USPTO operates the Eastern Regional Outreach Office at its headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, and four additional regional offices, including the Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional Office (Detroit, Michigan), Texas Regional Office (Dallas, Texas), Rocky Mountain Regional Office (Denver, Colorado), and Silicon Valley Regional Office (San Jose, California).

Combined, these offices provide services and resources to inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses across the United States. Our goal is to promote innovation and stimulate the economy by connecting entrepreneurs to government resources, supporting students and teachers through our STEM education programs, gathering feedback from regional stakeholders, and recruiting diverse talent from the region.

USPTO Global intellectual Property Academy (GIPA)

GIPA is under the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA). In furtherance of the USPTO's strategic goal to lead in intellectual property policy and improve IP systems, GIPA provides international capacity-building training in a variety of IP topics for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders. Classes are conducted around the world for U.S. and international audiences in multiple languages, with many at USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia or broadcast remotely. Instructors are OPIA subject matter experts in all areas of IP protection and enforcement, IP Attachés, and experts from other business units at USPTO, and from around the U.S. government.

USPTO IP Attache Program

The IP Attaché Program is within the USPTO's Office of Policy and International Affairs. IP Attachés advocate to improve IP policies, laws, and regulations abroad for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders. They also provide information to help U.S. stakeholders entering foreign markets or conducting business abroad, such as how to navigate foreign laws and regulations, and how foreign courts and governments work.

USPTO — Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC)

The Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC) at USPTO provides information on several of the USPTO international programs and initiatives. For example, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) is an international agreement that makes it possible for inventors to seek patent protection for an invention simultaneously in multiple countries by filing a single "international" patent application. The Global Dossier is a user-friendly online interface that makes it easier for patent stakeholders to quickly and easily view, monitor, and manage IP protection around the world by providing access to the dossiers of related applications filed in multiple offices.

USPTO — Office of Patent Stakeholder Experience (OPSE)

Application Assistance Unit
Patent Electronic Business Center
Inventors Assistance Center
Stakeholder Education and Training Division (SETD)
Customer Experience (CX)

The Application Assistance Unit assists with a broad range of questions and issues pertaining to pre-examination processing of patent applications by the Office of Patent Application Processing and the post-examination processing

of patent applications by the Office of Data Management. For example, the AAU can provide assistance with questions related to the status of an application that is in the pre-examination or the post-examination phase of processing, filling receipts, and missing parts letters.

The Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) at the USPTO assists customers with filing their electronic patent application submissions via the Electronic Filing System (EFS-Web) and the newest filing system, Patent Center, with the review of patent applications in Public and Private PAIR (Patent Application Information Retrieval), and Searching the Patent and Patent Application Full-Text and Image databases. The EBC also issues, administers, and supports the use of customer numbers and digital certificates for the access and use of EFS-Web, Patent Center and Private PAIR.

The Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) provides patent information and services to the public. The IAC is staffed by former Supervisory Patent Examiners and Primary examiners who answer general questions concerning patent examining policy and procedure.

The Stakeholder Education and Training Division (SETD) provides timely and innovative training products, delivery methods, and educational assistance. SETD's mission is to provide excellent education and training to the IP community by delivering curricula tailored to each specific stakeholder group, in order to provide a foundation, empowerment, and ongoing support to navigate the application and examination processes.

The CX team uses human-centered design (HCD) and customer feedback to develop and continuously improve our programs, processes, and services to deliver an effective, efficient, and seamless customer experience for all of our stakeholders.

USPTO — Office of Patent Stakeholder Experience (OPSE)

Stakeholder Support Division
Patents Ombudsman
Pro Se Assistance Program
Application Assistance Unit
Patent Electronic Business Center

The Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience (OPSE) promotes the innovation ecosystem by collaborating with USPTO partners to provide a foundational understanding of the US Patent system through delivery of services and products that meet stakeholders' needs thus easing their journey through the patent system.

The Stakeholder Support Division provides accurate, timely, and comprehensive assistance to the IP community; related to initial filing, patent examination, and post examination, with a focus on bringing awareness to IP community in order to foster and promote innovation.

The Patents Ombudsman provides assistance to applicants and attorneys throughout the application process including initial filing, patent examination, and post-examination. We assist applicants when the normal processing has stalled, helping to get applications back on track. The Patents Ombudsman Program is not intended to circumvent normal communication between applicants or their representatives and examiners or supervisory patent examiners (SPEs) or TC directors.

The Pro Se Assistance Program provides outreach and education to inventors who file patent applications without the assistance of a registered patent attorney or agent (also known as "pro se" filing).

USPTO — Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRCP)

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs) are a nationwide network of 85 public, state, and academic libraries designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information. PTRCs support the diverse intellectual property needs of the public. PTRC librarians meet with inventors and entrepreneurs to help them understand intellectual property concepts and research strategies, including the process of conducting a preliminary patent search or a preliminary trademark search using USPTO search tools.

USPTO — Patent Pro Bono Program

The Patent Pro Bono Program endeavors to match financially under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses with a patent practitioner who provides patent preparation, filing, and prosecution services, without charge for their legal services. The program consists of twenty-one independent not-for-profit regional programs which endeavor to match qualified applicants with volunteer patent practitioners. Applicants may apply for assistance through the program in their region. A list of regional programs can be found on the USPTO's Patent Pro Bono Program webpage (www.uspto.gov/probonopatents). Regional programs may charge a fee for the screening and matching service and applicants are responsible for all USPTO filing fees.

USPTO — Trademarks

The Trademarks organization of the USPTO is responsible for the federal registration of trademarks in the United States. Specifically, our business unit examines all applications for the registration of brand names, slogans, logos, and other indicators of source, ensuring that those trademarks meet applicable laws and regulations. Among other duties, we also disseminate general information about trademarks, implement our trademark examination policy,

and maintain a searchable public record of applied-for and registered trademarks.

USPTO — TTAB

The TTAB is an administrative board that hears and decides adversary proceedings between two parties, namely, oppositions (party opposes a mark after publication in the Official Gazette) and cancellations (party seeks to cancel an existing registration). The TTAB also handles interference and concurrent use proceedings, as well as appeals of final refusals issued by USPTO Trademark Examining Attorneys within the course of the prosecution of trademark applications.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts, to share actionable information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring, to fisheries management, coastal restoration, and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and provide citizens, planners, emergency managers, and other decision makers with the reliable information they need, when they need it.

USPTO — Web Design Team

USPTO is continuously improving our website and services to better meet the needs of our customers. We are actively seeking your feedback on upcoming product improvements. Make a stop at our booth to get hands-on with some of these new and exciting technologies. We would love to hear what you think!

USPTO leadership

Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

As the chief executive of the USPTO, she leads one of the largest intellectual property (IP) offices in the world, with more than 13,000 public servants and an annual budget of more than \$4 billion. She is the principal IP advisor to the President and the Administration, through the Secretary of Commerce, and is focused on incentivizing and protecting U.S. innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity. Named one of Managing IP's top 50 most influential people in IP in 2022, she leads an agency whose mission is to help American workers and businesses compete and collaborate, especially in ground-breaking technologies and across all demographics. As Director of the USPTO, Vidal is working to expand American innovation for and from all, and to bring more ideas to impact, including serving as the Vice Chair of the Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI²), alongside Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo and the Council members, a Co-Chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE), and the Co-Founder, with the Secretary, of the Women's Entrepreneurship (WE) initiative.



Director Vidal grew up in a career military family and spent her childhood on military bases in the United States, Panama, Germany, and the Azorean Islands (Portugal). She learned the value of hard work, financial security, and education from her parents, who often held multiple jobs and attended classes at night and on weekends to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees.

Her interest in science led her to attend Binghamton University at the age of 16, where she received her bachelor's in electrical engineering. Before graduating, she started her career at General Electric (GE) Aerospace (later Lockheed Martin). She was selected into the Edison Engineering Program and pursued her master's in electrical engineering in Syracuse University's night program. During

her time at GE, she designed one of the first artificial intelligence systems for aircraft, as well as aircraft and engine-control systems that continue to keep our military safe today.

Recognizing the value of innovation, Director Vidal pursued a career in IP. She put herself through law school and obtained a Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. After clerking for Judge Alvin Anthony Schall on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Director Vidal joined Fish & Richardson P.C., where she became a recognized expert on IP law, led a litigation group of 270 attorneys in 11 global offices, and served on the firm's Management Committee. She later joined Winston & Strawn LLP, where she served on the firm's Executive Committee and was Managing Partner of its Silicon Valley office. Throughout her career, Director Vidal has represented new innovators and startup companies with limited resources. She has also represented many of our country's most successful and well-known companies.

Director Vidal has helped harness and protect innovation at all levels. Prior to joining the USPTO, she represented both patent holders and defendants in U.S. district courts and the International Trade Commission. She has also been deeply involved in practice before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), argued numerous Federal Circuit appeals, and led amicus efforts on important cases before the Federal Circuit and the Supreme Court. She has received many awards as a top litigator and was inducted into the Litigation Counsel of America, a society of the leading American trial lawyers.

Director Vidal has spent her career championing the importance of mentoring and expanding opportunities to include more individuals from underserved communities. She has played an active role on the advisory board of Chiefs in Intellectual Property (ChIPs), a network of women leaders in technology, law, and policy, and on other boards and committees focused on diversity and inclusion, and has mentored diverse women across the globe as part of the Fortune-U.S. Department of State Global Women's Mentoring Partnership program. She builds on that work today.

Director Vidal lives with her family and rescue dog Oliver.

Derrick Brent, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Derrick Brent is the Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). As the Deputy Director, he serves as the principal advisor to Kathi Vidal,



Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, managing a wide portfolio of programs and operations for one of the largest intellectual property (IP) offices in the world, with more than 13,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$4 billion. His responsibilities include working with Director Vidal to lead the USPTO; advance IP policy and procedures for the benefit of the country; expand the USPTO's outreach efforts to incentivize and support more innovation and entrepreneurship nationwide; and execute the agency's policies, priorities, and programs.

Deputy Director Brent's career includes vast public service and private sector work, including significant experience in IP law and work to assist startups as well as those who are underrepresented. He served for six years as Chief Counsel for Senator Barbara Boxer, where he was responsible for a broad portfolio that included IP and constitutional issues, civil rights, telecommunications, and judicial nominations. During his time in the Senate, Deputy Director Brent was recognized as one of the most knowledgeable counsels on IP and a respected authority on 2011's America Invents Act and other impactful legislative initiatives. He worked closely with the IP community in the Senator's home state of California and across the country, including with prior USPTO directors and experts, forging consensus where possible, bringing important issues to the attention of the lead committee staff, researching and drafting proposals, and counseling and briefing constituents.

Deputy Director Brent has served in all three branches of the federal government: executive, legislative, and judicial. In addition to his work as a Chief Counsel in the U.S. Senate, he clerked for the Hon. Algenon L. Marbley, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. After litigating at the law firm of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP in Ohio, he served six years as a Senior Trial Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, where he received a Special Achievement Award for his trial work.

Deputy Director Brent has served in the private sector as Vice President/Associate General Counsel for the multinational medical technology company Masimo. As a Vice President at Masimo, Deputy Director Brent advanced IP policy, interfacing with and advising federal legislative and agency leaders. He also managed the employment law portfolio, litigation matters, internal investigations, and compliance. Deputy Director Brent also led efforts related to new federally funded cancer and malaria research programs. He interacted with the National Institutes of Health, helping to secure awards/funding and coordinating accounting, compliance, and procurement efforts.

Most recently, Deputy Director Brent worked as a consultant, advising startups on a variety of IP, operations, strategy, analytics, and risk mitigation issues in many functional areas. Prior to joining the USPTO, he served on the leadership team of Cut Golf, an early-stage golf equipment and apparel company. He provided critical counsel, analysis, and project management to the founders on a variety of matters, including IP, contracts, marketing/advertising, business development, design/performance analysis, and supply chain management, resulting in continuous sales and customer base growth for award-winning products.

Prior to becoming a lawyer, Deputy Director Brent worked for General Motors as an engineer with the Powertrain Division. There, he managed the engineering and business activities for multiple subcontracted manufacturing facilities across the country. He was responsible for product design, new product validation, production processes and improvements, testing, inventory, and budgets. He designed and implemented a warranty tracking system that helped significantly improve quality and production.

Deputy Director Brent has been actively involved in academic and nonprofit work, teaching an American government class in the Department of Political Studies and International Studies at Georgia Southern University and playing leadership roles in the African American Chefs Hall of Fame and in Pooler Paws, an organization helping the feral cat community in Pooler, Georgia, and surrounding communities.

Deputy Director Brent received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from The Ohio State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the Northwestern University School of Law (now the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law).

Vaishali Udupa, Commissioner for Patents

Vaishali Udupa is the Commissioner for Patents at the USPTO. As Commissioner for Patents, Ms. Udupa manages and leads the Patents organization as its chief operating officer. She oversees the agency's 10,000 Patents employees, including more than 9,000 patent examiners responsible for fostering the country's innovation system by providing patent protections to inventors as stated in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution



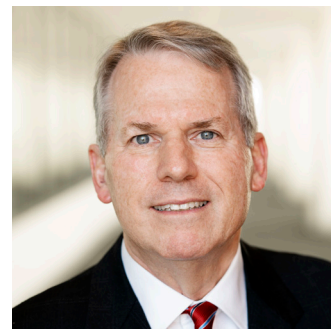
Prior to joining the USPTO, Ms. Udupa was already a nationally recognized leader in IP, with over twenty years of experience in strategic IP advisement and complex litigation. She has a wealth of experience in patent prosecution and litigation, global IP policy, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. In the private sector, Ms. Udupa secured multiple IP trial wins and managed numerous IP cases to favorable resolutions in the United States and abroad. She assisted in the development of patent and trademark portfolios and counseled internal clients regarding licensing deals, asset acquisitions, and agreements involving IP rights. Her technological experience includes, among others, electronic devices, networking and telecommunication systems, computer software, electronic commerce, consumer products, sporting goods, and medical devices.

Throughout her career, Ms. Udupa has achieved a proven track record of addressing diversity issues in the science, technology, and legal professions. She has sought to promote diversity and inclusion through pro-bono work and bar association involvement, including by serving as Honor Roll Committee Co-Chair of ChIPs, a non-profit organization that advances and connects women in technology, law, and policy; volunteering with the Girl Scouts Nation's Capital to provide young girls with their inventor patch; and teaching basic IP topics to Washington, D.C., high schoolers through the Street Law Program. Her efforts have received accolades, including the National Bar Association's 2020 Diversity in Tech and IP Law award. She also maintains a keen interest in increasing entrepreneurship and the number of patents applied for and obtained by all inventors, including women, minorities, veterans, and those from rural and economically disadvantaged areas.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Ms. Udupa was the Vice President, Associate General Counsel for Litigation at Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE). Prior to HPE, she was an IP litigation manager at HP and an associate at Jones Day and Pennie & Edmonds. Ms. Udupa earned her Juris Doctor from American University's Washington College of Law and her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia.

David S. Gooder, Commissioner for Trademarks

David S. Gooder is the Commissioner for Trademarks at the USPTO. The Commissioner serves as the primary agency official for trademarks, domestically and internationally, and is responsible for all aspects of the Trademarks



organization, including policy, petitions, operations, register protection and administration relating to trademark examination, registration, and maintenance.

Mr. Gooder has worked for more than 25 years on intellectual property and brand-protection challenges facing iconic global brands, notably in the distilled spirits and wine industries. Prior to joining the USPTO, he served as the founding Managing Director and Chief Trademark Counsel at Jack Daniel's Properties. In that position, Mr. Gooder directed the company's global intellectual property work, including its trademark portfolio, rights clearance, brand protection, licensing, and entertainment deals for the brands. Prior to that, Mr. Gooder practiced trademark, copyright, and entertainment law in Los Angeles and San Diego.

For the International Trademark Association (INTA), Mr. Gooder has been an officer and served two terms on the Board of Directors. He has also served as Chairman of the INTA Foundation.

Prior to his legal career, Mr. Gooder was a drummer and a video and music director. He is also an Eagle Scout. Mr. Gooder is a member of the State Bar of California. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Arizona College of Law.

USPTO and External Speakers

Jon Abboud, Communications Supervisor, USPTO

Jon is a communications supervisor in the USPTO's Office of the Chief Communications Officer. His work in this role primarily focuses on developing comprehensive communications outcomes that are aligned with agency strategic goals, priorities, and processes.



He has led (and followed) in positions in healthcare, government administration, leadership development, and industrial production. In addition to his full time role with the USPTO, Jon is also a solo-entrepreneur, managing his own business and executive coaching practice aimed at helping small business owners optimize their outcomes.

He is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and holds a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in political science from East Stroudsburg University of PA and an MS in management and leadership from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

A native of the Philadelphia suburbs, Jon currently resides with his wife and daughter in Chester County, PA.

implementation, it also nurtures careers — Alban actively hires interns and integrates them directly with the SIMETRI team to provide opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Brandon Andrews, Co-Founder, Gauge; Senior Consultant, Values Partnerships (casting for Shark Tank)

Brandon Andrews is the co-founder of Gauge, an AI-driven mobile market research platform connecting brands to consumers and influencers to identify opportunities and avoid mistakes. As senior consultant at Values Partnerships, he leads



the company's work on technology and entrepreneurship, including leading a nationwide casting tour focused on bringing more diverse ideas and voices to ABC's Shark Tank and building inclusive ecosystems. He led casting on Bet on Black, a new business show on REVOLT highlighting black entrepreneurship. Named a Global Innovation Fellow by the U.S. Department of State, he has traveled the world speaking and hosting events on entrepreneurship and innovation.

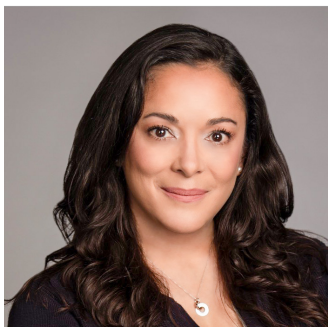
In 2022 he helped build and hosted the inaugural CGI Entrepreneurship Greenhouse at Clinton Global Initiative. He also led entrepreneurship programming in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and hosted the Unleash+ pitch competition in Mysore, India.

In addition to working with entrepreneurs, Brandon has helped lead nationwide engagement campaigns including jeen-yuhs: a Kanya trilogy (2022), Tulsa Burning, The 1921 Race Massacre (2021), John Lewis: Good Trouble (2020), If Beale Street Could Talk (2018), Fences (2016), Roots (2016), and Concussion (2015).

He has provided commentary on policy, politics, business, and tech on TV, radio, and the web. A former Division 1 track athlete, Brandon is a graduate of Oral Roberts University.

Angela Alban, President and CEO, Simetri

Angela M. Alban is president and chief executive officer of SIMETRI, Inc., a Central Florida firm that provides innovative solutions for training through art and science. SIMETRI designs, develops, and fields creative technologies and capabilities for training military personnel, physicians, nurses and first responders. Angela founded her company in 2009, putting into action years of industry experience, technical expertise, and a firm sense of personal responsibility to her customers and employees. Its multifaceted team of field experts are deeply committed to adapting to challenges and breaking new ground from the design phase, through the manufacturing process, all the way to a reliable finished product. Just as her company nurtures innovative ideas from concept to



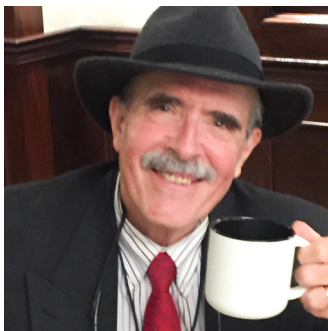
Amy Cohen-Johnson, Patents Training Advisor,
Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience, USPTO

Amy Cohen Johnson graduated from University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science in Physics and a Master of Education. She worked as a High School Science Teacher at Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, MD. Ms. Johnson joined the USPTO in March of 2002 examining Geometrical Instruments and Signals and Indicators and became a primary examiner in 2009. She became a Supervisory Patent Examiner in 2012 in TC2800 in the Circuits Work Group. In addition to supervising patent examiners, Ms. Johnson has supported the Office of Patent Training by leading training in a variety of programs. In February 2022 she was selected as a Training Advisor for the Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience.



Jose Colucci, Industrial Specialist, NIST MEP Program

Dr. José Colucci-Rios has a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, and is presently at the National Program Division at the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program. He has extensive experience leading and managing research collaborations that interface with government, academia, and industry. Previous careers/experiences included a detail at DHS, professor, administrator and researcher at UPR Mayagüez, and fast tracked at Union Carbide from a Research Engineer to Market Manager. Recent awards include 2018 recipient of NIST's Bronze Group Medal Award, 2019 USPTO Hispanic Heritage Month Keynote Speaker, 2020 NIST Uriano Award and NIST MEP Cash for Excellence Award. In 2022 he received a Commendation award from the Secretary of Homeland Security.



Jamilah Corbitt, Engagement Director, Established

Jamilah Corbitt is the Engagement Director at Established, a company dedicated to empowering startups and helping organizations with their innovation, startup, and communication strategies. Through Established's Startup of the Year community, they bring together the best startups with investors, mentors, and other experts to help rising founders build their networks and learn from some of the best and brightest in the industry. Jamilah's day-to-day includes managing large-scale projects and relationships with Established's clients and its network of Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs). Additionally, the Washington DC native / DC's Top 30 Under 30 alum has been involved in the startup ecosystem for over 10+ years, with seven of those years in the trenches running her own business. She is a multi-award winning speaker who believes in challenging the status quo and also authentically showing up as yourself at work and in all other aspects of your life.



Steve Dalton, Regional Growth Manager, GENEDGE

Steve Dalton is the Regional Growth Manager for the Shenandoah Valley/Blue Ridge Region of Virginia. Steve's role as a Regional Growth Manager is to establish and maintain new relationships with economic developers, industrial associations, and local manufacturing, industrial, and technology companies in his region. He collaborates directly with clients managing the full lifecycle of projects and supporting them in their strategic goals. Before joining the GENEDGE team, Steve worked: as a Sales Manager Consultant & Leadership Coach at Peak Performance Coaching LLC; as the Owner/Entrepreneur & Product Designer for HOUSEHOLDSUPPLIES.COM LLC; as Senior Team Leader at Allstate Insurance Corporation; and as the VA Territory Manager/Developer for Diamond Paper Corporation. Steve holds a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from Averett University and an MBA from Radford University. Certifications and affiliations include ACC Leadership/Business Coach ICF (International Coaching Federation), ITIL certification, and Chamber of Commerce Import / Export certification.

Dr. Tom Driscoll, Founder and Chief Technology Officer, Echodyne

Tom Driscoll is a technologist, inventor, and entrepreneur with a drive to advance the art of the possible. Dr. Driscoll currently serves as co-Founder and CTO of Echodyne, the Seattle startup bringing breakthrough radar capability to meet commercial and defense needs across autonomy, security, and intelligence markets. Tom is a named inventor on over 100 patents, has co-founded five startups, and served on the board of directors of three. Tom holds a PhD in physics from UCSD, and a B.S. in Physics from Harvey Mudd.



He has presented programs on numerous topics focused on business growth for Jim Moran Institute, Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council, Miami Dade College, SBDC National, SCORE, City of North Miami, mostly aimed at small businesses.

He graduated from Lee University with a bachelor's degree in communication, and from Nova Southeastern University with a Masters in Education. He has also obtained certificates in Marketing and Leadership from Cornell and University of South Florida. Espinosa is the recipient of the U.S. Small Business Administration South Florida District and State of Florida Small Business Advocate of the Year for 2016 and 2018.

Andrea Evans, Intellectual Property Attorney, The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, LLC

Andrea Hence Evans is owner of The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, LLC, an intellectual property law firm. She is a graduate of The George Washington Law School in Washington, DC. She is a graduate of Spelman College and Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA, where she obtained a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and a Bachelors of Civil Engineering, respectively. Prior to launching the firm, she worked at the USPTO as both a Patent Examiner and a Trademark Examining Attorney. She also is the owner of KidGINEER, LLC, a hands-on science and enrichment program for children. She is a member of the Texas bar and the U.S. Supreme Court bar. She is also a registered patent attorney. She is the award winning author of All About Inventing and All About Trademarks. She is on the board of the United Inventors Association and she is a patent attorney on the television show, MAKE48. She is the owner of Boss-Squire, LLC, an elite mentoring and educational program for lawyers. She is the best selling author of All About Inventing: Everything You Need to Know About Patents From a Former USPTO Patent Examiner and Patent Attorney and All About Trademarks: Everything You Need to Know From a Former USPTO Trademark Examining Attorney. She can be found on social media platforms @evansiplaw.

**Orlando Espinosa, Co-Founder, Emineo Media**

Charisma and passion are hallmarks of Orlando Espinosa's approach to empowering business owners to grow their businesses. His most notable endeavor was as an SBA Miami Emerging Leaders Instructor 2016 to 2021, which led to him becoming a top instructor with Interise, the organization whose Streetwise MBA curriculum is used for Emerging Leaders. In that position, he created quarterly Emerging Leaders alumni meetings, which have had record attendance. He was selected to work with three cohorts in 2022 from South Florida and Puerto Rico with the new T.H.R.I.V.E. SBA Emerging Leaders Reimagined program. He has made a huge impact already with the small businesses enrolled in this program, by bringing them together with alumni to help each other and do business together whenever possible.



In his current role as co-founder of Emineo Media, Espinosa helps design, develop and implement business and outreach curriculums for Government agencies, Municipalities and organizations to market their brand by educating and training businesses. Emineo Media's copyrighted curriculum, CEO Minded, Step Up Your Start Up, 8(a) Ready and Mission Possible: Strategies for Entrepreneurs has been implemented throughout Florida and other states. He has implemented programs for Miami Bayside Foundation, US Southern Command/Homestead Air Force base, Aire Ventures, Homestead CRA, Village of Miami Shores, City of North Miami and South Dade Connections.

Charesse Evans, Senior Advisor to USPTO Deputy Director Derrick Brent

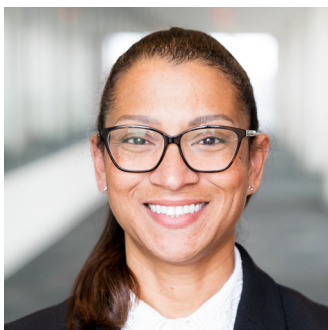
Charesse Evans is a Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. For over two decades, Ms. Evans has delivered extensive IP/patent and STEM expertise to entities at the intersection of technology outreach, scientific innovation, licensing, and business development within academia, the federal government, and the private sector. She has advised organizations on matters related to patent protection, technology management, and innovation/disclosure capture, and has helped them increase efficiencies in their IP management processes.



Prior to her current position, Ms. Evans served as a Technology License Monitoring and Enforcement Officer at the National Institutes of Health. She is also a former USPTO patent examiner. In that role, she determined the patentability of innovations in the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical, cosmetics, foodstuff, and feedstock sectors. When not at work, Ms. Evans helps others via community service and outreach in under-resourced communities, an endeavor she has been passionate about since she was young. She received her JD from Mitchell Hamline School of Law (formerly Hamline University School of Law), her MBA from the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Business, and her BS in biology from Tuskegee University.

NaThanya Ferguson, Supervisory Innovation Development Program Manager, USPTO

NaThanya Ferguson is a supervisory innovation development program manager in the USPTO's Office of the Chief Communications Officer, which focuses on outreach and engagement of independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, university inventors, and underserved communities across America.



Ferguson joined the USPTO in 1989. During her 30 year tenure at the agency, she has worked as a paralegal specialist in the Patents technology centers, lead patent analyst for the Patent Reengineering Lab, management and program analyst in the Science and Technology Information

Center, contracting officer technical representative in the Office of Data Management, and project manager in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Patent Operations.

Ferguson has received numerous awards, including a Department of Commerce Gold Medal in 2015 for her contribution to the innovative and collaborative implementation of the First Inventor to File statutory provisions of the America Invents Act, a Department of Commerce Distinguished Career Award in 2011 for continued outstanding service, and a Silver Medal Award in 1999 for her contribution to the development and implementation of the Patent Reengineering initiative.

Ferguson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Management from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's Certificate in project management from Management Concepts and Regis University

Leanna Golden Gantt, Founder of Tooktake

Leeanna is a breast cancer survivor and the inventor of Tooktake. During her treatment she noticed that there was nothing to track all forms of medications and vitamins on different schedules, so she created a solution. Tooktake is a simple label based solution that helps parents, pet owners, teenagers, kids track liquids, lotions, drops, ointments and pills while allowing them to stay in their child-safe packaging. Leeanna hopes that her story will inspire people, and she believes that tooktake will help millions of people get healthy and stay healthy. One dose at a time.



John Gaskins, CEO, Laser Thermal

Dr. Gaskins serves as CEO of Laser Thermal as they innovate and manufacture the next generation of thermal metrology solutions. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, John joined Dr. Patrick Hopkins' group at UVA, eventually



running day-to-day operations for a 10-15 person group as a Principal Scientist. He has authored over 50 peer reviewed journals and brings two decades of experience in small-scale material testing. Dr. Gaskins has quickly grown Laser Thermal to over 10 employees and leads their sustained

growth as they continue to expand their portfolio of thermal metrology solutions to serve customer needs.

Dahna Goldstein, Chief Investment Officer, Halcyon

Dahna Goldstein is Chief Investment Officer of Halcyon and Co-Managing Director of the Halcyon Fund. Dahna is a Senior Fellow in the Digital Impact and Governance Initiative at New America, and co-founded Resistance by Design. She was the founder and CEO of PhilanTech, which was acquired by Altum in 2014 where she continued to serve as Director of Philanthropy Solutions. Prior to starting PhilanTech, Dahna worked for venture philanthropies, including Ashoka and Blue Ridge Foundation New York. A graduate of Williams College, Dahna also holds a master of education degree, with a concentration in technology, from Harvard University, and an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business. She has written extensively about social impact, and has taught courses in technology entrepreneurship at Georgetown University, where she is an Entrepreneur in Residence, and blockchain at American University's Kogod School of Business. Dahna was named one of Newsweek's "13 Women Entrepreneurs to Bet On" and one of BusinessWeek's "25 Most Promising Social Entrepreneurs."



Gregory Grant, Apex Accelerator, SBDC UNF

Gregory Grant is the Assistant Director of Special Programs at the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at UNF, Government Contracting Specialist with the Procurement Technical Assistance Center at UNF, and an Adjunct Business Instructor for FSCJ and TBC. His expertise is in business management and operational improvements.

Gregory has diverse business experience ranging from corporations to entrepreneurship. Over the past 25 years, Gregory has managed retail locations, corporate operations, and owned several businesses. Gregory began entrepreneurship in Jacksonville, Florida at an early age. He worked in his family business as an Independent Tile Contractor from 1989 to 1996. Gregory realized that he wanted to learn new knowledge and skills in multiple



industries. This curiosity prompted him to join the United States Army in 1996.

After years of active military service and reserve duty in leadership roles, Gregory began using his managerial skills in retail management and corporate operations for large corporations in Florida. After working multiple years in management roles, Gregory began building independent companies. Gregory is currently a Doctoral Candidate at the University of North Florida in the study discipline Doctor of Education (ED.D) program. His journey started at the University of Phoenix completing the Bachelor of Science in Business Management studies.

During this educational program, coupled with his business experience, he gained a passion for helping small businesses grow and succeed. Gregory continued his academic journey earning a Master's in Business Administration along with certifications in process improvement dynamics and entrepreneurship. This combination led to Gregory not only helping small businesses in a practical way, but also being able to teach business aspects in formal education settings. Gregory has assisted several business owners using his practical experience and educational knowledge. He has been referenced or featured in media publications such as Huffington Post, Forbes, MSNBC, EPN, BUZZ, and many others providing inspiration to business owners. As the

Carlos Gutierrez, Innovation Outreach Specialist — National Programs, USPTO

Carlos Gutierrez started his career with service in the United States Marine Corps working in the field of logistics. He completed two tours overseas, one of which was in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Persian Gulf. Subsequently, Gutierrez held roles in the private sector, including several years as an Executive Team Leader with Target retail stores and Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley.



Additionally, Gutierrez holds a U.S. patent, was the founder of several companies, and has served as an advisor for several nascent-stage tech startups. He has written and managed grants that have been awarded a total of \$1.73 million.

Gutierrez has served with several agencies within the federal government, including the Department of Energy, the Minority Business Development Agency, and the Small Business Administration. Gutierrez also previously served

as the Director of the Texas Veterans Business Outreach Center.

Gutierrez has a background in business development and program management in the private sector, state government, federal government, academia, and non-profit spaces. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in management from The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, and a Master of Science in Technology Commercialization from The University of Texas at Austin.

Elden Hawkes, Partnership and Innovation Specialist, SBIR/STTR Program, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

Elden Hawkes serves as the Partnership and Innovation Specialist, a role that supports the advancement of the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/ STTR) programs. His primary duties include managing the agency's Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program. Other duties include outreach efforts targeting Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and SBIR Road Tours.

Prior to SBA, Elden spent seven years with USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) where he helped grow the USDA's SBIR program as its program specialist and program manager. He holds a degree in Environmental Science/Marine Science and a Master's in Food and Agricultural Science, both from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



Jonel Hein, District Director, North Florida District Office, SBA

Jonel Hein was appointed district director for the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) North Florida District Office in 2022. As district director, Ms. Hein oversees the delivery of agency programs such as financial assistance, management counseling and business development. She is responsible for the daily operation of the district office in Jacksonville and an Alternate Work Site in Orlando, FL. Her focus is on building and maintaining a viable network of collaborative



partnerships with small business stakeholders and serving as a local resource representing the SBA at significant engagements. Additionally, her responsibilities include advancing the SBA brand recognition through SBA initiatives, MOUs and Strategic Partner Alliances.

The North Florida District office encompasses the 43 counties north of Orlando and through the Florida Panhandle and services more than 1.6 million small businesses. The district office's recent successes for fiscal year 2022 include generating almost \$830 million in loan approvals which created over 12,000 new jobs and over \$745 million in contracting opportunities for its 8a firm portfolio.

Mrs. Hein has been with the SBA for 32 years; previously serving as an SBA loan officer for over 6 years. Prior to her civil service, she worked in consumer lending with several banks in Florida and Washington State.

Abel Herrera, President/CEO, IT Data Solutions

Abel Herrera is the President/CEO of IT Data Solutions, a certified 8(a), MBE, and DBE small business that offers Information Technology (IT) consulting services. Since 2005, IT Data Solutions has been providing focused management consulting services specializing in Information Technology (IT) solutions and tools for large private and public sector clients. The company specializes in IT Advisory, Analytics, Accessibility Services, Audio/Video Design and Implementation, Augmented/Virtual Reality, Cybersecurity, Human Centric Design, Managed Services, and Robotic Process Automation (RPA). We turn big data into actionable intelligence to help reach your mission objectives. Its IT data solutions help to increase efficiencies, reduce costs, and streamline processes. In 2021, IT Data Solutions received the MBE Supplier of the Year award.



As a Solution Architect with over 25 years of Information Technology experience, Mr. Herrera and his team help organizations gain a competitive advantage by integrating and organizing their client's data, so they can make strategic business decisions based on data analytics.

Mr. Herrera currently serves as a Board Member of the Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council (FSMSDC), and he also serves as the Chairperson of the FSMSDC Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Input Committee. In this role, Mr. Herrera strongly advocates for all certified MBEs in Florida, provides mentorship to MBEs, and recommends what programs are working for the MBEs to the Board. Mr. Herrera is also the 2nd Vice

Chair of the National MBE Input Committee as well as the MBE-2-MBE Spend Chairperson. In this role, Mr. Herrera is advocating for all certified MBEs in the United States as well as encouraging all MBEs to team with one another and buy from each other. The National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) and FSMSDC mission is to certify, advocate, develop, and connect MBEs with corporations and government entities.

Mr. Herrera received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida, where he also served as the team captain and starting point guard of the UCF Knights Basketball team. When Mr. Herrera has some spare time, he loves to spend it traveling with his family, boating, and fishing.

Connie Inukai

As a serial "Grandmapreneur®," Inukai speaks to retirees or soon-to-be retirees on the benefits of pursuing entrepreneurship in retirement.

Retired from teaching technical writing at the University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University for four decades, Connie Inukai became an award-winning inventor at the age of 68. She is the inventor of Tip 'n Split® and author of "How I got My Product on QVC, The Today Show, The View, and More...In Retirement," helping inventors generate free publicity for their products.

She is also the author of "Retirement: Dream Big, Take Action, Make Money. 10 Amazing Second-Act Entrepreneurs Tell Their Stories" and creator of Write Your Selfie®, inspiring people to write their life stories in a fun and easy-to-read format. Featured in Entrepreneur magazine, "6 Reasons to Pursue Entrepreneurship in Retirement," Connie encourages baby boomers to have an active retirement through business or social entrepreneurship. Because... passion has no expiration date!



Chef Jumoke Jackson

Chef Jackson is an accomplished chef, consultant and motivational speaker. In Jackson's short culinary career he has been selected as a 2017 Black Enterprise Man of Distinction. He has



also been featured on Dr. Oz, ABC's The Chew and most recently as a contestant on Shark Tank with the plant based company Everything Legendary. Jackson's creation landed the company a deal with billionaire Mark Cuban and now the plant based burgers are in over 5000 grocery stores across the country. Jackson recently accepted the role of executive chef for Slutty Vegan. With 10 locations in three states, the company recently received a valuation of \$100 million.

Robyn James, Inventor of InfusenClip

Robyn James, Former Army brat from Northern Virginia, is a Ladies Professional Golf Association class A teaching professional, inventor, businesswoman, and proud scratch golfer.

As a certified LPGA program golfer, she works with clients of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. For newbies, she helps connect them to the sport with a ball marker that means something to them.

Ball markers are great to have but easy to lose. Traditional metal clips can work to affix it to your hat but did not the friction for the custom ball markers that she wanted. Looking to solve this problem, Robyn designed a clip with two strong magnets connected by a lightweight silicone strap. There was just one problem; fresh silicone has a pungent scent. The idea to infuse her clips with herbs and essential oils started as a masking effect until clients raved that not only did it smell pleasant but it kept bugs away — and from there the InfusenClip was born: a natural, instant, and long lasting bug repellent. Robyn received her patent from the USPTO in 2021 and launched the product commercially



Kelley Kiernan, Department of the Navy SBIR Program, CTO and Blue Cyber Director

Kelley Kiernan is the Chief Technology Officer at the Department of The Navy SBIR/STTR program. Kelley is on detail to Navy for one year from AFWERX. Kelley Kiernan is a Navy cybersecurity and small business ecosystem leader who applies her experience with NASA and as an Air Force



officer/pilot/engineer/scientist to pave the way for small business innovation. A graduate of U.S. Air Force Academy, a scientist, an engineer, and a certified cybersecurity professional, Kelley's leadership brings cybersecurity within the reach of current and future Department of Defense contractors.

Alford Kindred, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO

Alford Kindred has been with the USPTO since 1997. His tenure includes serving as a patent examiner, primary patent examiner, Supervisory Patent Examiner, Acting Director of the Office of Information Management Services, Regional Manager of the Midwest Regional Office, and the Outreach Regional Assistant Director for the Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional USPTO located in Detroit, Michigan. He is currently the president of the USPTO Military Association. Mr. Kindred earned his Bachelor of Science in Electronic Engineering at Norfolk State University, and then a master's degree in Computer Resources and Information Systems at Webster University, Saint Louis, MO. He is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Mr. Kindred also founded mentoring groups for kids. He helps them learn about STEAM and intellectual property through active participation.



Mark Madrid, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, SBA

The Honorable Mark Madrid is Associate Administrator for the Office of Entrepreneurial Development at the U.S. Small Business Administration. Mr. Madrid reports directly to SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, a member of President Biden's cabinet.



As a Presidential Appointee and one of the head officials of the SBA, Mark leads a unit that supports more than 1 million small businesses annually and oversees the educational and technical resources arms of the SBA, which includes the network of Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, SCORE, Regional Innovation Clusters, and the Office of Entrepreneurship Education, which houses the Emerging Leaders initiative, Ascent women's business online program, and SBA's on-line Learning Center. Additionally, he supports the Agency Office of Native American Affairs and leads the American Rescue Plan \$100 Million Community Navigator Pilot Program, which he erected alongside his team.

Previously, Mark served as CEO of the Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative and Latino Business Action Network. Prior to serving in nonprofit executive roles, including CEO of the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, he enjoyed a corporate executive banking career that began on Wall Street in 1995 with J.P. Morgan.

Mark was the 2020 Recipient of the Latino Leaders Maestro Award in the Category of Leadership for his lifetime accomplishments as a distinguished influencer; and most recently he was honored with the Courage in Government award by the National Business Inclusion Consortium. Soon, he will be named as one of this year's U.S. 101 Most Influential Latinos. Mark is a Jefferson Award recipient and an Honorary Colonel of the U.S. Army, illustrating his dedication to volunteer service and veterans.

Amber Lambke, Founder and CEO, Maine Grains, Inc

Amber Lambke is founder and CEO of Maine Grains, Inc., carried by specialty food stores and used by bakeries, breweries and chefs throughout the Northeast. She is also the founding director of the non-profit Maine Grain Alliance whose flagship event, the Kneading Conference, draws hundreds of attendees from around the world each year and has spawned countless similar conferences. A driving force behind Maine's sustainable foods movement, Amber has worked with local business leaders and community members to successfully bring the cultivation and processing of grains back to the northeast. Her efforts have generated a broader understanding and appreciation of the flavor, nutrition, economic and environmental value of freshly milled, organic grains.



Shawn Mastrian, CEO, Darkside Scientific, Inc

Shawn Mastrian has been the CEO and cofounder of Darkside Scientific, Inc., the creators of the patented Lumilor electroluminescent coating system, for the past 12 years. After graduating MIT in 1991 with a chemical engineering degree, Shawn worked for over 30 years in various industries with responsibilities ranging from product management, supply chain optimization, business process consulting, sales leadership, and executive management. He has worked for large companies such as IBM, EMC, and Accenture, as well as numerous startup ventures.



of experience in financial management and business turnaround. In addition to helping businesses obtain growth capital, he is adept at developing business strategies, incubating new business models, and building out channel programs. He has extensive expertise in operational and deployment strategies, including budgeting, job costing, strategic planning, and project management.

Raju graduated from the University of Miami with a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and a Master of Business Administration in Finance.

Cherie Monson, Founder of CLM Creations

Cherie Monson is the founder of CLM Creations LLC and the inventor of the CLM Volumizer™, the first-ever universal diffuser hairbrush. After 10 years of prototype development, she applied for a design patent so she could start marketing her innovative hair tool. Three years later, Cherie retired early from her career as a Sales Consultant so she could put all her time into bringing the patented CLM Volumizer™ by CLM CREATIONS® to market. Even though she never planned to be an entrepreneur for her 2nd career in life, she is enjoying her on-the-job training as she "bootstraps" the development and marketing of her first invention.

**Sheilisa McNeal-Burgess, Founder and CEO of Fria Jewelry**

"Problems just require solutions" is Sheilisa's favorite phrase, which is why she became a solutions-focused inventor and creator of Fria Cooling Jewelry and the Fria Consulting Group (FCG). Sheilisa leads her team in the development of tech-enabled, fashion jewelry that offers women a "cool" new option for managing the physical discomfort of hot flashes and overheating. Prior to this endeavor, her professional career included 30+ years in the fields of public relations, corporate communications, professional writing and collegiate level teaching.

In addition to her leadership role at Fria, she is also an Adjunct Lecturer at New York University's School of Professional Studies.

**Matt Nuccio, President, Design Edge, Inc.**

Matt Nuccio is the president of Design Edge, Inc., a toy and game development company and licensing agency whose clients include Mattel, Hasbro, Spin Master and Fisher-Price to name only a few. For 4 years, Matt co-chaired the Toy Association (TA), on their associate panel, representing all designers and inventors within the toy industry. Currently, Matt sits on the board of directors of the United Inventors Association of America (UIA), a non-profit organization working to educate and advocate for all types of inventors. He also sits on the People of Play (POP) advisory board and Toy Association's Creative Factor advisory board helping start-up inventors to navigate successfully within the Toy Industry. Matt writes a column in Toy Family Entertainment magazine focusing on the industry, and, he has lectured at ChiTAG, New York Toy Fair, ASTRA, Hong Kong Toy Fair,

**Raju Mohandas, President, BridgePoint Financial Group, Inc.**

Raju Mohandas is a Florida Small Business Development Center at Florida International University consultant and President of BridgePoint Investment Inc. and BridgePoint Financial Group Inc., with more than two decades



and various inventor clubs around the world including the 2021 Emerging Innovation Summit in Melbourne Australia. Design Edge's products have been nominated for, and have also won, many industry awards such as TOTY (Toy Of The Year), TAGIE (Toy and Games Innovators), Games 100, Origin, and Family Fun among others. In 2019, Matt was honored by the National Security Agency (NSA) as an American Innovator and has been listed for the past 4 years in a row, by Mojo Nation, as one of the top 100 most influential people in the toy industry today.

Eric Pearson, Founder and CEO, Alpen

A lifelong cycling enthusiast, Eric founded ALPEN after his sixth bike was stolen. He set out to bring convenience as security to the biking lifestyle and ALPEN now exists to present a frictionless user experience for urban e-bikes in an effort



to drive widespread adoption of e-bike technology as a sustainable means of transportation. Eric parlayed his background in the commercial real estate industry to forge scalable partnerships with some of the largest landlords in the world to upgrade their bike amenities in apartments, office buildings and hotels, as well as universities and municipalities. Eric can usually be found in the outdoors, often on a bike or on skis. He graduated from Princeton University in 2003 where he majored in Politics.

Cynthia Rhodes, Certified Business Mentor Volunteer, SCORE Association; Founder, Rhodes Porter, LLC

Ms Cynthia Rhodes is founder of Rhodes Porter LLC and developer of "The Business Box" concept, where she is responsible for the full scope of business management and government consulting. She has a keen ability to create revenue



generation plans and strategies to increase access to capital. A graduate of Augusta (State) University, Cynthia for over 20 years has worked in the background developing capital projects and building multi-million dollar companies in the areas of construction, development and project logistics management. As a real estate broker she became an agent productivity coach in real estate after selling affordable housing properties for companies she helped

build. Cynthia currently volunteers her technical knowledge by volunteering as a business mentor, Outreach/Marketing Chair, and DEI Council Process Team Lead member with SCORE, serving on the Small Business Compliance Advisory Board for Augusta-Richmond County GA, the Board of Directors for North Augusta SC Chamber of Commerce, the Ambassador Board for Aiken SC Chamber and formerly the Board of Directors of CSRA Business League. Being a mother of 5, grandmother of 5, a big brown dog and a little white rabbit gives her the podium mic for work/life balance.

Charles 'Tee' Rowe, President and CEO of ASBDC

C. E. "Tee" Rowe is the President and CEO of America's SBDC, the association representing Small Business Development Centers, a nationwide network of over 1,000 centers providing free, confidential counseling and low cost training to



small business owners. He joined America's SBDC in 2009. A graduate of Dartmouth College and the Tulane University School of Law, Mr. Rowe has a long history of legislative and advocacy experience on behalf of the small business community. In addition to his job at America's SBDC he is the past Chairman of the Small Business Legislative Council, a nationwide association of 45 small business trade associations advocating for small business policies and a member of the US Chamber of Commerce's Council on Small Business.

Prior to joining America's SBDC he served as Associate Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the US Small Business Administration from 2005 to 2009. Mr. Rowe also worked for ten years in the US Congress as Counsel to the Committee on Small Business in the US House of Representatives. Mr. Rowe resides in Virginia with his wife Laurie and his daughter, Alex.

Jennifer Smith-Funn, SBDC Regional Director

Jennifer Funn is currently the Regional Director for Baltimore City and Baltimore County for the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC), an affiliate of the University of Maryland at College Park. During her tenure as the Regional Director, she has worked diligently to expand services to Baltimore City and Baltimore County's constituents.



In addition, Ms. Funn is an Adjunct Professor at the Community College of Baltimore County facilitating professional development training in business/entrepreneurial development. She also serves as a member

of the Governor's Chesapeake Conservation Corps Advisory Board providing oversight for service-learning opportunities and green job training programs supported by the Chesapeake Bay Trust.

As a former restaurant and catering service owner of a historic waterside inn in Galesville, Maryland, Jennifer possesses an insight and appreciation for the struggles and perseverance of entrepreneurs. She successfully managed a transit-oriented Maryland SBDC program designed to revitalize the areas surrounding Prince George's County Green line Metro stations. A graduate of the HBCU, Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, Ms. Funn's motto is "Entrepreneurship is not a destination, it's a journey"

Greta Spivey, Program Manager, Startup Studio - DHS, Fedtech

Greta is passionate about innovation, technology commercialization and defense. At FedTech, Greta manages several advisory and accelerator projects for government and university partners, including the US Army, the Department of Homeland Security and the University of Maryland. Her passion for innovation stems from working with several startups across healthcare and bevtech spaces. Outside of entrepreneurship, Greta brings expertise in project management and strategy. Greta holds degrees from the University of Michigan, King's College London and the University of North Carolina.

**Mariessa Terrell, Trademark Attorney, USPTO**

Mariessa Terrell is an Attorney Advisor in the USPTO's Trademarks Customer Outreach office. Previous to that, she served as an USPTO Trademark Examining Attorney; solo trademark practitioner; in-house trademark attorney consultant for Lockheed Martin and Leidos Corporations; and trademark and fashion law professor at Howard University School of Law (HUSL). In 2015, Mariessa was recruited to manage the USPTO Trademark Law Clinic at HUSL and helped develop a USPTO Patent Law Clinic in 2019. Mariessa earned her J.D. from HUSL; her B.A., magna cum laude, from Pace University; and is admitted to the Maryland and District of Columbia bar associations.

**Bob Thorsen**

Bob Thorsen is a third generation custom home builder with over 40 years of experience at his construction company, Thorsen Construction.

A natural inventor, Bob expanded his knowledge of tools from craftsmanship, to innovation, creating the award winning Burro Buddy. Sold in over 5,000 brick and mortar stores including Walmart and Lowe's, The Burro Buddy has been seen on Fox Business, Fox News, and ABC's Shark Tank. The Burro Buddy has continually received recognition for innovation, winning Bronze in the International Design Awards and the three time recipient of the Retailer's Choice Award at the National Hardware Show. Bob resides in Warrenton, Virginia with his wife Sudie, who he claims is the inspiration for his innovations.



Warren Tuttle, Inventor and Entrepreneur

Warren Tuttle is the Open Innovation Director for MarketBlast and also oversees the Open Innovation program for publicly traded Lifetime Brands in the housewares and table top arenas. Warren interacts with thousands of inventors every year and has initiated over 125 new consumer product licensing agreements that have collectively generated over a billion dollars in retail sales.



Warren was the President of the 501c3 United Inventors Association for 12 years and currently serves as a board member on the National Pro Bono Patent Advisory Council (PBAC) and the Department of Commerce's Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI²). Additionally, he co-chairs the Creator's Committee for the United States Intellectual Property Alliance (USIPA). Warren's book, *Inventor Confidential: The Investor's Guide to Profitable Innovation*, is published by Harper Collins and goes outside of sales pitches to focus on innovators' real path to market.

Dr. Karen Vieira, CEO, The Med Writers

Dr. Karen Vieira is owner of The Med Writers and is SBA Miami's 2018 Woman-Owned Small Business Person of the Year. She has a doctorate in Biomedical Sciences, a Masters in Management, and years of corporate experience with a Fortune 50 company before starting The Med Writers.



Her company currently holds contracts from DoD and HHS as prime contractors, and are subcontractors on HHS contracts. This allows her to teach from hands-on experience. Dr. Karen Vieira is an experienced small business trainer and she has written several small business curricula. She teaches marketing, sales, government contracting, HR and operations. She has worked with small businesses via teaching workshops and seminars, small group coaching sessions, one-on-one mentoring, implementation of writing and posting marketing, and writing and submitting government proposals. She is an alumna of the 2016 SBA Emerging Leaders.

Marlon Walker, Manager, MEP-Assisted Technology and Technical Resource (MATTR), NIST

Marlon Walker is a physical scientist in the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program at NIST. He is the manager for the MEP-Assisted Technology and Technical Resource (MATTR) service, helping small and medium-sized manufacturers by connecting them, through the MEP Centers, with the technical expertise of staff, laboratory facilities, and other resources of NIST.



Prior to joining MEP, he was a research chemist in the Material Measurement Science Division in the Material Measurement Laboratory at NIST, with scientific interests in the direction of creation and non-destructive characterization of engineered "soft-surfaces" such as those made involving self-assembled monolayers (SAMs) and thin organic films. Recent efforts centered around surface modification strategies using oligo (ethylene oxide)-based self-assembled monolayers for resistance of non-specific protein adsorption. Past studies included using in situ spectroscopic ellipsometry to explore the interactions of certain additives critical to the copper electrodeposition process, research relevant to the microelectronic industry. He is heavily involved in STEM-related outreach efforts to organizations such as NOBCCHE.

Daria Walsh, Inventor and founder of InfinityClips

Daria Walsh is the inventor and founder of Infinity Clips, the first-ever necklace shortener for thin chains. As a seasoned entrepreneur and marketing professional, she combined her love of innovation and business to launch a successful brand that has received widespread praise for its functionality and design. Prior to this, Daria participated in the launch of multiple successful startups across diverse fields, including book publishing and fashion. She enjoys finding practical solutions to everyday problems and helping others realize their dreams of inventing.



Delanie West,
Founding Director/Creative Fixer, BeSuperCreative

Delanie Be Super Creative West is a marketing, business, and brand development leader with over 30 years of award-winning experience. As the founder and creative director of Be Super Creative, a marketing and brand development firm, Delanie is dedicated to creating value-driven intellectual property. Her innovative work as the first Creative Director for Black Girls RUN helped establish the brand's presence and aesthetic, making it the largest Black women's running brand in the United States.



Delanie is also the President, Partner, and Chief Strategy Officer at Black Creatives, a global network of over 15,000 professionals in various creative industries. She has served on multiple boards and committees, including Women in Toys, Licensing & Entertainment, and The Graphic Artist's Guild National Board. Delanie is a student ambassador for the MBA program at Syracuse University and was awarded the Women Innovator of the Year Award by The International Girls Academy in March 2023. Follow Delanie on LinkedIn and Instagram to learn more about her work and adventures.

Bridget Weston, CEO, SCORE Association

Bridget Weston is CEO of SCORE, which provides free mentoring and education to current and aspiring small business owners through its network of 10,000 volunteers. In 2022, SCORE helped to start over 30,000 new businesses and create more than 82,000 new non-owner jobs. A respected small business thought leader, Ms. Weston has served as a small business expert in Congressional hearings and has been quoted in numerous media outlets including CNN, MSNBC and Bloomberg Business. Ms. Weston earned her MBA from Temple University and a BS in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



Sean Wilkerson, Innovation Outreach Specialist — National Programs, USPTO

Sean Wilkerson works in the Office of Innovation Outreach at the USPTO creating IP awareness programs and managing outreach services to independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, makers, and universities.



Wilkerson previously worked as an outreach coordinator for the programs leading up to the opening of the USPTO's Silicon Valley and Texas Regional Offices. He also spent a year as part of the New York engagement team that developed the 2015 Future of Urban Innovation Startups Summit in coordination with Columbia University and the USPTO.

From 2011 to 2013, he served as the program manager of the inaugural Select USA Summit, developing the program, structure, and outreach efforts of a U.S. government-wide program housed in the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. As an education program analyst in the Global Intellectual Property Academy from 2008 to 2011, he managed international programs focused on providing IP training related to enforcement of patents, trademarks, and copyrights and the U.S. patent and trademark system. Prior to working for the federal government, he served as the Director of Events for the National Association of Homebuilders in Washington, D.C. and as the Ideas Exchange Manager for Accenture in Reston, Virginia.

Robert Wines,
Program Manager, Startup Studio - DHS, Fedtech

Robert brings his passion for entrepreneurship, innovation, and government to FedTech as a Senior Analyst. He has spent his career at FedTech, working with researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and companies across different



developmental stages and sectors, including defense, security, quantum, and healthcare. Robert specializes in lean/agile methodologies, business model canvassing, and stakeholder/customer discovery. He studied Entrepreneurship/Innovation and Government at American University, where he participated in NSF I-Corps and consulted international startups.

Daniella Zakon, Founder & CEO
Upwell Cosmetics, PBC

Daniella Zakon holds a BS degree in Marine Biology and a masters degree in Environmental Studies with Business Management. She has worked across Asia and the Middle East as an environmental entrepreneur, with career research spanning coral reef ecosystems and water technologies, as well as launching and winning awards for her previous start up in the sustainable apparel space. Her focus is on creating business with low carbon footprints. She grew up in and currently resides in Woods Hole, MA. Upwell Cosmetics is an ocean based ingredients company launching the first algae wax to replace petroleum wax in the personal care and cosmetic industries.



A special thanks to the Invention-Con 2023 planning team

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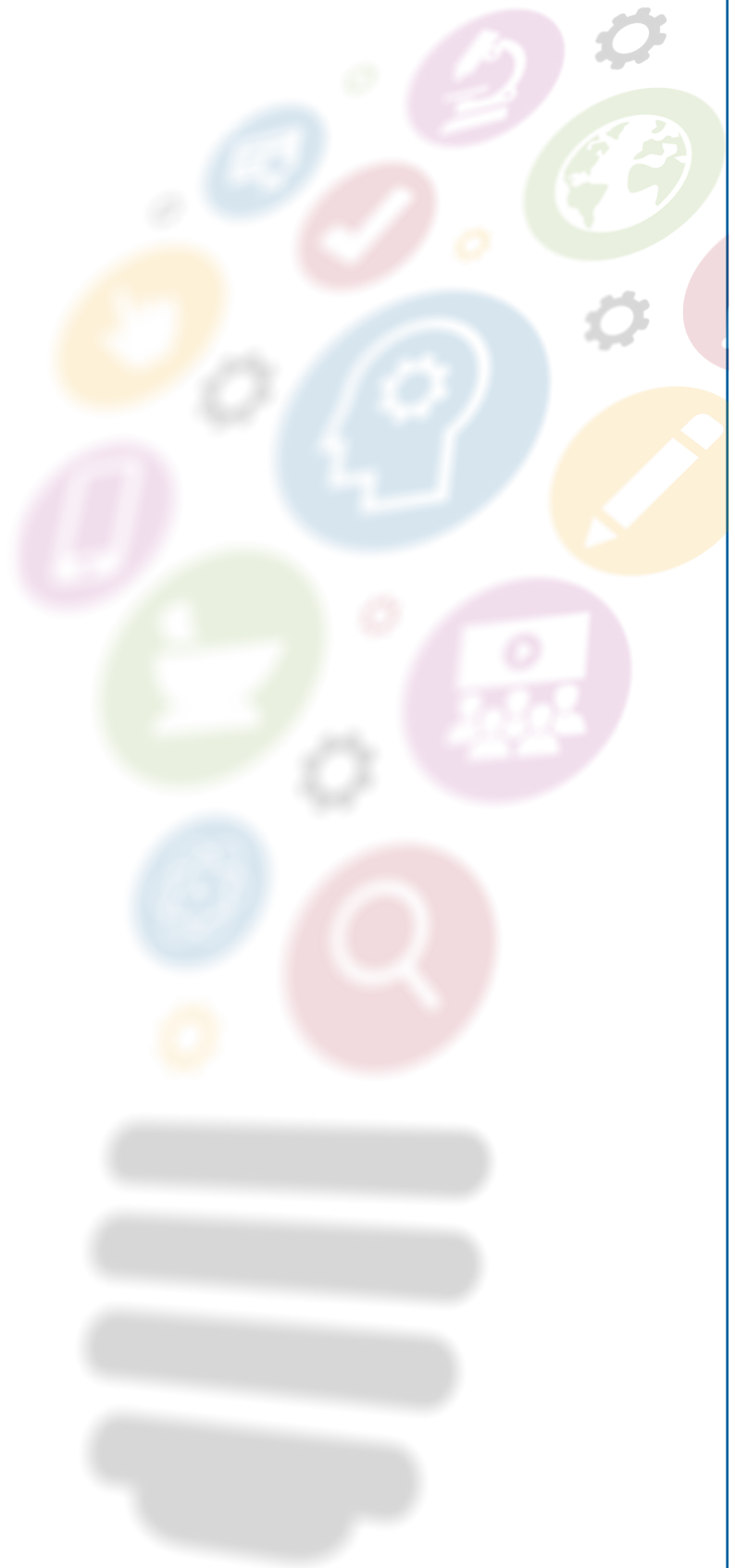
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Building tomorrow's innovation



UPCOMING EVENTS

Details on all the below events are available at www.uspto.gov/events

Trademark Basics Boot Camp: This free USPTO event series provides a comprehensive overview of the process for federal trademark registration and maintaining a federal trademark. If you're a small business owner or entrepreneur seeking to protect your brand and product identities, Trademark Basics Boot Camp is for you.

Innovator events for everyone: This diverse set of annual programming, open to all, provides relevant intellectual property (IP), innovation, and invention resources to independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and underrepresented or underserved populations. Organized by the Office of Innovation Outreach, these events help everyone better understand, secure, and use IP. Working with partners from other federal agencies, organizations, and universities, the USPTO connects the public to innovators at these free events year-round.

Path to a Patent: The Path to a Patent quarterly series covers everything from intellectual property basics, to patent searching, to what you'll need to draft and submit your patent application. The series is part of our ongoing intellectual property training for independent inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses.



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