



INVENTION-CON 2017

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

USPTO's Inventors Conference • August 11-12 • Alexandria, VA

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

uspto



Patents' Office of Innovation Development (OID)
is proud to present **Invention-Con 2017**.
"To foster invention and entrepreneurship by
providing full access to the U.S. intellectual
property system" is our mission; it drives us to
deliver education and insight about patents and
trademarks across the country.



Table of Contents

Agenda. pg. 1

Breakout Session Descriptions. pg. 3

Resource Booth Layout and Exhibitor
Descriptions. pg. 5

Presenter Biographies pg. 7

Key USPTO Resources For Inventors,
Startups & Entrepreneurs. pg. 17

About the Office of Innovation
Development (OID) pg. 18

Invention-Con Planning Team pg. 20

Agenda | Friday, August 11, 2017

All sessions are held in the Madison Auditorium except for the Breakout Sessions.

<p>8:00-8:45 am REGISTRATION Resource Booths Open</p> <p>8:45-8:55 am Introductions - Robert Hodge, OID Pro Se Assistance Program Coordinator and Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO</p> <p>8:55-9:00 am Welcome - Mindy Bickel, Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development, USPTO</p> <p>9:00-10:00 am High Level Overview of Intellectual Property - Zandra Smith, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO Inventor Testimony Regarding Patent and Trademark Application Processes - Katharine Contag, CEO, Color Clutch</p> <p>10:00-10:45 am KEYNOTE "You've Got a Great Idea...What's Next?" Louis Forman, Founder and Chief Executive of <i>Eventys and Edison Nation</i></p> <p>10:45-11:15 am BREAK Resource Booths Open</p> <p>11:15-12:15 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Fri AM) choose one to attend. See the following pages for a detailed description of each topic and their locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patent Basics • Trademark Basics • Patents - How to Search Your Invention • Trademark Website Resources and Tools • Filing for a Patent • Customer Focus Session 1 - How Can the USPTO Enhance Trademark Search and e-Filing Systems? • Customer Focus Session 2 - Pro Se Assistance Program - What Services Are Helpful and What Services Are Needed? <p>12:15-1:15 pm LUNCH BREAK (see the registration table for a list of dining options)</p> <p>1:15-2:15 pm PANEL DISCUSSION I - Resources and Tips Moderated by Ryan Donlon, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventor Groups and Licensing - Warren Tuttle, President, United Inventors Association • Overcoming Hurdles with the Patent Application Process - Pam Isom, Executive Director, Office of Application Engineering and Development, USPTO 	<p>2:15-3:00 pm KEYNOTE Drew Hirshfeld, Commissioner for Patents, USPTO</p> <p>3:00-4:00 pm PANEL DISCUSSION II - Backyard Resources Moderated by Gwendolyn Blackwell, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Business Administration (SBA) - Natalie Duncan, National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Enforcement Fairness (Acting) • Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) - Julius Maina, Policy and Inclusive Innovation Specialist • Small Business Administration (SBA) - Nagesh Rao, Chief Technologist, Office of Investment and Innovation • Economic Development Administration (EDA) - Eric Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship • USPTO Regional Offices - Molly Kocialski, Director, Rocky Mountain Regional Office <p>4:00-4:30 pm BREAK Resource Booths Open</p> <p>4:30-5:30 pm BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Fri PM) choose one to attend. See the following pages for a detailed description of each topic and their locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patent Basics • Trademark Basics • Patents - How to Search Your Invention • Trademark Website Resources and Tools • Common Mistakes When Filing a Patent Application • Customer Focus Session 3 - When Should You Use the Patents Ombudsman Program? • Customer Focus Session 4 - How to Increase Awareness of the Pro Bono Program? <p>5:30-6:30 One-on-One Assistance</p> <p>5:30-7:00 NETWORKING Resource Booths Open</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimizing Meetings with an Attorney - Natalie Kadievitch, Patent Attorney, Fredrikson & Byron • Patent and Trademark Assistance Resources - Lynne Wooden, Independent Inventor
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Agenda | Saturday, August 12, 2017

All sessions are held in the Madison Auditorium except for the Breakout Sessions.

<p>8:00-8:45 a.m. REGISTRATION</p> <p>8:45-9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks - NaThanya Ferguson, Innovation Development Specialist, USPTO</p> <p>9:00-9:45 a.m. PANEL DISCUSSION III - Young Inventors & Entrepreneurs Moderated by Joyce Ward, Director of Education and Outreach, USPTO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventor of "Tip Tough" - RJ Batts, CEO, Picklehead LLC • Inventors of "The Floodie" - Caroline Maloney and Prasan Chari • Young Maker, Entrepreneur - Jacob Leggette <p>9:45-10:30 a.m. KEYNOTE "Marketing Your Invention" Lisa Ascolese, AKA "The Inventress," CEO and Founder of <i>Inventing A to Z</i></p> <p>10:30-11:00 a.m. BREAK</p> <p>11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Sat AM) choose one to attend. See the following pages for a detailed description of each topic and their locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Protection (Patent Cooperation Treaty, Global Dossier, Paris Convention, Madrid Protocol) • Utility Patents - Claim Drafting Workshop • Design Patent Application Drawing Requirements • Trademarks - Filing Requirements and How to File Online with the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) <p>12:00-1:00 p.m. LUNCH BREAK (see the registration table for a list of dining options)</p> <p>1:00-2:00 p.m. Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) Proceedings: Appeals of Examiners' Decisions and Trials Vice Chief Judge Jacqueline Bonilla, Patent Trial and Appeal Board, USPTO</p>	<p>2:00-2:30 p.m. BREAK</p> <p>2:30-3:30 p.m. BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Sat PM) choose one to attend. See the following pages for a detailed description of each topic and their locations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Protection (Patent Cooperation Treaty, Global Dossier, Paris Convention, Madrid Protocol) • Patent Examination Process • Trademark Examination Process • Litigation - Enforcing or Defending Your Rights <p>3:30-3:45 p.m. BREAK</p> <p>3:45-4:45 p.m. PANEL DISCUSSION IV - Free Legal Services Moderated by John Kirkpatrick, Staff Attorney and Patent Pro Bono Program Administrator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro Bono Program - James Patterson, Founding Partner, Patterson Thuente IP • Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts - Kathryn Wagner, Executive Director, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts • Law School Clinics - Professor David Henry, Registered Patent Attorney and Professor of Patent Law, Baylor University School of Law <p>4:45-5:00 p.m. Closing Remarks - Mindy Bickel, Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development, USPTO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patent and Trademark Assistance Resources - Lynne Wooden, Independent Inventor
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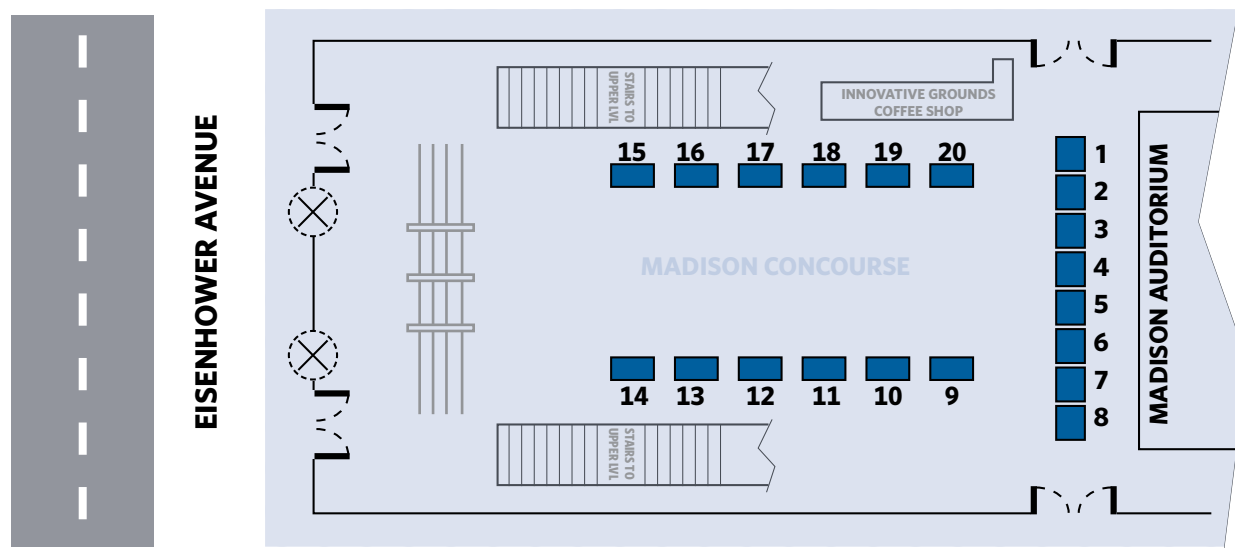
Breakout Session Descriptions

FRI AM	FRI PM	SAT AM	SAT PM	
X	X			Patent Basics - what is a patent, what can a patent do for you, and what types of patent applications are available along with their associated fees Jean Witz, Supervisory Patent Reexamination Specialist, Central Reexamination Unit LOCATION: GIPA Paris Room
X	X			Trademark Basics - what is a trademark, how to select a mark that is federally registrable and legally protectable, the benefits of federal registration, and the role of private attorneys in the trademark process Craig Morris, Managing Attorney for Trademark Educational Outreach LOCATION: GIPA Berne Room
X	X			Patents - How to Search Your Invention - what is prior art and why you should search your invention, search strategies, and resources for searching U.S. and foreign patents plus how you can access these resources Nick Jensen, Supervisory Patent Examiner, Office of Patent Training & Robin Jackson, Technical Information Specialist, Public Search Facility LOCATION: Madison Auditorium North side
X	X			Trademark Website Resources and Tools - what is available on USPTO's trademark website and how to navigate the site to reach tools for the trademark process, such as searching, filing, document review, and status checks Colleen Kearney, Staff Attorney, Trademark Legal Policy Office LOCATION: GIPA Singapore Room
X				Filing for a Patent - What are the requirements for filing a patent application and how you can file online using USPTO's electronic filing system (EFS)? Zandra Smith, Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 2800 & Lisa Tran, Communications Manager for eCommerce LOCATION: Madison Auditorium South side
X				Customer Focus Session 1 - How can the USPTO enhance its trademark search and e-filing systems? Tanya Amos, Trademark Legal Administrator & Jill Wolf, Customer Experience Administrator for Trademarks LOCATION: GIPA Hague Room
X				Customer Focus Session 2 - Patents Pro Se Assistance Program - What services are helpful and what services are needed? Robert Hodge, Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 3600 & Darnell Jayne, Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 3600 LOCATION: GIPA Stockholm Room
	X			Common Mistakes when filing a Patent Application - once you have filed your patent application, how to move through the process, focusing on understanding a Notice to File Missing Parts and how to use petitions effectively Andy Chriss, Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 2400, Janice Tippett, Management and Program Analyst, Office of Patent Application Processing & Namrata (Pinky) Boveja, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Petitions LOCATION: Madison Auditorium South side

FRI AM	FRI PM	SAT AM	SAT PM	
	X			Customer Focus Session 3 - When should you use the Patents Ombudsman Program? Dale Shaw, Deputy Director Stakeholder Outreach and Patents Ombudsman Program & Cassandra Downs, Management and Program Analyst, Patents Ombudsman Program LOCATION: GIPA Hague Room
	X			Customer Focus Session 4 - How to increase awareness of the Pro Bono Program? John Kirkpatrick, Staff Attorney & Patent Pro Bono Administrator, Office of Enrollment and Discipline & Grant Corboy, Staff Attorney & Patent Pro Bono Administrator, Office of Enrollment and Discipline LOCATION: GIPA Stockholm Room
		X	X	International Protection - learn about patent and trademark protection outside of the U.S. via international treaties- highlights include the Paris Convention, Patent Cooperation Treaty, Global Dossier, and Madrid Protocol Robin Hylton, Special Program Examiner, International Patent Legal Administration & Debbie Lee, Attorney/Advisor, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy LOCATION: Madison West, Room 1B25
		X		Claim Drafting Workshop - for utility patents, learn what a claim is and how to draft one, and explore the importance of clarity and breadth in claim language Jean Witz, Supervisory Patent Reexamination Specialist, Central Reexamination Unit LOCATION: Madison North
		X		Design Drawing Requirements - how drawings in design applications define the invention and details about drawing requirements Susan Bennett Hattan, Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 2900 LOCATION: Madison West, Room 207
		X		Trademark Filing Requirements - what information should you have to start the process, how to select the proper forms in the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), and tips for using TEAS. Also, how to distinguish USPTO emails from private companies' potentially misleading offers and notices Tanya Amos, Trademark Legal Administrator, Electronic Filing and Public Web Services LOCATION: Madison Auditorium South side
			X	Patent Examination Process - understanding the role of a patent examiner, the different types of office actions, and options for responding and communicating with the examiner Jenny Wagner, Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 2800 LOCATION: Madison Auditorium North side
			X	Trademark Examination Process - how to respond to an Office action from the trademark examining attorney, refusals, and appeals to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) Michael Levy, Staff Attorney, Trademark Quality and Training LOCATION: Madison West, Room 207
			X	Litigation - enforcing or defending your rights in a world of patents and trademarks Rob Rando, Founder and Lead Counsel, The Rando Law Firm P.C. LOCATION: Madison Auditorium South side

All GIPA rooms (the Global Intellectual Property Academy) can be accessed from the Public Search Facility on the first floor of the Madison building, in the northeast corner. Madison West rooms are in the building on the cafeteria-side of Madison. Both these rooms require that you pass through security so please leave extra commuting time to these sessions.

Resource Booth Layout and Exhibitor Descriptions (Friday ONLY)



1. Using Legal Services

The Using Legal Services booth will provide information regarding pro bono services affiliated with the USPTO as part of the Patent Pro Bono Program and the Law School Clinic Certification Program. General information on reporting and preventing scams will be available.

2. Patents International Cooperation

The Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC) provides information on several of the international programs and initiatives. For example, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), 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.

3. Patents Petitions

The Office of Petitions (OPET) reviews and decides petitions, requests, and related inquiries, regarding the filing of patent applications, revival of abandoned applications, reinstatement of expired patents, withdrawal of patent applications from issue, small entity entitlement, review of previous decisions of the Technology Centers, suspension of regulations, and questions not specifically provided for by regulations. The OPET booth will be staffed by petitions experts that will be available to provide resources and answer questions relating to petitions-related matters.

4. Patent and Trademark Resource Center

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs) are a nationwide network of public, state and academic libraries that are designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information and to support the diverse intellectual property needs of the public. Accessing the patent and trademark information at a PTRC with the help of a trained specialist, you may be able to determine if someone else has already patented your invention or obtained a federal registration for a trademark on goods or services. PTRCs also have access to examiner-based search systems.

5. Patent Application Assistance Unit

The Application Assistance Unit (AAU) assists with a broad range of questions and issues pertaining to pre-examination processing of patent applications by the Office of Patent Application Processing (OPAP) and the post-examination processing of patent applications by the Office of Data Management (ODM). 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.

6. Patents - Applying Online

The Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) assists customers with filing their electronic patent application submissions via the Electronic Filing System (EFS-Web) and with the review of patent applications in Public and Private PAIR. The EBC also issues, administers, and supports the use of customer numbers and digital certificates for the access and use of EFS-Web and Private PAIR.

7. Patents Ombudsman Program

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.

8. Patents Pro Se Assistance Program

The Pro Se Assistance Program is the United States Patent and Trademark Office's comprehensive pilot to expand outreach to inventors who file patent applications without the assistance of a registered patent attorney or agent (also known as "pro se" filing).

9. Trademark Assistance Center (TAC)

The Trademark Assistance Center (TAC) provides trademark customers with a wide range of information, through multiple communication channels (phone, email, and in-person walk-ins). Services include responding to inquiries about the application process, helping navigation of the website, and fulfilling requests for trademark literature and publications. However, TAC does not provide any legal advice, for example, will not advise an applicant prior to filing as to the potential registrability of any trademark.

10. Trademarks - Applying Online: TEAS

Filing trademark submissions on-line through the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) is the most efficient and cost-effective way for applicants to conduct business. Therefore, overall familiarity with TEAS will help applicants and registrants make proper decisions, for example, deciding which form to use for an initial application filing. Also, because information provided in the filing process will become public information, it is helpful to learn here about possibly misleading offers and notices from private companies who will use the USPTO data to send mailings.

11. Trademark Appeals: TTAB

The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) handles three main types of proceedings that a trademark owner may encounter: Appeals, Oppositions, and Cancellations. This information is important, as losing your case before the TTAB may result in the abandonment of your application or the cancellation of your registration. However, the TTAB representatives may not provide specific legal advice, as that is the role of a private attorney.

12. Trademark Petitions

Within the overall trademark application and post-registration process, circumstances sometimes arise that need special filings, usually identified as "petitions." A special area of the Trademark Operation at USPTO staffed by highly skilled attorneys, handle these matters, such as a petition to revive an abandoned application, a petition to the Director, and letters of protest. Although general information about the petitions process is available, anything that would require specific legal advice is not appropriate and is within the realm of private outside attorneys.

13. Office of Outreach and Education (K-12)

The Office of Education and Outreach (OEO) provides K-12 educational and outreach programming for students, educators, and young inventors and innovators. The OEO is managed through the Office of the Under Secretary and Director of the USPTO and supports the mission of the agency by providing relevant intellectual property, innovation and invention resources to school administrators, teachers, students and parents. The OEO also has a robust outreach program that supports many community-based invention and innovation programs.

14. U.S. Copyright Office (Library of Congress)

The U.S. Copyright Office is the official U.S. government body that maintains records of copyright registration in the U.S. It became a separate department of the Library of Congress in 1897 after the first Copyright law was passed by Congress in 1870. The primary functions of the Office are to administer the copyright laws of the United States, as set forth in the Copyright Act; to make registrations of copyrighted works and record documents related to those registrations; and to advise and assist the United States Congress on copyright matters.

15. GSA Office of Small Business Utilization

The Office of Small Business Utilization (OSBU) assists small businesses to access opportunities in the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). The OSBU serves as the advocate to national and regional small business customers by providing training, counseling, and subcontracting review to improve small business engagement experience with the GSA. The OSBU, also, ensures small businesses are provided the maximum practical opportunity through compliance with contracting rules and regulations.

16. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers: innovation and regional collaboration. EDA works directly with local economic development officials to make grant investments that are well-defined, timely, and linked to a long-term, sustainable economic development strategy, and its Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship leads the Regional Innovation Strategies Program, through which EDA awards grants that build regional capacity to translate innovations into jobs through (1) proof-of-concept and commercialization assistance to innovators and entrepreneurs and (2) operational support for organizations that provide essential early-stage risk capital to innovators and entrepreneurs.

17. 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.

18. Office of National Ombudsman

The U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of the National Ombudsman promotes promote a level playing field for small business by working directly with federal regulators to bring practical and timely resolutions to regulatory fairness matters impacting your small business.

19. Small Business Development Center (SBDC) - Bixel Exchange

20. Small Business Administration (SBA)

The U.S. Small Business Administration is the Federal agency dedicated to creating and sustaining small businesses. Whether you are just starting your business or looking for growth opportunities, the SBA offers services to assist including: Capital, ranging from micro-financing to term-loans to venture capital; Counseling, with free business counseling from our national network of resource partners and district offices; and Contracting programs to help small businesses access their fair share of Federal contracts.

USPTO Executive Biographies

Hirshfeld, Andrew

Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Andrew (Drew) Hirshfeld is Commissioner for Patents for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He was appointed to the position in July 2015. He leads and manages more than 13,000 employees as the patent organization's chief operating officer and is responsible for managing and directing all aspects of this organization which affect administration of patent operations, examination policy, patent quality management, international patent cooperation, resources and planning, and budget administration.

In his previous role as Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, Mr. Hirshfeld served as an authority on patent laws, rules, and examining practice and procedure, and provided oversight and direction for the Offices of Petitions, Patent Legal Administration, and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. Mr. Hirshfeld previously served as Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. He began his career at the USPTO in 1994 as a Patent Examiner, became a supervisory Patent Examiner in 2001, and was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 2008 as a Group Director in Technology Center 2100, Computer Architecture and Software.

Mr. Hirshfeld holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Vermont, and a J.D. from Western New England College School of Law.

Bickel, Mindy

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

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

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

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

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

Bonilla, Jacqueline

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

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

Isom, Pamela K.

Executive Director, Office of Application Engineering and Development

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

Kocialski, Molly

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

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

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

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

Other Speaker Biographies (listed alphabetically)

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, who would often come home with 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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. Jacob'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.

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.

Patterson, James H.**Partner, Patterson Thuent IP**

Jim Patterson is the founding partner of Patterson Thuent 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Key USPTO Resources For Inventors, Startups & Entrepreneurs

PATENT RESOURCES

Basic information about patents & the patenting process

Patents Home Page	www.uspto.gov/patents
Inventors Assistance Program Resources	www.uspto.gov/inventors
Inventors Assistance (Call) Center	www.uspto.gov/inventors/iac
IP Awareness Tool	www.uspto.gov/inventors/assessment
Patent Process Flow Chart to USPTO guides	www.uspto.gov/patents/process/index.jsp
Pro Bono Program — General Description	www.uspto.gov/inventors/proseprobono

Details of the patenting process

EFS-Web — filing patent applications via the web	www.uspto.gov/patents-application-process/applying-online/about-efs-web
Track One Prioritized Examination Information and FAQ	www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/Track_One.jsp
Micro-Entity Status Information (Search “Micro” in FAQs)	www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/america-invents-act-aia/america-invents-act-aia-frequently-asked

Patent search and examination guidance

Patent Search tutorial	www.uspto.gov/patents/process/search/index.jsp
Patent Examination Guidance	www.uspto.gov/patents/law/exam/examguide.jsp

TRADEMARK RESOURCES

Trademarks Home Page	www.uspto.gov/trademark
Trademark Basics for New Filers	www.uspto.gov/trademarks/basics
Trademark Information Network (TMIN) Videos	www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/TMIN.jsp
Basic Facts Booklet	http://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BasicFacts.pdf
Trademark Videos	http://www.uspto.gov/trademark/trademark-videos

NEWS, UPDATES, AND UPCOMING EVENTS

USPTO News/Updates Subscription Center	www.uspto.gov/subscribe
Inventors Eye e-Magazine	www.uspto.gov/InventorsEye
Upcoming Events: conferences, etc. for inventors and entrepreneurs	www.uspto.gov/about-us/events

Patents' Office of Innovation Development (OID) provides helpful information and resources on our Innovation Development webpage

<https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/inventors-entrepreneurs-resources>

Resource Highlight: Patents PRO SE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Understanding the Patenting Process

The USPTO recommends using a registered attorney or agent to assist in preparing and prosecuting a patent application to conform to U.S. laws and guidelines. But when not using a registered attorney or agent (also known as pro se filing), the Patents Pro Se Assistance Program can help.

How Can the Pro Se Assistance Program Help?

All pro se applicants, from those just starting out to those that may have questions about a notice they received or want to confirm the forms they are sending, can benefit from the Pro Se Assistance Program. In some cases, inventors have not yet filed for a patent and are looking for guidance on filing an application.

The Pro Se Assistance Program has two components: (a) an internal examination unit dedicated specifically to examining patent applications pro se and (b) an assistance program for the public.

The internal examination unit, the Pro Se Art Unit, is a unit that solely examines applications identified as “pro se”. Examiners in this unit have a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for examining pro se applications and are encouraged to communicate frequently and closely with applicants to solve any issues that arise during the course of prosecution. These examiners also help staff our public assistance program.

The assistance program for the public offers various services via a staff of dedicated personnel who are trained for assisting pro se applicants both before they file a patent and through the entire patenting process. In addition to our personnel, extensive online resources to connect applicants with relevant resources, information, and checklists are available and routinely updated.

Visit : <https://www.uspto.gov/patents-getting-started/using-legal-services/pro-se-assistance-program> for resources such as:

- A video on the “Roadmap to Filing a Patent Application”
- Application checklist
- Understanding EFS-Web

In-person assistance for the general public via the Pro Se Assistance Program is also available by appointment at USPTO Headquarters, Alexandria, VA. To make an appointment, please call toll free: 1-866-767-3848 or email innovationdevelopment@uspto.gov. Also, we have a pilot program to provide live, virtual assistance from Patent and Trademark Resources Centers (PTRCs) in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Amherst, Massachusetts that is looking to expand to a PTRC near you!

Notes:

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**A SPECIAL THANKS TO
THE INVENTION-CON 2017
PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS**

Robert Berry **Ryan Honick**

Gwendolyn Blackwell **Robin Hylton**

Kathleen Bragdon **Daniel Kolker**

In Suk Bullock **Jacintha Martin**

Benjamin Carpenter **Neil Massong**

Elizabeth Chu **Ivana Miranda**

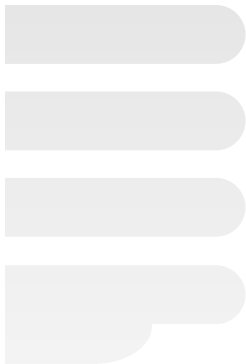
Patrick Coates **Craig Morris**

Cassandra Downs **Tracie Robertson**

NaThanya Ferguson **Shane Walter**

Spruce Fraser **David Whiddon**

Robert Hodge **Sean Wilkerson**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Details on all the below events are available at
<https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events>

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|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8/17/2017 | Inventor Info Chat webinar on "Copyright Basics" |
| 8/22/2017 | TC 2800 Semiconductor Customer Partnership Meeting, Alexandria, VA |
| 9/12/2017 | Patent Quality Chat webinar - Patents Ombudsman Program and Pro Se Assistance Program
https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/patent-quality-chat |
| 8/16-17/2018 | Invention-Con 2018 |



INVENTION-CON 2017

The Place for **Inventors**, **Makers**, & **Entrepreneurs**
USPTO's Inventors Conference • August 11-12 • Alexandria, VA

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