INVENTION-CON 2017
The Place for Inventors, Makers, & Entrepreneurs
USPTO's Inventors Conference • August 11-12 • Alexandria, VA
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.
Agenda | Friday, August 11, 2017
All sessions are held in the Madison Auditorium except for the Breakout Sessions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-8:45 am</td>
<td>REGISTRATION Resource Booths Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45-8:55 am</td>
<td>Introductions - Robert Hodge, DID Pro Se Assistance Program Coordinator and Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:55-9:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome – Mindy Bickel, Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development, USPTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00 am</td>
<td>High Level Overview of Intellectual Property – Zandra Smith, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:45 am</td>
<td>KEYNOTE “You’ve Got a Great Idea…What’s Next?” Louis Forman, Founder and Chief Executive of Inventys and Edison Nation</td>
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<td>10:45-11:15 am</td>
<td>BREAK Resource Booths Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15-12:15 pm</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Fri AM) choose one to attend. See the following pages for a detailed description of each topic and their locations</td>
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<td>• Patent Basics</td>
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<td>• Trademark Basics</td>
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<td>• Patents – How to Search Your Invention</td>
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<td>• Trademark Website Resources and Tools</td>
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<td>• Filing for a Patent</td>
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<td>• Customer Focus Session 1 – How Can the USPTO Enhance Trademark Search and e-Filing Systems?</td>
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<td>• Customer Focus Session 2 – Pro Se Assistance Program – What Services Are Needed?</td>
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<td>LUNCH BREAK (see the registration table for a list of dining options)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-1:15 pm</td>
<td>Application</td>
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<td>1:15-2:15 pm</td>
<td>PANEL DISCUSSION I – Resources and Tips Moderated by Ryan Donlon, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO</td>
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<td>• Inventor Groups and Licensing – Warren Tuttle, President, United Inventors Association</td>
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<td>• Overcoming Hurdles with the Patent Application Process - Pam Born, Executive Director, Office of Application Engineering and Development, USPTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15-3:00 pm</td>
<td>KEYNOTE Drew Hirshfield, Commissioner for Patents, USPTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>PANEL DISCUSSION II – Backyard Resources Moderated by Gowndelyn Blackwell, Supervisory Patent Examiner, USPTO</td>
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<td>• Small Business Administration (SBA) – Natalie Duncan, National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Enforcement Fairness (Acting)</td>
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<td>• Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) – Julius Maina, Policy and Inclusive Innovation Specialist</td>
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<td>• Small Business Administration (SBA) – Nagesh Rao, Chief Technologist, Office of Investment and Innovation</td>
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<td>• Economic Development Administration (EDA) – Eric Smith, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship</td>
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<td>• USPTO Regional Offices – Melly Kozalski, Director, Rocky Mountain Regional Office</td>
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<td>4:00-4:30 pm</td>
<td>BREAK Resource Booths Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30-5:30 pm</td>
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<td>• Customer Focus Session 4 – How to Increase Awareness of the Pro Bono Program?</td>
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<td>5:30-6:30</td>
<td>One-on-One Assistance</td>
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<td>5:30-7:00</td>
<td>NETWORKING Resource Booths Open</td>
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Agenda | Saturday, August 12, 2017
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<td>8:00-8:45 am</td>
<td>REGISTRATION</td>
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<td>8:45-9:00 am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks – Nathanya Ferguson, Innovation Development Specialist, USPTO</td>
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<td>9:00-9:45 am</td>
<td>PANEL DISCUSSION III – Young Inventors &amp; Entrepreneurs Moderated by Joyce Ward, Director of Education and Outreach, USPTO</td>
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<td>• Inventor of “Tip Tough” – RJ Batts, CEO, Picklehead LLC</td>
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<td>• Inventors of “The Floodie” – Caroline Maloney and Pratik Chari</td>
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<td>• Young Maker, Entrepreneur – Jacob Leggett</td>
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<td>9:45-10:30 am</td>
<td>KEYNOTE “Marketing Your Invention” Leggrose, AKA “The Inventress,” CEO and Founder of Inventing A to Z</td>
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<td>10:30-11:00 am</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Sat AM) choose one to attend. See the following pages for a detailed description of each topic and their locations</td>
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<td>• Litigation – Enforcing or Defending Your Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK (see the registration table for a list of dining options)</td>
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<td>1:00-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) Proceedings: Appeals of Examiners’ Decisions and Trials</td>
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<td>Vice Chief Judge Jacqueline Bonilla, Patent Trial and Appeal Board, USPTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<td>2:30-3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30-4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>PANEL DISCUSSION IV – Free Legal Services Moderated by John Kirkpatrick, Staff Attorney and Patent Pro Bono Program Administrator</td>
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<td>• Pro Bono Program – James Patterson, Founding Partner, Patterson Thuente IP</td>
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<td>• Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts – Kathryn Wagner, Executive Director, Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts</td>
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<td>• Law School Clinics – Professor David Henry, Registered Patent Attorney and Professor of Patent Law, Baylor University School of Law</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Closing Remarks – Mindy Bickel, Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development, USPTO</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45-5:00 p.m.</td>
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## Breakout Session Descriptions

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| **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]   | ![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]   | ![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 |
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| **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 |
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| **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 |
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| **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 |
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| **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]   | ![X]   | ![X]   | ![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,  
  Namrata (Pinky) Boveja, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Petitions  
  LOCATION: Madison Auditorium South side |

### 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

### 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

### 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 2900  
LOCATION: Madison Auditorium South side

### 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

### Patent 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 Auditorium North side

### Trademark Examination Process – how to handle a trademark application, refusals, and appeals to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB)  
Michael Levy, Staff Attorney, Trademark Quality and Training  
LOCATION: Madison Auditorium North side

### 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

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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.
1. Patents International Cooperation

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 docket of related applications filed in multiple offices.

2. Patents Petitions

The Office of Petitions (OPET) at USPTO 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 registrations, and questions not specifically provided for by regulations. The OPET booth will be staffed by petition experts that will be available to provide resources and answer questions on petitions-related matters.

3. 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 trademark filing as to the potential registrability of any trademark. 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 filed in multiple offices.

4. Patent Application Assistance Unit

The Application Assistance Unit (AAU) at USPTO 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 Date Management (ODM). For example, 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, filing receipts and missing parts letters.

5. Patents Ombudsman Program

The Patents Ombudsman Program at USPTO 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, helped 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 Technology Center Directors.

6. 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).

7. Trademark Assistance Center (TAC)

The Trademark Assistance Center (TAC) at USPTO 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 navigate 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.

8. Trademarks - Applying Online: TEAS

Filing trademark submissions on-line through the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) at USPTO 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.

9. Trademark Appeals - TTAB

The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) at USPTO 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.

10. 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.

11. Using Legal Services

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

12. Office of Outreach and Education (O-12)

The Office of Education and Outreach (OEO) at USPTO 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 registrations, and questions not specifically provided for by regulations. The OPET booth will be staffed by petition experts that will be available to provide resources and answer questions on petitions-related matters.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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. The U.S. Department of Commerce’s 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.

16. Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

MBDA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce that promotes the growth of minority-owned businesses 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 businesses 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.

17. Office of National Ombudsman

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

18. Small Business Development Centers

Representatives from Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) will be on hand to discuss their: Bixel Exchange and startup development.

19. 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 the 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 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.

**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 Wqest 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 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.
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, TEDxCo 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 adult from 30 businesses for a Second Place award of $15,000. Later that fall, TEDxCo awarded Picklehead grant money for follow-up activities. R.J. was chosen to pitch to Home Shopping Network. 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.

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 banded 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.

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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.

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.

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 inner city, 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. Pras 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 Football Player of the Year.

**ReSet**

**Caroline Maloney and Prasan Chari**

ReSet, Inc is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is dedicated to empowering underprivileged youth through engineering and entrepreneurship. The mission of ReSet is to equip the youth with the skills and resources needed to achieve their goals and contribute to society. ReSet has three key programs: RE:Growth, RE:Engineering, and RE:Business.

**Floodie Team**

**Caroline Maloney and Prasan Chari**

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**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 applications from individual inventors, businesses and universities.

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**Kirkpatrick, John**


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 after-school 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-t-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 an 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 the 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 Thuente IP

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

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

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 on the SBIR/STTR programs, leading the SBA Growth Accelerator program, and Co-Leading the 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 ig Green, Flow, Patents for Humanity, V-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 Counter-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 joining EDA, he served as a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in the semiconductor art area, 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 drinks. 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.

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.

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 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 offerings. Through her efforts, the association was instrumental in establishing a fair digital marketplace for its music publisher offerings. 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, D.C.

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, D.C.

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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.
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:

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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