



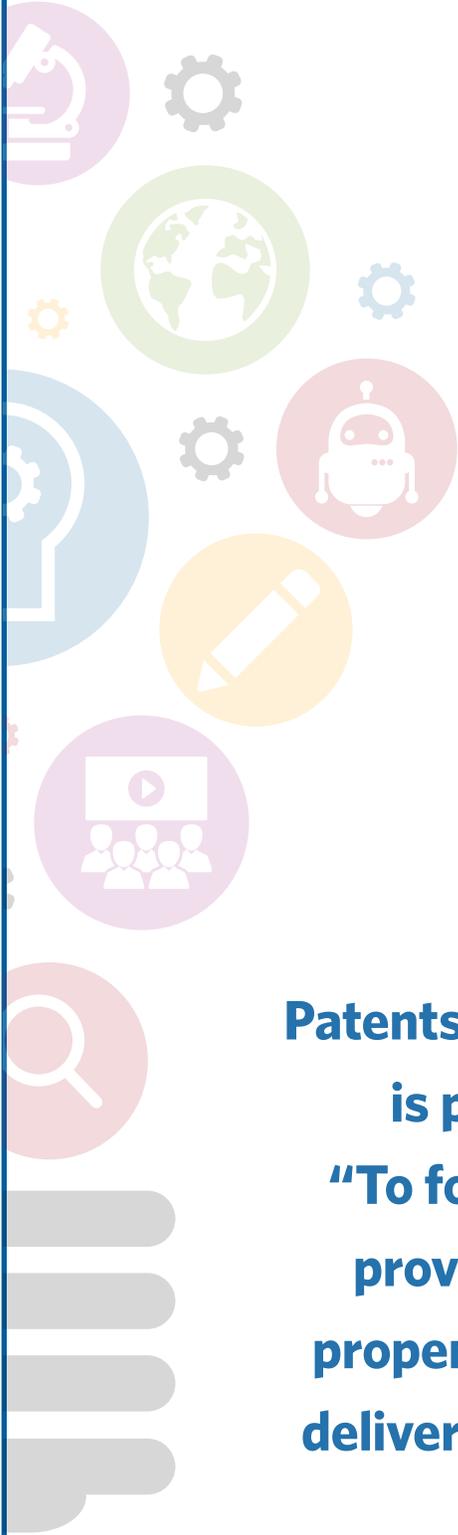
INVENTION-CON 2018

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

USPTO's Inventors Conference · August 17-18 · Alexandria, VA

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

uspto



Patents' Office of Innovation Development (OID)
is proud to present Invention-Con 2018.
"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.

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From Concept to Commercialization

AGENDA

Thursday, August 16, 2018

4–6 p.m.

Registration and badge pick-up
Pre-Conference workshops (optional)

6–7 p.m.

Getting to first base:
Understanding patent basics · Vladimir Magloire
Understanding trademark basics · Scott Baldwin

Friday, August 17, 2018

8–8:30 a.m.

Registration

8:30–8:45 a.m.

Introduction/Welcome
Mindy Bickel · Zandra Smith

8:45–9:45 a.m.

We did it, you can too:
Learning from successful inventors

Learn the steps needed to start a successful business from two successful inventors turned entrepreneurs as they explain their experiences with IP and starting their businesses.

Lisa Ascolese · Sandra Marlowe
Moderator: Zandra Smith

9:45–10:15 a.m.

Patents, trademarks, and copyrights
Gwendolyn Blackwell

10:15–10:45 a.m.

Break/Booths

10:45 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

We're the government and we can help:
Available resources

Representatives from the SBA, MDBA, OID and USPTO Regional Offices will detail the resources available to the public via their respective organization.

SBA–Brittany Sickler
MBDA–Patricia Tomczyszyn
OID–NaThanya Ferguson
USPTO Regional Office–Hope Shimabuku
Moderator: Kathleen Bragdon

11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Lunch break

Walk through the USPTO's website presentation by Ned Landrum from 12:15–12:45

A list of dining options is available at the registration desk.

12:45–1:45 p.m.

Keynote · Howie Busch

1:45–2:00 p.m.

Andrew Hirshfeld, USPTO Commissioner for Patents

Introduced by Valencia Martin Wallace,
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

2:00–2:15 p.m.

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

2:15–3 p.m.

Think it, make it, sell it: Understanding manufacturing

Now that you have thought of "it", learn from these panelists the necessary steps to manufacture and market your products.

Lindsey Brooks · Jose Colucci-Rios
Moderator: Heidi Riviere Kelley

3–3:15 p.m.

Break

3:15–4 p.m.

Breakout sessions

1. **Patents: How to search your invention**
Robert Berry · Tiffany Mair
[Madison West \(MDW\) 1B25](#)
2. **Trademark website resources and tools**
Janice O’Lear
[Madison West \(MDW\) 207](#)
3. **Filing for a patent & common mistakes**
Andrew Chriss · [Madison Auditorium North](#)
4. **Funding your venture**
Kathleen Murray · [Madison Auditorium South](#)

4–4:15 p.m.

Break/booths

4:15–5:30 p.m.

**To market, to market, to market we go:
How products are brought to market**

Learn how from this inventors how companies determine what products to manufacture and sell.

Warren Tuttle · Dara Trujillo
Moderator: Len Tran

5:30–6:30 p.m.

One-on-one assistance

Sign up at the registration desk, limited appointments available on a first-come, first serve basis.

5:30–7 p.m.

Networking at resource booths

Saturday, August 18, 2018

8:45 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Welcome

9:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m.

**We did it, you can too:
Learning from successful inventors**

Learn the steps needed to start a successful business from two successful inventors turned entrepreneurs as they explain their experiences with IP and starting their businesses.

Ramon Ray · Thom Lindenheimer
Danya Sherman · Moderator: Jolyn Eley

10:15–11:15 a.m.

Accelerators, incubators, start-ups—oh my!

Learn the differences and benefits of each of these key components of business.

Anthony Maher · Bobby Zappala
Moderator: Joshua Benitez

11:15–11:30 a.m.

Break

11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Building your IP portfolio

Learn the necessary components a small business needs to ensure proper IP coverage from these knowledgeable panelists.

Warren Tuttle · Amanda Meyers
Moderator: Dennis Forbes

12:15–1:15 p.m.

Lunch break

Pro Bono presentation from 12:45–1:15

A list of dining options is available at the registration desk.

1:15–2:15 p.m.

Don’t strike out: pitching your invention

Panelists will detail how to get major companies interested in new products.

Andrea Hence Evans · Brian Fried
Moderator: Marivelisse Santiago-Cordero

2:15–3:15 p.m.

**Driving your success:
Understanding licensing, commercialization
and outside investment**

Mr. Key will cover licensing a product including how to find companies that will license your product.

Stephen Key · Ceyda Maisami
Moderator: Jim Moore

3:15–4:00 p.m.

Taking on the world: Globalization

Learn the steps necessary to successfully and safely globally distribute your product.

KL Frederick · Susan Anthony
Moderator: Jim Moore

Breakout Session Descriptions

1. 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.

Robert Berry, Manager, Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program, USPTO

Tiffany Mair, Librarian, Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program, USPTO

Location: [Madison West \(MDW\) 1B25](#)

2. 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.

Janice O'Lear, Senior Trademark Staff Attorney, USPTO.

Location: [Madison West \(MDW\) 207](#)

3. Filing for a patent and common mistakes

What are the requirements for filing a patent application and how you can file online using USPTO's electronic filing system (EFS)?

Andrew Chriss, Supervisory Patent Examiner, TC 2400

Location: [Madison Auditorium North](#)

4. Funding your venture

Learn how to obtain funding for your invention, products, and enterprise.

Kathleen Murray, Principal, McMorran Strategists, LLC

Location: [Madison Auditorium South](#)

CELEBRATE PATENT NUMBER 10,000,000 WITH US

On June 19, the USPTO issued U.S. Patent No. 10,000,000, a major milestone in the rich history of the American intellectual property system, which began July 31, 1790, when President George Washington signed the first U.S. patent, issued to Samuel Hopkins for a process of making potash, an ingredient used in fertilizer. President Donald J. Trump signed the patent at the White House with Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Andrei Iancu.

In the words of Director Iancu:

“This patent represents one of ten million steps on a continuum of human accomplishment launched when our Founding Fathers provided for intellectual property protection in our Constitution. Some of the greatest leaps humanity has made have been fueled by our greatest inventors, Americans who have changed the course of history with their brilliance and dogged perseverance.”

Enjoy Invention-Con 2018.

The next 10,000,000 pieces of patent history are waiting for you.



TEN MILLION PATENTS

Resource Booth Descriptions

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.

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs) are a nationwide network of 85 public, state and academic libraries that are designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information. PTRCs support the diverse intellectual property needs of the public. Accessing patent and trademark information at a PTRC, with the help of a trained specialist, can help you to determine if someone else has already patented your potential invention or obtained a federal registration for a trademark on goods or services. PTRCs also have access to USPTO examiner-based search systems.

Patents Application Assistance Unit

The Application Assistance Unit assists with a broad range of questions and issues pertaining to pre-examination processing of patent applications by the Office of Patent Application Processing and the post-examination processing of patent applications by the Office of Data Management. For example, the AAU can provide assistance with questions related to the status of an application that is in the pre-examination or the post-examination phase of processing, filling receipts and missing parts letters.

Trademark Assistance Center (TAC)

The Trademark Assistance Center 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 with navigating the website, and fulfilling requests for trademark literature and publications. However, TAC does not provide any legal advice; for example, staff will not advise an applicant prior to filing as to the potential registrability of any trademark.

Patents Ombudsman Office

The Patents Ombudsman Office provides assistance to patent applicants or their representatives throughout the patent application process, including initial filing, patent examination, and post examination. In addition, the office provides assistance to applicants when the normal processing of an application stalls and the applicant needs help to get the application back on track. The Patents Ombudsman Office does not circumvent normal communication between applicants, their representatives, examiners, supervisory patent examiners (SPEs), or Technology Center (TC) Directors.

Patents Pro Se Assistance Program

The Pro Se Assistance Program is a comprehensive pilot program launched by the USPTO to expand stakeholder outreach and engagement to inventors who file patent applications without the assistance of a registered patent attorney or agent (also known as a "pro se" filing).

Library of Congress (U.S. Copyright Office)

The U.S. Copyright Office administers copyright law for the advancement of the public good to support authors and users of creative works. The first copyright law was passed by Congress in 1790, and in 1897 the Copyright Office became a separate department of the Library of Congress.

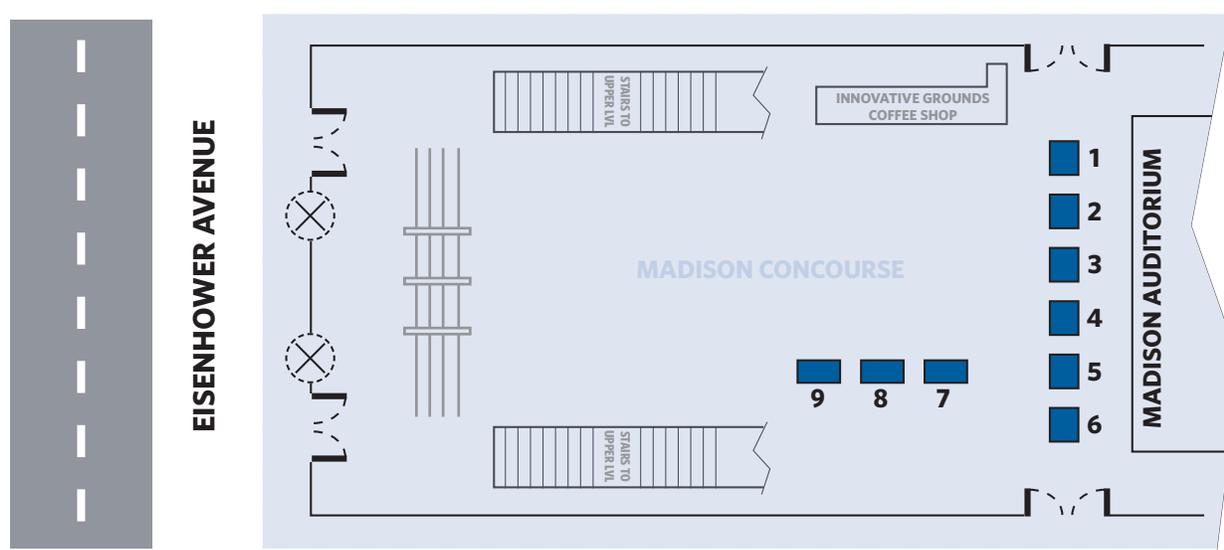
The office makes determinations on applications to register creative works, maintains records of copyright registrations, and records documents related to those registrations. The U.S. Copyright Office also advises and assists Congress on copyright matters.

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.

Department of Defense Small Business Innovation Research Program.

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program was established by Congress in 1982 to fund Research and Development (R&D) through small businesses of less than 500 employees. Eligible projects must serve a Department of Defense (DOD) R&D need and have potential to develop into a product or service for commercial and/or defense markets. The DOD SBIR Program is part of a larger Federal SBIR Program administered by the Small Business Administration (SBA).



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|--|---|
| 1. Using Legal Services | 6. Patents Pro Se Assistance Program |
| 2. Patent and Trademark Resource Centers | 7. Library of Congress (U.S. Copyright Office) |
| 3. Patents Application Assistance Unit | 8. Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) |
| 4. Trademark Assistance Center (TAC) | 9. Department of Defense Small Business Innovation Research Program |
| 5. Patents Ombudsman Office | |

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Leadership

Andrei Iancu

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

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office Andrei Iancu provides leadership and oversight to one of the largest intellectual property offices in the world, with more than 12,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$3 billion. He also serves as the principal advisor to the secretary of commerce on domestic and international intellectual property policy matters.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Iancu was the Managing Partner at Irell & Manella LLP, where his practice focused on intellectual property litigation. He appeared in a variety of high-profile matters in front of the USPTO, U.S. district courts, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. International Trade Commission. He has represented clients across the technical and scientific spectra, including those associated with medical devices, genetic testing, therapeutics, the internet, telephony, TV broadcasting, video game systems, and computer peripherals.

Iancu has also taught patent law at the UCLA School of Law, and he has written and spoken publicly on a variety of intellectual property issues. Prior to his legal career, he was an engineer at Hughes Aircraft Company.

Throughout his career, many organizations have recognized Iancu for his work. Among his legal community accolades, the Daily Journal, California Lawyer magazine, Los Angeles Business Journal, Chambers USA, Best Lawyers in America, and many others have acknowledged his expertise in commercial litigation and intellectual property law. He has also been the recipient of the Patent and Trademark Office Society 36th Annual Rossman Award, the Hughes Aircraft Malcolm R. Currie Innovation Award, and the Melville B. Nimmer Copyright Award.

Iancu holds a Juris Doctor from the UCLA School of Law. He also has a Master of Science in mechanical engineering and a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering, both from UCLA.

He was born in Bucharest, Romania. He has lived in the United States since the age of 12. He and his wife, Dr. Luiza C. Iancu, have two children, Ariella and Robert.

Andrew Hirshfeld

Commissioner for Patents

Commissioner for Patents Andrew (Drew) Hirshfeld was appointed in July 2015. As the Patents organization's chief operating officer, he leads and manages approximately 10,000 employees and is responsible for managing and directing all activities affecting the 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, 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. 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.

Hirshfeld holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Vermont and a Juris Doctor from Western New England College School of Law.

Valencia Martin Wallace**Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality**

Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality Valencia Martin Wallace manages and leads the Patents organization's quality initiatives. She is responsible for improving the high quality of the USPTO's patent examination processes and products by implementing and maintaining a comprehensive quality management system. As part of her 22 year career at the USPTO, she recently served as assistant deputy commissioner for patent operations from 2011 - 2015. In that position, Martin Wallace oversaw operations in the software technology centers, served as executive co-lead on the implementation of the America Invents Act's First Inventor to File statutory framework, and led the development and implementation of the Office of Patent Examination Support Services, which centralized the technical support staff for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Martin Wallace is a graduate of Howard University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, and the George Washington University School of Law, where she earned a Juris Doctorate. She has also received a certificate in advanced public administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Public Administration.

Mindy Bickel**Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development**

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, with a focus on patents.

Since 1999, Bickel has coordinated and conducted stakeholder outreach and partnership efforts. She served as the agency's New York City engagement manager, working in partnership with Cornell University to provide education and direct access to resources that assist innovators and entrepreneurs with bringing their ideas to market. Bickel managed the Patents Ombudsman Program, which 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.

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, 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.

Bickel received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Bryn Mawr College. She also holds a Master of Arts, Master of Philosophy, and a doctorate in biophysical inorganic chemistry from Columbia University.

USPTO and External Speakers

Susan Anthony

Global Intellectual Property Academy, USPTO

Susan Anthony is an attorney with the Global Intellectual Property Academy, Office of Policy and External Affairs, at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. She handles policy matters relating to trademarks, domain names, and copyright issues within the U.S. and internationally, and she has a broad range of experience and expertise in almost all facets of intellectual property, protection, and enforcement. She is a member of the USPTO China Team and the USPTO Africa Team.

Anthony is a strong and very enthusiastic proponent of helping businesses understand how intellectual property can be used to promote economic growth. She is actively involved in the USPTO's educational outreach efforts for U.S. small- to medium-sized enterprises, including agency's "IP Boot Camp" programs for specific industries and the general public, as well as the USPTO's educational outreach initiative for Native American communities.

Prior to joining the USPTO in November 2003, Anthony co-managed international communications company MCI's copyrights and trademarks team, and she also had primary responsibility for policy issues involving intellectual property on the internet. She began her career in trademarks and copyright in the litigation arena as a member of the trial team representing a well-known pet foods manufacturer in a landmark false advertising case. She later expanded her career in private practice to include trademark and copyright counseling.

Anthony is a serious student of the American Civil War, focusing on women and domestic culture, and she frequently lectures to groups of fellow Civil War historians about copyright issues in research, writing, and speaking. She also focuses on copyright issues for teachers.

She is a graduate of the George Washington University National Law Center in Washington, D.C., and she is a long-time resident of Arlington, Virginia.

Lisa Ascolese

Founder of Inventing A-to-Z

Lisa Ascolese, also known as "The Inventress," is a mentor, entrepreneur, keynote speaker, inventor, and independent TV product agent. For more than 25 years, she 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 launched the non-profit Association of Women Inventors & Entrepreneurs. Her products include the Bosom Buddy Nursing Cape, the Bun-Tie hair accessory, the Wrap and Store Organizer, and the Perfect Pockets Organizer, which generated \$6,000 in under six minutes on QVC.

Ascolese has appeared on Bravo TV, ABC, and Sirius XM, and she has been featured in major publications such as Black Enterprise Magazine, Ebony Magazine, Essence Magazine, and The New York Times.

Ascolese hails from Brooklyn, New York and graduated from Brooklyn College. The daughter of a veteran, she is a wife and mother who lives by the advice of her grandmother: "When you believe, you will achieve."

Scott Baldwin

Senior Staff Attorney in the Office of Trademark Quality Review and Training, USPTO

Scott Baldwin is a senior staff attorney in the Office of Trademark Quality Review and Training (OTQRT). Prior to joining OTQRT, he was an attorney in USPTO's Global Intellectual Property Academy, where he conducted capacity-building programs in the United States and around the world for intellectual property protection and enforcement. Prior to that, he served as a trademark attorney with the agency's Office of Policy and International Affairs, where he handled policy matters relating to trademark issues in the United States and abroad and provided technical assistance to foreign governments that wanted to develop or improve their trademark systems; he also served as a trademark examining attorney. In private practice, he worked in with the law firm of Fulbright and Jaworski in Washington, D.C.

Joshua Benitez

Supervisory patent examiner, Technology Center 2800, USPTO

Joshua Benitez is a supervisory patent examiner in the USPTO's Technology Center (TC) 2800, where he oversees an art unit that examines applications in Class 310, Electrical Generator or Motor Structure. He joined the USPTO in 2006 as a patent examiner, where he worked on applications in Class 324, Electricity: Measuring and Testing. In 2012, he became a primary examiner. In 2013, he was promoted to supervisory patent examiner trainer in the Patent Training Academy where he instructed, coached, and mentored examiners in various areas of TC 2800, and TC 2100, Computer Architecture and Software.

Benitez was born in Puerto Rico and graduated from the University of Puerto Rico in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. He also holds a Master of Science degree in engineering management from the George Washington University. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

Rob Berry

Manager, Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program, USPTO

Rob Berry is the manager of the USPTO's Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) Program. Prior to joining the USPTO, he was a PTRC representative in Fairfield, Connecticut and served as the PTRC program's 27th Fellowship Librarian. He also served as a litigator for the New York City Law Department's Tort Division, Special Litigation Unit, handling state cases in the five boroughs of New York City, as well as federal cases in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Berry holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Edinboro State University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Arts in political science from the New School for Social Research, a Juris Doctorate from Brooklyn Law School, and a Master of Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University.

Gwendlyn Blackwell

Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO

Gwen Blackwell is a supervisory patent examiner (SPE) in the USPTO's Technology Center 1700, Chemical and Materials Engineering. Blackwell delivers lectures to new examiners at the Patent Training Academy on a variety of 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 in Detroit, where she helped develop the K-12 outreach program. 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. She became a primary examiner in 2008 and in 2012 became a SPE, later supervising an art unit of 13 examiners in TC 1700.

Blackwell's experience at the USPTO also includes assignments at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, in the Office of Patent Cooperation Treaty, and service as a training assistant and supervisory patent examiner at the Patent Training Academy.

Blackwell received a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She also received a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

Kathleen Kerr Bragdon

Managing quality assurance specialist, Office of Patent Quality Assurance, USPTO

As a managing quality assurance specialist in the USPTO's Office of Patent Quality Assurance (OPQA) Kathleen Bragdon's role ranges from spearheading quality initiatives affecting the patent examining corps to helping identify proper actions in patent applications. Prior to holding this position, she was a senior advisor to the deputy commissioner for patent quality and, in that role, was instrumental in launching numerous Enhanced Patent Quality initiatives, some of which, like the Patent Quality Chat webinars, she still continues to host.

Bragdon joined the USPTO in 1999 as a patent examiner in the area of recombinant enzymes. She became a primary patent examiner in 2004, and she received a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award in 2005. She became supervisory patent examiner in 2005 and changed job roles in 2008 to become a quality assurance specialist in Technology Center 1600, Biotechnology and Organic Chemistry

The merger of Bragdon's job roles in training and quality assurance prepared her to accept a detail in 2013 that focused on the America Invents Act (AIA) provision to implement the First Inventor to File training system for both patent examiners and the public. She received a Department of Commerce Gold Medal in 2015 for her work on the AIA team.

Bragdon holds a doctorate from Brandeis University and a Bachelor of Arts from Connecticut College, both in biochemistry. She also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Laboratory of Cell Biology at the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health and is a proud 2017 graduate of the Excellence in Government Fellows Program.

Lindsey Brooks

CEO and Founder of Boardwalk Holdings Corporation

Lindsey Brooks enjoys working on new product ideas that help make people's lives better. She is the chair of several thriving research and beauty companies in Seattle, including the Boardwalk Holdings Corporation and the Retail Consumer Science, a digital research and consumer product company that uses Facebook marketing and media to power direct response campaigns.

Brooks is responsible for creating, contributing to, and managing strategy on many of the highest grossing campaigns and rollouts of products in the "As Seen on TV" Infomercials, including the Shamwow, Schticky, Smoooothaway, Slap Chop, and many more. In addition, she has coached spokesmen including Hulk Hogan, Gordon Ramsey, Vince Offer, and George Foreman. Internationally, Brooks created and operates a very successful sourcing and manufacturing company in China, where she has lived and worked several years.

Dedicated to researching and studying consumer choices for more than 15 years, Brooks' team has become one of the most agile and knowledgeable in the industry. Her white papers and commentary have been noted on the international stage in many books, articles, and engagements around the world.

Brooks is also chair of the board of Runway to Freedom, which assists domestic violence victims in Seattle; a board member of the United Inventors Association; and she has been a Judge at INPEX, the largest invention convention in America.

One of Brooks' favorite quotes comes from American motivational speaker Zig Ziglar: "Don't be distracted by criticism. The only taste of success some people get is to take a bite out of you."

Howie Busch

Inventor and entrepreneur

Howie Busch is a seasoned inventor, entrepreneur, advisor, and attorney who has experienced success in a number of related businesses. In June of 2017, he launched a Kickstarter campaign for the DudeRobe that was fully funded in just two days. Within one week of the start of the business, the head of casting for Shark Tank tweeted at him. Three months later, he was pitching to the Sharks.

At Billy Blaze Design, Howie designs and develops innovative products, which he typically licenses to leaders in related industries. Additionally, he consults for and advises numerous companies, leveraging his vast network of friends and colleagues to their mutual advantage.

Andrew Chriss

Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO

Andrew Chriss is a supervisory patent examiner at the USPTO in the multiplexing area of Technology Center 2400. He oversees the examination of applications related to wireless and wireline telecommunications. Prior to joining the USPTO, Andrew was an associate at Booz Allen Hamilton, where he was responsible for leadership and delivery of timely and accurate analysis of public, proprietary, and classified telecommunications data sets.

Chriss earned a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech and a Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. In his free time, he enjoys playing music, practicing yoga, and running.

Dr. José Colucci

Southeast Regional Manager at the National Institute of Standards and Technology

Dr. José Colucci manages National Institute of Standards and Technology southeast region, which comprises seven coastal states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana), inland Tennessee, and the island of Puerto Rico. He oversees a national network of innovations in the mechanical, engineering, and plumbing areas.

Colucci is a former University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez campus professor, where he held several administrative positions including department director, associate research and development dean, and research and development center director, in which position he supervised the university's intellectual property program and gave presentations on the motivations for seeking a patent.

In addition, Colucci worked at Union Carbide for eight years in a variety of capacities. He was a member of company's hydro formylation licensing team for two years; worked in a manufacturing environment for four years providing technical support in the areas of solvents and coatings; and oversaw manufacturing from the business perspective for three years, including new product development in the Specialty Chemicals Division. He also served as a patent examiner in the fuel cells and battery art unit at the USPTO for more than three years.

Colucci has received several awards, including UPR Distinguished Researcher, Puerto Rico's Distinguished CHEME and R&D 100, 2011 UPRB Distinguished Scholar Lecture, the 2009 EPA Environmental Quality Award, the USPTO Productivity and Docket management award, and the UPRM Distinguished Professor.

Jolyn Eley**Senior Advisor to the deputy commissioner for patent quality, USPTO**

As a senior advisor to the deputy commissioner for patent quality Jolyn Eley focuses on the planning and implementation of quality initiatives, customer experience, and stakeholder outreach. She joined the USPTO in 1988.

During her 30 year career with the USPTO, Eley has served professionally in a variety of patent business work areas, including pre-examination, examination, and post-examination. This range of experience gives her insight into multiple stages of patent process. Prior to joining the Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality as a senior advisor, she served as a strategic planning project manager.

Andrea Hence Evans**Owner, law firm of Andrea Hence Evans**

Andrea Hence Evans is the owner of the intellectual property law firm Andrea Hence Evans, LLC, and she is the founder and owner of KidGINEER LLC, a STEM hands-on science and enrichment program for children ages 5 - 10. Prior to launching her law firm, Evans worked at the USPTO for five years as both a patent examiner and a trademark examining attorney. She is a member of the Texas and Maryland bars, the United States Supreme Court bar, and is a registered patent attorney.

Evans is a graduate of the George Washington Law School in Washington, D.C.; Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in mathematics; and the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta, Georgia, where she earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

In 2011, Evans was awarded the Nation's Best Advocate Award from the National Bar Association, and IMPACT recognized her as one of the Top 40 Lawyers Under 40. A frequent speaker at conferences, she is quoted in numerous national publications. Evans is also the author of All About Inventing, Everything You Need to Know about Patents from a Former USPTO Patent Examiner & Patent Attorney! She can be found on social media platforms.

NaThanya Ferguson**Office of Innovation Development, USPTO**

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

Ferguson joined the USPTO in 1989. During her 29 year tenure at the agency, she has worked as a paralegal specialist in the Patents technology centers, lead patent analyst for the Patent Reengineering Lab, management and program analyst in the Science and Technology Information Center, contracting officer technical representative in the Office of Data Management, and project manager in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Patent Operations.

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

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

Dennis Forbes**Office of Innovation Development, USPTO**

Dennis Forbes is an innovation development outreach and program specialist at USPTO's Office of Innovation Development, where he actively develops and launches outreach engagement programs that foster meaningful patent education awareness for independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, makers, universities, and K-12 students. In addition, he conducts interactive informational presentations of design Intellectual property products for USPTO visitors.

Forbes holds a Master of Public Administration degree from American University in Washington, D.C. and a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts from North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina.

KL Fredericks**Director, Director of the Harlem U.S. Export Assistance Center, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce**

KL Fredericks is a Senior/Supervisory International Trade Specialist at the U.S. Department of Commerce's (DOC), International Trade Administration, U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service. She was appointed Director of the Harlem U.S. Export Assistance Center by Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown.

Fredericks and her staff assist small and medium-size companies in Upper Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and minority-owned companies in the New York region with their export endeavors. For the Commercial Service, she is also responsible for the franchise and food & beverage industries in all of New York City. Fredericks also counsels U.S. companies on international procurement procedures and opportunities with the Multi-Lateral Development Banks, UN/Humanitarian Relief/NGO organizations and food/beverage and franchise companies across the country. She is a NASBITE Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP) and has achieved Advanced Franchise Knowledge accreditation from the International Franchise Association (IFA). She recently completed the requirements for the Certified Franchise Executive accreditation from the Institute of Certified Franchise Executives.

Fredericks serves as the DOC liaison to the board of NEXCO, an international trade education association, and she has advised the New York District Export Council. She has received the Commerce Department's Bronze Medal Award twice, first for her work with the Russia/NIS Health Industries Team and the second time for her ImaginAsian Hong Kong film industry programs. She is an active member of the Commercial Service's AME (Africa/Middle East), Global Franchising, Europe, and Agri-Business teams. She led a successful franchising trade mission to the Middle East and has staffed many International Buyer Program and 'certified' trade fairs. KL continues to collaborate with ITAC (DOC's Manufacturing Extension Partnership MEP local partner - ExporTech program), serves as an international resource for the local Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Business Program and works with New York City area Small Business Development Centers on export training programs for manufacturing and service companies and organizations providing international trade services. She also to serve as a member of the World Trade Week NYC steering committee.

Brian Fried**Inventor and Author**

Brian Fried is an author, radio host and consultant with many successful inventions in mass retail markets. His inventions are currently marketed via "As Seen On TV," home shopping channels, catalogs, and online retailers through licensing and manufacturing agreements. He is the author of *Inventing Secrets Revealed*, *You & Your Big Ideas* and *Invention Playbook for Inventors with Big Ideas*.

Fried has been featured in respected media outlets including the New York Times, Inc. Magazine, Newsday, Inventors Digest, CBS News; the Food Network, and WPIX11. As the host of Got Invention Radio, he has interviewed more than 150 high profile guests including Lori Greiner of ABC's Shark Tank and representatives from the USPTO. He is the founder and president of the Long Island Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club, which represents Nassau and Suffolk counties through the Small Business Development Center, a division of the Small Business Administration).

In addition, Fried has served as a trusted mentor to inventors, including celebrities, for more than 15 years. Through his InventorSmart consultancy, he offers one-on-one support at all stages of the invention process. Fried provides feedback, product development, licensing representation, and turnkey solutions to make invention ideas a reality. He is considered an authority and advocate for inventors within the invention community, and he is invited as a guest speaker on innovation and invention topics to major trade shows, government agencies, schools, and libraries across the nation. He recently received the Innovator of the Year Award on Long Island and several proclamations from the county executive for his contribution to the encouragement of innovation in the region.

Tara Ho**Office of Enrollment and Discipline, USPTO**

Tara Ho is a patent pro bono assistant coordinator on detail in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Guided by the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, she works with pro bono programs across the 50 states to make sure that all inventors have access to the patent system. She is dedicated to the USPTO's commitment that "no worthwhile invention is left unexamined due to lack of financial resources." Previously, she served as a patent examiner and patent classifier in the Office of International Patent Cooperation.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Ho worked as attorney at an intellectual property firm and at an invention discovery company in San Francisco. She received her bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Lehigh University and graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law with a Juris Doctor and an MBA. She is a member of the California Bar.

Cynthia Kelly**Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO**

Cynthia H. Kelly is a supervisory patent examiner at the USPTO and manages patent examiners working in various chemical and chemical engineering technologies. She joined the USPTO in 1990 as a patent examiner and worked on patent applications in a wide range of technologies in the chemical area. During 2017 and early 2018, Kelly served as a resource supervisory patent examiner at the USPTO's Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional Office in Detroit. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Heidi Riviere Kelley**Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO**

Heidi Riviere Kelley is a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in the Chemical and Material arts technology center at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) where she supervises in the areas of liquid purification and gas separation. Kelley examined applications in business methods prior to becoming an SPE and was awarded a Bronze Medal at the USPTO for superior federal service. In addition, Mrs. Kelley received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the College of William and Mary and a Juris Doctor degree at the American University Washington College of Law. Prior to joining the USPTO in 2007, Kelley worked in private practice as an attorney in the areas of intellectual property and litigation.

Stephen Key**Co-Founder of InventRight**

Stephen Key is an award-winning product developer, renowned intellectual property strategist, and lifelong entrepreneur. The dozens of concepts he has brought to market have retailed in Walmart, 7-Eleven, and Disney stores and parks worldwide. He has been endorsed by Michael Jordan, Alex Trebek, and Taylor Swift. In 1999, he cofounded InventRight to teach others his unique process for harnessing the power of open innovation. Since then, he has helped people from 60 countries get licenses for their ideas for new products.

Stephen's bestselling book, *One Simple Idea*, has been translated into six languages. He writes about bringing products to market weekly for online magazines that include Forbes, Inc., and Entrepreneur. Universities and governmental organizations around the world invite him to teach them about product licensing. In 2017, he cofounded the non-profit Inventors Groups of America with the goal of educating and empowering inventors and inventing group leaders. He is also the cofounder of InventYES, a free program offered worldwide for high school students who want to learn about licensing.

Edward (Ned) Landrum**Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO**

Edward (Ned) Landrum is a Supervisory Patent Examiner and STEPP Program Advisor at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Landrum graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2005 and received a Master of Business Administration degree from Virginia Tech with in 2012. He joined the USPTO in 2005 as a patent examiner in cutting tools in Technology Center 3700 and became a primary patent examiner in 2011. In 2012, Landrum was hired as a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) - Trainer in the Office of Patent Training (OPT) and in 2013 became a SPE in TC 3700. Currently, Landrum is an SPE in art unit 3744 and serves as the STEPP Program Advisor.

Thom Lindheimer**Founder and COO of Lindheimer Associates, Inc.**

As Americans became more aware of bidet use in Europe and Japan, it became obvious to inventor and entrepreneur Thom Lindheimer that an add-on bidet could find a home in the U.S. As that market expanded, loyal customers informed him of the benefits a similar product could bring to those with certain medical conditions. A prototype was made at the request of a customer who had gone through a series of degenerative nerve episodes and was no longer able to maintain his hygiene. The patent and trademark processes were prosecuted by patent attorney Ralph Dowell. The company now holds a utility patent and three registered trademarks.

Valdimir Magloire**Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO**

Valdimir Magloire is a supervisory patent examiner at the USPTO who joined the agency in 2007 after 11 years in the wireless industry, where he had been part of the team that built and designed the Sprint PCS wireless network in New York City. He became a supervisory patent examiner in 2014.

Magloire lives with his wife and has four boys and two grandchildren.

Anthony Maher**Chief Growth Officer & Head of Incubation, 1776**

Anthony Maher is known throughout the 1776 community of entrepreneurs as the chief growth officer and head of incubation. He is a cofounder of Benjamin's Desk and serves as a champion and growth strategist for entrepreneurs. As a college all-American athlete and 10 year professional soccer player, he brings the same focus and discipline that he showcased on the field to the table when he assists early stage entrepreneurs. Maher ensures that 1776 members benefit from enhanced incubation services that spark long-term success.

Tiffany Mair**Librarian, Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program, USPTO**

Tiffany Mair is a librarian with the USPTO's Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) program. She joined the agency in 2017 after four years of helping inventors and entrepreneurs as a PTRC representative at the California State Library in Sacramento.

Prior to her state service career, Mair worked at Monterey County Free Libraries as a supervising librarian, technology. In this role, she collaborated with community partners to launch a mobile computer lab to increase broadband access for rural residents, managed website and social media communications, and taught technology trainings.

Tiffany holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in women's studies from Mills College in Oakland, and a Master of Library Science degree MLIS from San José State University

Ceyda Maisami

IP Attorney

Ceyda Maisami started her IP practice at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner, LLP, one of the world's largest Intellectual Property law firms, where she focused primarily on patent prosecution and litigation. She worked for Finnegan in Boston for almost three years before moving to New York and joining Chadbourne & Parke.

Maisami graduated from Bucknell University in 2005 with a BS in Electrical Engineering and a BA in Economics, with a full academic scholarship for her entire course of study. She obtained a Juris Doctorate from Suffolk University in 2010.

Maisami has worked with many startups, entrepreneurs and venture capital firms, helping with strategic protection of intellectual property including patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets. She has drafted and prosecuted numerous patent applications for large corporations such as Philips, Sony, Verizon, SAP, Iron Mountain, Visa and Goldman Sachs. She also has extensive experience in patent litigation matters related to wireless telecommunication and semiconductor technologies. Prior to her career in Intellectual Property law, Maisami worked at Osram Sylvania (Siemens Holding) in R&D as an electrical engineer.

Maisami joined Montage Legal Group in December 2011 as a freelance patent lawyer, and handles patent and intellectual property matters for law firms. She is also currently in-house counsel for Hewlett Packard in New York. Maisami is licensed before the USPTO, the New York State Bar, and is in the process of being licensed in Washington, D.C.

Sandra W. Marlowe

Founder and CEO of Baqua, Inc.

Sandra Marlowe is the founder and CEO of Baqua, Inc., which began as a family business in Lexington, Kentucky. Noting the rising demand for beverages that support digestive health and inspired by the historical strength drinks of ancient Greece, Marlowe and her adult children created the world's first organic ancient grain infused drink that is a source of prebiotics, antioxidants, vitamins, and electrolytes.

Baqua came to market in 2017, and the company now holds three registered trademarks. Notably, the Baqua team has been advised by the University of Kentucky's Food Systems Innovation Center, the Small Business Development Center, the Kentucky Innovation Network, and individual business owners.

Marlowe enjoys sharing lessons learned about the challenges of taking a product from concept to market. She is inspired by the passion and dedication of fellow innovators who are pursuing their entrepreneurial journeys.

Jim Moore

Jim Moore works in the Office of Governmental Affairs at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He focuses on intellectual property legislation specializing in copyright law, trade secret theft and patent reform. Moore often serves as a liaison between congressional offices, executive branch agencies, and public stakeholders. He is also actively involved in numerous cross-agency efforts to train inventors and entrepreneurs and the federal agencies that serve them in practices that increase the successful commercialization of intellectual property. Moore joined the USPTO in 2008.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Moore served as counsel to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform advising Chairman Tom Davis on such diverse issues as American competitiveness, the census, redistricting, and regulatory affairs. In the course of this work he led congressional staff trips to India, Poland, and Russia for international discussions on the effects of globalization on the domestic economy.

After receiving his law degree from North Carolina Central University, Moore represented small businesses in private practice for five years in North Carolina before moving to Washington. He also holds a degree in Public Policy Analysis from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Kathy Murray**Principal, McMorran Strategists, LLC.**

Kathy Murray is an experienced and creative business growth executive, angel investor, and advisor. She applies her sales and operational skills to achieve significant cooperation, operational efficiencies, and revenue in order to increase a firm's growth strategy. Murray is principal of McMorran Strategists, LLC. Previously, she, held C-Suite roles at publicly-traded firms and partnerships - Aetna, PwC and FARO - in sales, business development, and operations.

Murray's other current affiliations include: board member, Daily Gazette (a Schenectady family-owned media firm); chair of Executive Forum and founder of Executive Forum Angels, past president of the Harvard Business School Women's Association of New York; trustee on the University of Rochester Board; and fellow at the Foreign Policy Association. She is a frequent speaker and instructor on business development, angel investing, innovation, strategic thinking, and building relationships. She was an angel investor and served on the advisory board has been for TempBuddy (now eRecruit), a Saas Enterprise Software for temp firms based in Dublin, Ireland.

Murray holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in math and general science from the University of Rochester and an Advanced Management Program Degree from Harvard Business School.

Amanda F. Myers**Acting Deputy Chief Economist, USPTO**

Amanda F. Myers is the acting deputy chief economist in Office of the Chief Economist at the USPTO. Her current projects focus on the empirical study of the U.S. trademark system, gender and diversity in patenting, and data-driven intellectual property policy and program administration. She has published journal articles and working papers on patent and trademark data and trademark use by firms and contributed to 2013 World Intellectual Property Report Brands - Reputation and Image in the Global Marketplace.

Before joining USPTO, Myers worked as an economist in the United States Treasury Department, holding positions at the United States Mint and the treasury inspector general for tax administration. She holds a Master of Arts degree in international economic relations from American University and a Bachelor of Science degree in international economics from Texas Christian University.

Janice O'Lear**Staff Attorney, USPTO**

Janice O'Lear is a senior staff attorney at the USPTO. She joined the agency in 1987 as a trademark examining attorney. She became a senior attorney in 1990 and a managing attorney in 1996. In 2006, she joined the USPTO's Office of Trademark Quality Review and Training as a senior staff attorney. O'Lear has taught a wide variety of trademarks-related classes, including trademark basics, use of online tools, and several advanced legal analysis and case study classes.

O'Lear received a Juris Doctor degree from American University in 1985 and is a member of the Maryland and Virginia Bars.

Ramon Ray**Editor and Founder of Smart Hustle Magazine**

Ramon Ray is a four-time entrepreneur, best-selling author, global speaker, event producer, and piano player. He is the editor and founder of Smart Hustle Magazine and his third book, Facebook Guide to Small Business Marketing, was an Amazon.com bestseller.

Ray has been called as an expert witness by Congress and invited by the Office of the President of the United States to speak at the White House on personal branding. He has produced many events including, the Smart Hustle Small Business Conference, Small Business Summit, Small Business Technology Tour, Small Biz Big Things, and more.

Over his extensive career, Ramon has written thousands of articles, spoken to thousands of business owners, and impacted hundreds of thousands of small business owners and entrepreneurs to help their businesses thrive.

Marivelisse Santiago-Cordero

Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO

Marivelisse Santiago-Cordero is a supervisory patent examiner in the USPTO's Technology Center 2600, where she supervises a staff of patent examiners in the areas of facsimile, printer, color, and halftone. In addition, she oversees the USPTO's Interview Experience Survey, which enables the agency to evaluate and improve the interview experience for applicants and patent examiners. In 2004, Santiago-Cordero earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico and graduated summa cum laude.

Since joining the USPTO, Santiago-Cordero she has been instrumental in the mentoring, development, and training of new patent examiners. She is also actively involved with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), a USPTO professional affinity group.

Santiago-Cordero's favorite pastimes include spending time with her family and kickboxing. She currently lives in Northern Virginia with her husband and son.

Danya Sherman

Danya Sherman is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of KnoNap, LLC. She is an entrepreneur passionate about combining human rights and technology innovation to create lasting, sustainable, social change.

While growing KnoNap, Sherman became a Halcyon Fellow, Future Founders Fellow, Kairos Fellow, Washington Life's 2017 Technology 25 Innovators and Disruptors, Cafe 100's 2018 Change Maker, and Toyota's 2018 Mother of Invention. Through KnoNap, Sherman works to combat the rising prevalence of drug facilitated assault and crime.

Hope Shimabuku

Director of the Texas Regional United States Patent and Trademark Office

Hope Shimabuku is the director of the Texas Regional United States Patent and Trademark Office in Dallas. She carries out the strategic directions of the under secretary of commerce for intellectual property and director of the USPTO and is responsible for leading the Texas regional office. Focusing on the region and actively engaging with the community, Shimabuku ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders.

Shimabuku is a leader in the Texas region. She currently sits on the Board of Visitors for the University of North Texas Law School and is an honorary member and inaugural member of the Barbara M.G. Lynn IP Inn of Court. She is a past chair for the State Bar of Texas - Intellectual Property Section, served as past president of the Dallas Asian American Bar Association, chaired the Dallas Diversity Task Force, served as a facilitator for the DFW Women in Intellectual Property group, served on the board of the Dallas Bar Association, and served as a member of the Grievance Committee for the State Bar of Texas - District 6.

Throughout her career, Shimabuku has championed diversity efforts, including service as the first Asian American chair of the State Bar of Texas Intellectual Property Section, and was honored with the Champion of Diversity Award by the Association of Corporate Counsel and separately by the State Bar of Texas - Asian Pacific Interest Section. She has received numerous professional accolades, including being honored as a Hero of Innovation by the Center for American and International Law, selected as a Dallas Business Journal "Top 40 Under Forty," named Dallas Business Journal's Corporate Counsel Rookie of the Year, and selected as one of DCEO's "500 Most Powerful Business Leaders."

Shimabuku holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and graduated cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She is a native Texan, born and raised in Houston, Texas. Shimabuku currently lives in Flower Mound, Texas, with her husband and two daughters.

Zandra Smith**Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO**

Zandra Smith is a supervisory patent examiner (SPE) at the USPTO. She joined the agency in June 1996 as an examiner in optical measuring and testing in Technology Center (TC) 2800. Prior to joining the USPTO, Smith earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from Virginia Tech. In January of 2018 she accepted a detail in the Office of Innovation Development (OID) as the Pro Se Assistance Program Coordinator. In 2005, she became a trainer for new examiners in the Patent Training Academy. Later that same year, she became a 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 TC 2800 and the Patent Corps, including serving as being the TC lead of the Diversity Council. Smith has also worked on creating career development opportunities for the Patents Technical Support Staff and currently serves as the Transition Coordinator for TC 2800, 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.

Patricia Tomczyszyn**Technology transfer and commercialization program manager, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. United States Department of Commerce**

Patricia Tomczyszyn is a technology transfer and commercialization program manager for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. She has been a public servant for most her professional career.

Tomczyszyn spent 18 years as customer relations manager and advocate for riders with disabilities for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority in Washington, D.C, and, in 2012 brought her program development skills to the federal government, where she advocates for and publicize MBDA programs and initiatives nationwide.

Her recent assignment to the Technology Transfer and Commercialization Program allows her to explore both professional and personal interests in science and technology. Tomczyszyn works diligently to educate, inspire, engage, and connect minority-owned businesses and entrepreneurs to the vast array of resources, facilities, mentors, and experts available to them through federal technology transfer.

Len Tran**Supervisory patent examiner, USPTO**

Len Tran is a supervisory patent examiner in the USPTO's Technology Center 3700, where he oversees the examination of applications related to heat exchangers and cryogenics. Tran joined the USPTO in 2000 and examined applications related to metallurgy, soldering, and welding for Technology Center 1700. In 2007, he became a trainer in the Patent Training Academy, where he instructed new patent examiners.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Tran was a process engineer at the Department of Environmental Protection in New York City, where he was responsible for monitoring wastewater treatment throughout the city's fourteen plant system.

Tran holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree in chemical engineering from City College of New York. During his free time, he teaches karate, which he has practiced for more than 35 years. He also competes in tennis tournaments and plays on the USPTO's tennis team.

Brittany Sickler**Outreach and partnership strategist, Office of Innovation, U.S. Small Business Administration**

Brittany Sickler serves as outreach, training, and partnership strategist for the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Office of Investment and Innovation. Her primary duties support the advancement of the Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer programs, which enable small businesses to explore their technological potential and profit from its commercialization. She oversees initiatives to increase understanding of SBIR/STTR opportunities with SBA offices and partner networks across the country, and she manages the agency's Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program.

Sickler spent almost four years in the SBA's North Dakota District Office as an economic development specialist, building and strengthening connections throughout the state, particularly with regional startup networks and rural communities. She also served as a special advisor in the SBA's Office of Entrepreneurial Development, advancing strategic initiatives and coordinating the SBA's first virtual conference.

Prior to her work at the SBA, Sickler served in Guatemala as a Peace Corps volunteer and volunteer leader in the Sustainable Community Tourism program, a combination of economic development and environmental conservation. Her career in economic development started in Southern Florida with microlender ACCION USA, providing small business loans to individuals who could not access traditional credit.

Sickler was a Masters International Fellow, earning a master's degree in international community economic development from Southern New Hampshire University. She also holds degrees in business administration and Spanish from Indiana Wesleyan University.

Dara Trujillo

Head of Trend and Innovation Launch Pad, Home Shopping Network

Dara Trujillo is an executive with more than 25 years of industry experience. In her current role as head of Trend and Innovation Launch Pad with the Home Shopping Network's (HSN), she oversees company initiatives, seeks new business opportunities, and manages the American Dreams Program, featuring entrepreneurs who tell their stories and sell their products on live TV.

Trujillo is always on the lookout for an amazing product made by a passionate entrepreneur. She travels the country in search of the next million dollar product opportunity to introduce to HSN's 91 million viewer households. In addition, she is currently a regular judge on the TV series Hatched.

Trujillo's experience includes 10 years overseeing 28 department stores, where she directed fashion, private label development, public relations, and personal shopping. She also spent 15 years with the Walt Disney Company's theme park division overseeing new merchandise, brand strategy development, signature events, and the development of concepts such as Disney Springs, the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique, Goofy's Candy Company, Once Upon a Toy, and The Pirates League; she also led the company's Pin Trading and Vinylmation initiatives.

Warren Tuttle

President, United Inventors Association

Warren Tuttle is known to many throughout the inventive industry as the long-time president of the United Inventors Association. In addition, Tuttle is the open innovation director for both Lifetime Brands and Techtronic Industries NA. As the open innovation director, Tuttle focuses on external product development, which means he is constantly working with independent inventors to find new inventions to bring to market. In addition, Tuttle Warren speaks regularly around the country on licensing and open innovation topics at inventor clubs, industry trade shows, and at USPTO functions.

Prior to developing and marketing products for the housewares industry, Tuttle owned five gourmet specialty kitchenware stores. A graduate of St. Lawrence University, he currently resides in Connecticut with his wife and three daughters.

Sean Wilkerson

Innovation Development Outreach & Program Specialist, USPTO

Sean Wilkerson works in the Office of Innovation Development (OID) at the USPTO, creating patent education programs and managing outreach services to independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, makers, and universities.

Prior to joining OID, Wilkerson worked as an outreach coordinator for the programs leading up to the opening of the USPTO's Texas Regional Office. He also spent a year as part of the New York engagement team that developed the 2015 Future of Urban Innovation Startups Summit in coordination with Columbia University and the USPTO. From 2011 - 2013, he served as the program manager the inaugural Select USA Summit, developing the program, structure and outreach efforts of a U.S. government-wide program housed in the International Trade Administration of the United States Department of Commerce.

As an education program analyst in the Global Intellectual Property Academy from 2008 - 2011, Wilkerson managed international programs focused on providing intellectual property training related to enforcement of patents, trademarks, and copyrights and the U.S. patent and trademark system. Prior to working for the federal government, he served as the director of events for the National Association of Homebuilders in Washington, D.C. and as the ideas exchange manager for Accenture in Reston, Virginia.

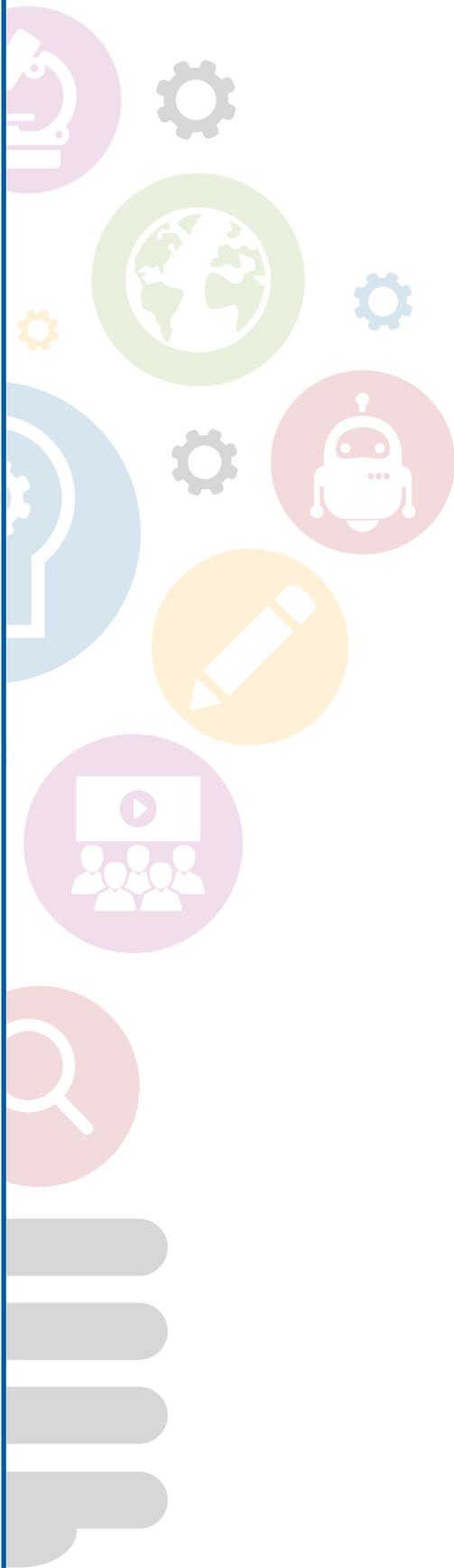
Bobby Zappala

Cofounder and CEO, Ascender

Bobby Zappala is the cofounder and CEO of Ascender, a nonprofit startup hub in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that offers business incubation, advisory services, programming and coworking. He also founded Thrival, an annual innovation, arts and culture conference highlighting Pittsburgh's robust tech and arts scene. Prior to founding the organization in 2012, He was a corporate attorney at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, a national law firm headquartered in Pittsburgh.

Zappala was born and raised in Pittsburgh. He left to attend Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where he majored in public policy studies and economics. He subsequently worked in Washington, D.C. for then-Senator Joe Biden in his legislative office before returning to Pittsburgh to pursue his law degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

In addition, Zappala is engaged as a board member and advisor for a variety of economic development activities aimed at driving innovation in the Pittsburgh region including the BNY Mellon UpPrize Social Innovation Challenge, the City of Pittsburgh Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development Strategic Marketing Committee, and the One America Works PGH corporate attraction initiative.



Notes:

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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!



**A SPECIAL THANKS TO
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