

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

Jean Witz

Supervisory Patent Examiner, United States Patent and Trademark Office

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