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Mr. Rater joined the USPTO in 2000 as part of the Office of Quality Management and Training where he led efforts related to customer and employee surveys and provided statistical consultation for both the Patents and Trademarks quality review programs. In 2004, Mr. Rater transferred to the Office of Patent Quality Assurance (OPQA) and today oversees several aspects of the quality review program such as sample design, review methodology, and reporting of quality metrics. Mr. Rater also oversees OPQA's ISO 9001-certified quality management system and serves on several teams tasked with evaluating program effectiveness, primarily focusing on impacts to quality and production. Prior to joining the USPTO, Mr. Rater worked as a consultant designing program evaluations and providing data analysis and survey expertise to Federal agencies and Fortune 500 companies. Upon graduation from the University of Georgia in 1990, Mr. Rater began his career working for USDA, conducting surveys and data analyses related to the estimation of crop and livestock production.