

Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional United States Patent and Trademark Office

Fact Sheet

- The Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional United States Patent and Trademark Office in Detroit serves the Midwest region including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.
- The Midwest Regional USPTO officially opened in 2012 in the Stroh Building at 300 River Place in Detroit.
- Specifically named in the America Invents Act, it is the first location the USPTO established to increase outreach, improve retention and recruitment of patent examiners, decrease the patent application backlog and improve the quality of examination.
- The office provides free outreach services for inventors, entrepreneurs, startups, researchers and others by hosting events, providing dedicated patent and trademark search workstations, and providing workshops, trainings, conferences and roundtables designed for various experience levels.
- Dr. Christal Sheppard joined the USPTO in 2015 as Director of the Midwest Regional USPTO. Prior to joining the USPTO she was an assistant professor of law at the University of Nebraska Law College, where she co-founded a program of Concentrated Study in Intellectual Property



Law. Dr. Sheppard has a M.S. and Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Cornell University Law School. She has over two decades of science and intellectual property law and policy experience.

- The office allows the USPTO to recruit and retain a highly qualified workforce while simultaneously making our services more accessible to those working outside our nation's capital.



Midwest Regional USPTO
Director Christal Sheppard

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- The office regularly holds trademark-focused lunch and learn events, and workshops on the basics of trademarks, trademark searching, and the Madrid Protocol.
- The office has frequently held outreach events with representatives from the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board, including Chief Judge Rogers.
- The office has continued to host Patent Trial and Appeal Board hearings, including their first live Inter Partes Review trial in 2016.
- The office hosted the first Patent Drafting Competition in conjunction with University of Detroit Mercy in 2016.
- The regional offices are critically important to IP communities around the country. Government officials and regional stakeholders collaborated closely over several years to bring these satellite offices into existence.
- Following the opening of the Midwest Regional Office in Detroit, the USPTO established three more regional offices across every continental U.S. time zone — in Dallas, Denver, and San Jose. The offices reflect the agency’s mission to promote and foster American innovation in the global marketplace while placing agency resources and personnel directly within regional communities.

Elijah J. McCoy

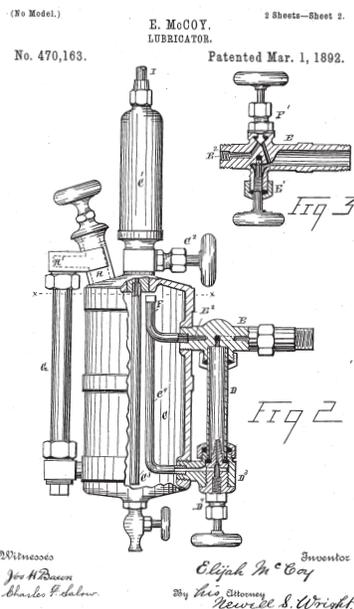
Engineer and Inventor • 1844 – 1929



Elijah J. McCoy was born in Canada on May 2, 1844, to African-American parents who escaped from Kentucky with help from the Underground Railroad. After studying engineering in Scotland, McCoy returned to the United States to find work. However, with jobs in engineering difficult to come by, he took a position as a fireman and oilman with the Michigan Central Railroad, where he was responsible for lubricating the train's axles and bearings every few miles to prevent overheating. In order to save labor, McCoy invented the "lubricating cup" to automatically drip oil onto the train's moving parts. His invention revolutionized the railroad industry in the United States by increasing the efficiency and profitability of locomotives.

McCoy settled in Detroit, Michigan, and became a master of inventing out of necessity. He invented the folding ironing board to help his wife, a lawn sprinkler to improve lawn care, and a number of other practical items that people still use to this day. In 1820, he established the "Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company" to sell his improved graphite lubricator. His name became synonymous with quality and companies requested "The Real McCoy" to ensure they were getting the best product.

McCoy eventually became a U.S. citizen and held 57 U.S. patents for inventions he created in Michigan. He passed away on October 10, 1929, and was laid to rest at Detroit Memorial Park East in Michigan.



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A History

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the U.S. Constitution, fully ratified by all of the original states in 1790, called upon the government's legislative branch to "promote the Progress of Science and the useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries."

The Patent Act of 1790 created the first patent board and made Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson responsible for issuing patents, a duty the State Department performed until the Patent Act of 1836 created the first autonomous Patent Office. Since then, the Patent Office has continued to evolve, including the addition of Trademarks to its mission and title. It moved into the Department of the Interior and later to the Department of Commerce in the early 20th century.

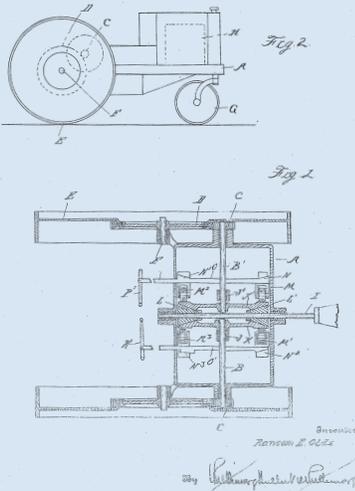
Today the USPTO's mission is to foster innovation, competitiveness, and economic growth, domestically and abroad, through the high-quality and timely examination of patent and trademark applications. With a highly skilled, diverse nationwide workforce of more than 13,000 — including a regional office in each of the four continental time zones — the agency guides domestic and international intellectual property policy and delivers intellectual property information and education worldwide.



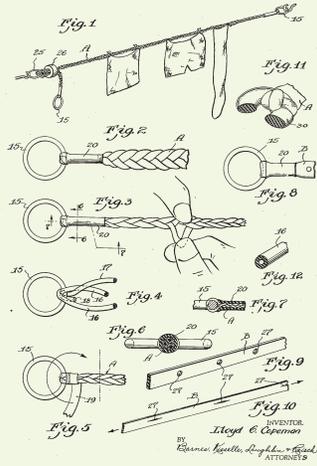
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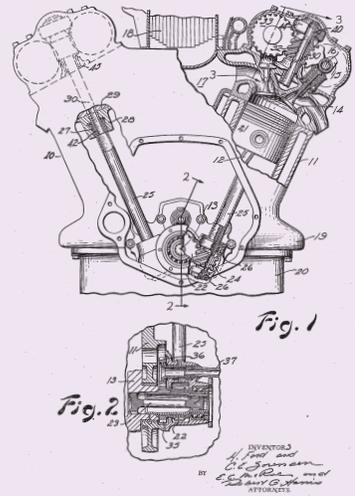
1,368,283. R. E. OLDS. TRACTOR. APPLICATION FILED FEB. 7, 1920. Patented Feb. 15, 1921.



May 4, 1943. L. G. COPEMAN. CLOTHESLINE. 2,318,375. Filed June 6, 1940.

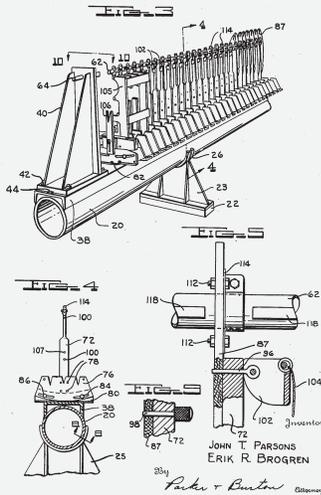


May 16, 1944. H. FORD ET AL. INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE. 2,349,157. Filed April 20, 1942. 2 Sheets-Sheet 1.

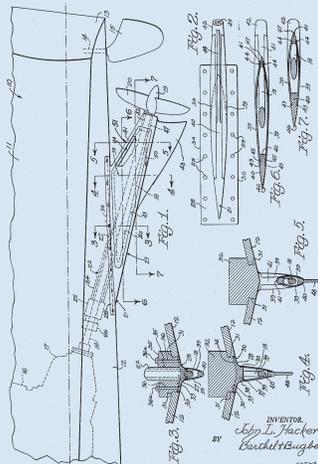


Historic Michigan Patents

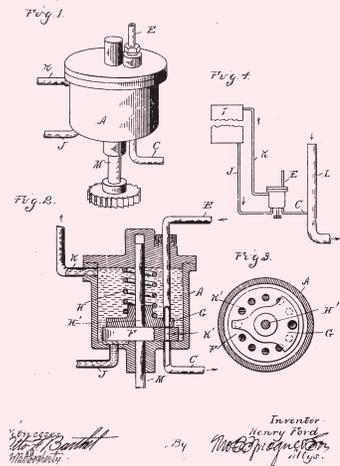
April 17, 1951. J. T. PARSONS ET AL. FIXTURE FOR USE IN ASSEMBLING STRUCTURAL PARTS UPON A ROTOR BLADE SPAR. 2,549,002. Filed June 3, 1946. 4 Sheets-Sheet 2.



March 3, 1953. J. L. HACKER. COMBINATION SHAFT STRUT AND HOUSING. 2,630,094. Filed Jan. 30, 1949.



No. 610,040. H. FORD. CARBURER. Patented Aug. 30, 1898. (Application filed Apr. 7, 1897.) (No Model.)



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INNOVATION INSTITUTE
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Daniel Wong

Midwest Regional Office Primary Patent Examiner



In 2009, General Motors (GM), (headquartered in Detroit, Michigan) filed for bankruptcy and laid-off more than 50,000 employees, including Daniel Wong, a patent attorney and researcher. Over the next 3 years, Wong found employment as a patent attorney at small law firms in Detroit and China. However, when an opportunity to become a patent examiner at the USPTO's Midwest Regional Office presented itself, he never looked back. Among other things, Wong appreciates the work-life balance provided by his career at the USPTO, especially now that he has children.

**"Detroit is
coming back
quick."**

Wong has lived in Detroit for 20 years, the past 5 of which he has spent working at the USPTO's Midwest Regional Office. In that short time, he has noticed that "Detroit is coming back quick." Moreover, the Midwest Regional Office is perfectly located to give local and regional customers more access to their USPTO. As an example, Wong has done several in-person meetings with entrepreneurs and the patent lawyers who represent them. "[Our customers] are right around here in the metro Detroit area, Wong said. "So they came in. It made it easier."

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Chad Newton

Midwest Regional Office Patent Examiner



During Chad Newton's last year of graduate school at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor's biomedical engineering program, USPTO employee Victoria Shumate visited his design course to discuss the patent examination process. "The way that she presented the information was very intriguing and (it seemed like) something I'd really like to do," said Newton. Following the presentation, Newton asked Shumate how he could learn more. Less than a year later, he earned a position in the USPTO extern program. Three months after that, he became a patent examiner, and Shumate is now his supervisor.

What initially drew Newton to patent examining was "how systematic everything was, since it's very well rooted in law." He also greatly enjoys "ensuring that inventors will be able to have their work — that they've put so much time and effort

Newton believes the Midwest Regional USPTO has helped bring about a positive change in the city.

into — protected properly." In addition, the job offers more flexibility than he expected. Given that Chad and his wife plan to start a family soon, that's very valuable to him.

Newton has lived in the Detroit metropolitan area his entire life. He even lived there in college, commuting to both undergraduate and graduate school. Over the past 5 years, he believes the USPTO's Midwest Regional office, located in downtown Detroit, has helped bring about a positive change in the city. Newton appreciates that business and government have continued to invest in the city. "The negative stigma [about the Detroit area] has started to slowly fade away [and] the prospect of the Office growing and more people realizing that the USPTO isn't so far away is very exciting."

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Tynese Mcdaniel

Detroit Regional Office Patent Examiner



After working as a research and development engineer for 17 years, most recently for Motorola, Tynese Mcdaniel became a patent examiner. Working in the engineering field, she had always heard about the USPTO. However, she never seriously considered the USPTO as a career until 5 years ago, around the time the Midwest Regional USPTO opened. A friend working at the USPTO repeatedly recommended patent examining to her, so she decided to apply.

The idea of a career change was frightening, but she took the risk and it worked out. "When I'm challenged at work here, or when I'm stressed, a friend of mine says, 'Well you can always go back to engineering,' and I'm like, 'No, this is so much better,'" says Mcdaniel, with a smile. She enjoys the workplace culture of the USPTO, as well as liv-

"It feels good to be in an area where there is clear growth and redevelopment every day."

ing in Detroit. It's close enough to her hometown of Chicago that she can go back whenever she wants. Mcdaniel likes that Detroit is small city that offers such perks as great live music, low cost of living and tremendous economic growth. "It feels good to be in an area where there is clear growth and redevelopment every day. Every week there's a new restaurant where there used to be an empty lot. They're building more infrastructure, more companies are coming."

Mcdaniel believes the USPTO has played an important role in the community. "They do a lot of outreach." She says she's "always seeing people in the community, including Girl Scout troops and other children, come in to the building to tour, ask questions, and attend seminars and other educational events."

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