

Mindy Bickel

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 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.

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