

Patent Quality Update



Hosted by the North Carolina Bar Association
Intellectual Property Section Patent Law Subcommittee

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 | 10 am - 1 pm ET

North Carolina Bar Association Center | Cary, NC

AGENDA

10:00 - 10:30

Update on USPTO Patent Quality Programs (Kathleen Bragdon)

10:30 - 11:00

Clarity of the Record Pilot (Jim Dwyer)

11:00 - 11:30

Topic Submission for Case Studies (Jim Dwyer)

11:30 - 11:45

Patents Ombudsman Program (Kathleen Bragdon)

11:45 - 12:00

Questions and Comments

12:00 - 1:00

Lunch and Collaborative Discussion on 35 U.S.C. § 101 (June Cohan)

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



BIOGRAPHIES

Kathleen Bragdon

Kathleen Kerr Bragdon holds a B.A. degree from Connecticut College and a Ph.D. degree from Brandeis University, both in biochemistry. Following a postdoctoral position in the Laboratory of Cell Biology at the National Cancer Institute, NIH, Dr. Bragdon joined the USPTO, specifically in Technology Center 1600 for Biotechnology & Organic Chemistry, in 1999 and examined patent applications in classes 435 and 514 concerning recombinant enzymes and their applications. Dr. Bragdon was recognized as examining Master's level art in 2003, became a primary examiner in 2004, and received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award in 2005. Further in 2005, she became the supervisory patent examiner of Art Unit 1656 examining enzymology and protein crystallography patent applications. In 2008, Dr. Bragdon accepted a position as a Quality Assurance Specialist for Technology Center 1600. Her roles in training and quality assurance prepared her to accept a detail in 2013 that focused on AIA First Inventor to File implementation and training for both examiners and the public; Dr. Bragdon received a Department of Commerce Gold Medal award for this work. Dr. Bragdon recently accepted a new position as Senior Advisor to Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality where she focuses on the development and implementation of the USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative.

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James Dwyer

James (Jim) Dwyer retired with 36 years at the USPTO and is currently working in an advisory role for the Office as a retired annuitant. During his career at the USPTO he served as a patent examiner and in various patent management positions, including his last 6 years as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations. Mr. Dwyer has a long commitment to patent quality – he authored and implemented the Centralized Reexamination Unit, reengineered the Office of Patent Training, and implemented statistical review of quality data in the Quality Index Review used to track inefficiency and low quality in the patent examining process. Mr. Dwyer received his B.S. in electrical engineering from University of Maryland in 1978.

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June Cohan

June E. Cohan is a Legal Advisor in the Office of Patent Legal Administration at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Her duties at the USPTO include developing policy positions for examination issues, drafting and implementing rules, acting as a reexamination legal advisor for inter partes and ex parte reexamination proceedings, and providing examiner guidance and training. She specializes in patent subject matter eligibility and Section 112 issues, and recently was a lead developer of Life Sciences eligibility examples (May 2016), workshop training for examiners on functional claim language (summer 2016), and Business Methods eligibility examples (December 2016).

Prior to joining the USPTO in 2013, Ms. Cohan practiced patent law in the Washington, D.C. area for 16 years. Her practice included litigation of patent infringement and Section 337 actions in the federal courts and before the U.S. International Trade Commission, as well as patent prosecution, opinions, and client counseling in the biotechnology and software areas. She has also taught advanced patent law and intellectual property courses for many years at Georgetown University and George Washington University.

Ms. Cohan received her bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Virginia, and her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was Editor and Writing Program Director for the Georgetown Journal of International Law. She is a member of the Virginia bar.

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