

OIPC Divisions

OIPC is made up of five main business areas: (1) Classification, (2) Work Sharing, (3) Business Solutions, (4) International Legal, and (5) Outreach and Administration (See Organizational Chart below). This current structure allows us to achieve the goals and objectives outlined in this plan. A brief description of these areas follows.

1. **Classification** — Our classification team is responsible for administering and developing the classification systems, Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC), and the International Patent Classification (IPC) system. OIPC works bilaterally and globally to harmonize the classification systems, maintain and develop the classification schemes, ensure the quality of the classification systems, and provide classification training and communication.

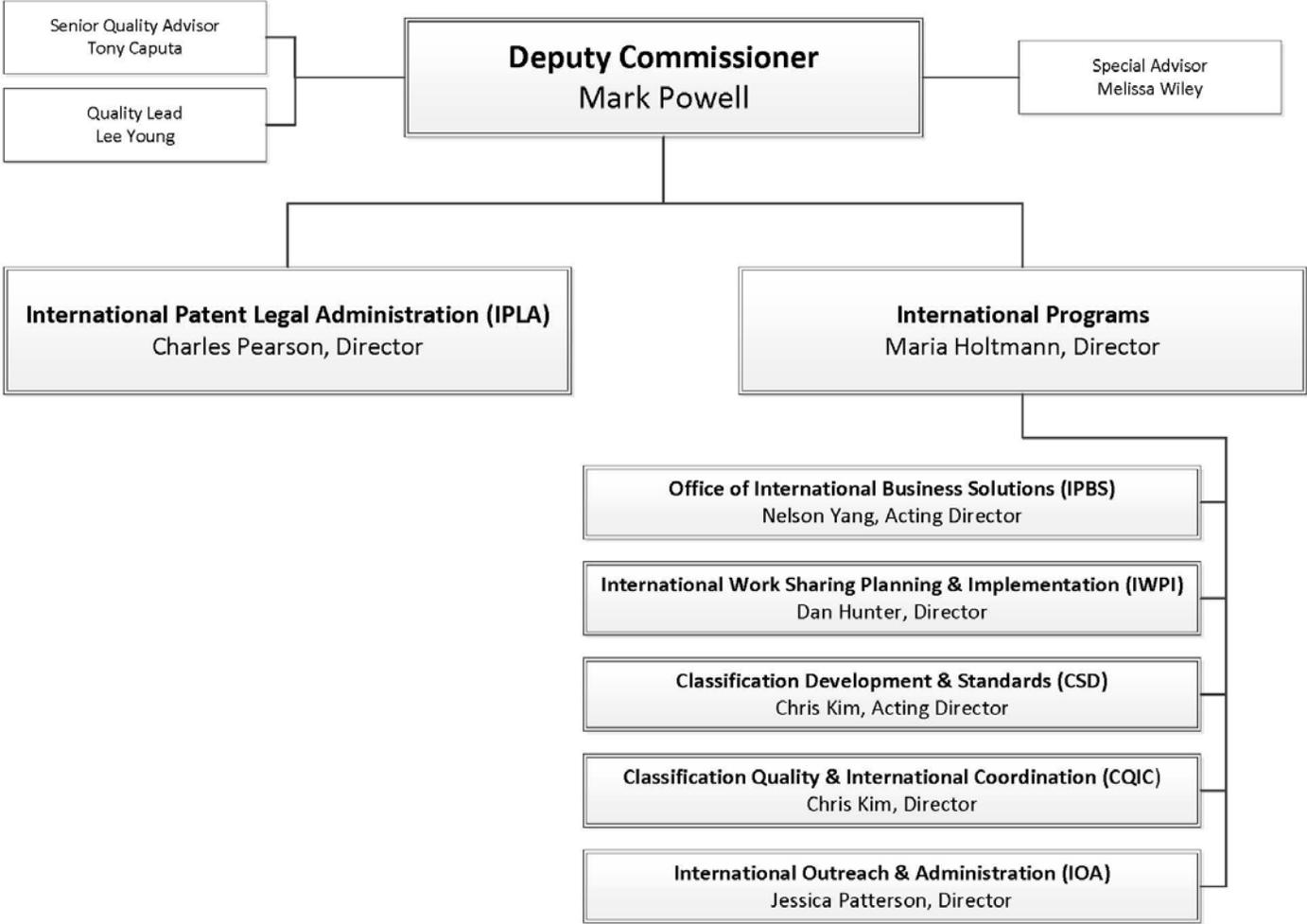
2. **Work Sharing** — Our work sharing team is responsible for the strategic planning and implementation of international work sharing pilots, programs, and initiatives at the USPTO. This team works closely with USPTO Patent Operations as well as international IP offices to improve the international patent system in terms of increased certainty of IP rights, improved efficiency of the IP system, and reduced costs for stakeholders.

3. **Business Solutions** — This team builds innovative IT products supporting examiners, applicants, researchers, and all stakeholders with an interest in the IP system. The team also investigates emerging technologies to determine how they can be leveraged to improve efficiency of office functions.

4. **International Legal** — Our legal team advises all of our teams and other offices within USPTO on international legal matters. Additionally, they educate and assist the patent community, develop policy, and resolve legal issues relating to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs, and other international cooperative patent projects or agreements. This team decides petitions to the Commissioner in international applications filed under the PCT, in U.S. national stage applications submitted under 35 U.S.C. 371, and in U.S. applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 which claim continuing benefit to a previously filed PCT application. The team also operates the PCT Help Desk and represents the USPTO at international IP meetings and treaty negotiations.

5. **Outreach and Administration** — Our Outreach and Administration team is charged with expanding and establishing alliances and building coalitions with domestic and international stakeholders. The team coordinates and executes OIPC's outreach program, including furthering engagement and collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, ensuring their ideas are considered and/or incorporated into our teams products and services. OIPC program management, analysis, and reporting, as well as overseeing administrative functions are also handled by this team.

Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC)



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