

The background of this slide is a blurred image of a hand holding a magnifying glass over a document, symbolizing attention to detail and quality. The slide has a white central area with a dark blue header and footer.

**Enhanced Patent
Quality Initiative**

Valencia Martin Wallace
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Partnering in Patents / Software Partnership

Leading in Quality Excellence – Every Interaction Counts

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Agenda

- Office of Patent Quality
- Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI)
 - Background
 - Summary of Comments
- Emerging Themes of the EPQI
- Next Steps



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Creating a World-Class Patent System

This is the Right Time for a Greater Focus on Quality

- America Invents Act (AIA) provides USPTO with a stable budget
- USPTO continues to reduce patent application inventory and pendency
- On-going investments in IT and training provide an opportunity to improve quality in our patent system
- USPTO has always made patent quality a priority



Email questions to PartneringinPatents@uspto.gov



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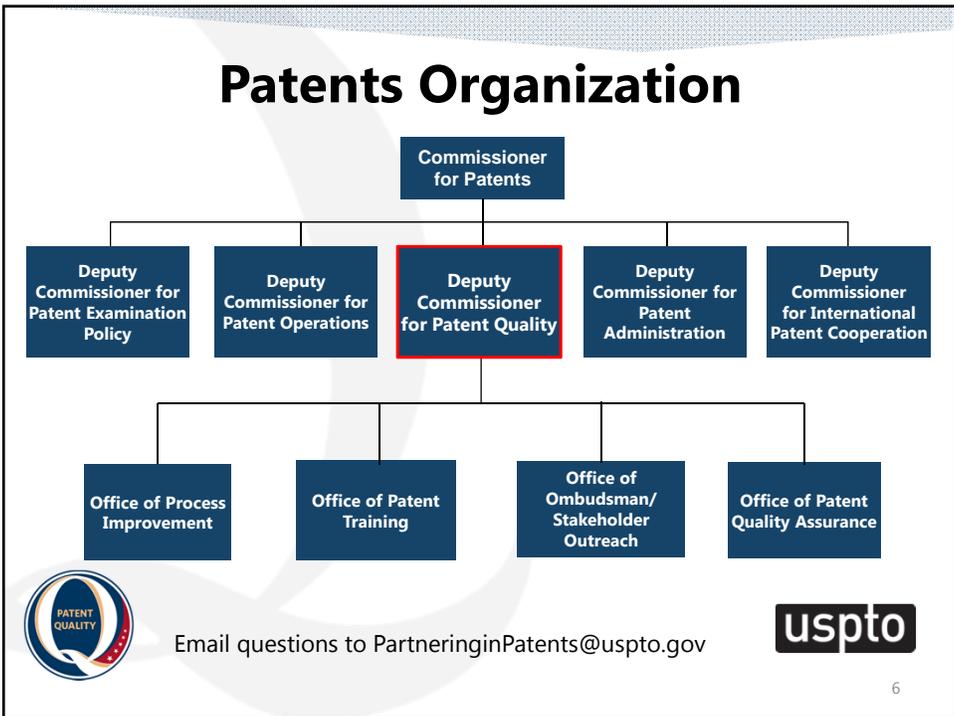


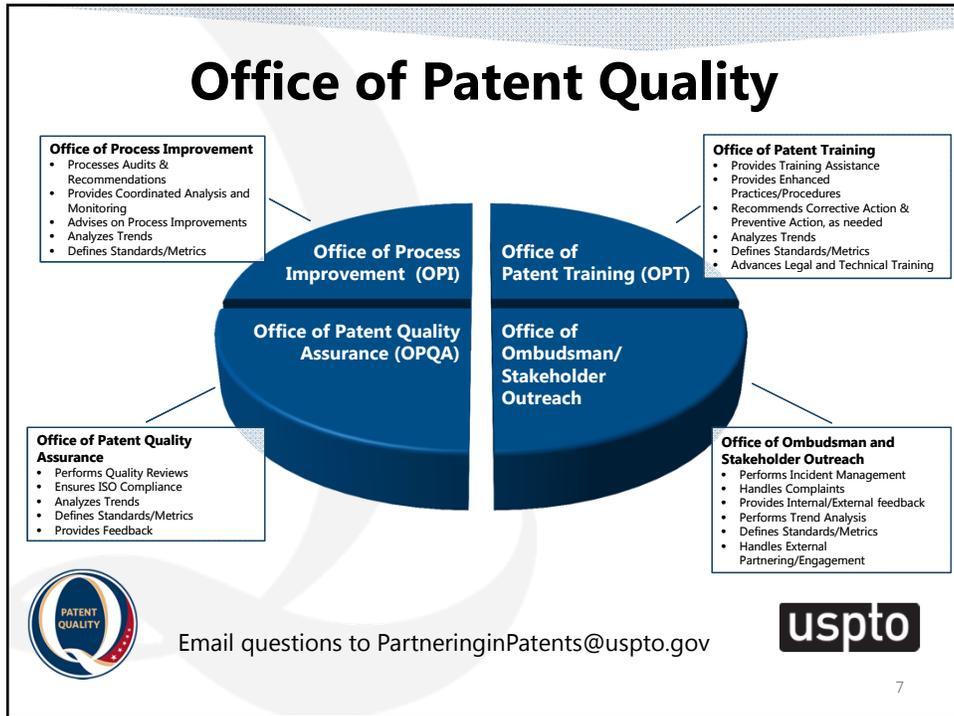
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Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Visit USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative website at
<http://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/enhanced-patent-quality-initiative>

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Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

- In February, the USPTO presented six proposals to stimulate the public's thinking on patent quality (see 80 Fed. Reg. 6475 (Feb. 5, 2015))
- These six proposals were built around three patent quality pillars:
 - I. Excellence in Work Product
 - II. Excellence in Measuring Patent Quality
 - III. Excellence in Customer Service



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Proposals of the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

- I. Excellence in work products
 1. Applicant requests prosecution review of selected applications
 2. Automated pre-examination search
 3. Clarity of the record
- II. Excellence in measuring patent quality
 4. Review/improvements to quality metrics
- III. Excellence in customer service
 5. Review of current compact prosecution model and effect on quality
 6. In-person interview capability with all examiners



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Comments on the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

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Comments on the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

- Comments and suggestions on the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI) have been collected from a variety of sources:
 - Two-Day Patent Quality Summit (held on March 25-26, 2015)
 - Federal Register Notice Comment Period (closed May 20, 2015)
 - Internal examiner forums and feedback forms
 - Roadshows and roundtables across the country
- We continue to collect feedback via our mailbox WorldClassPatentQuality@uspto.gov



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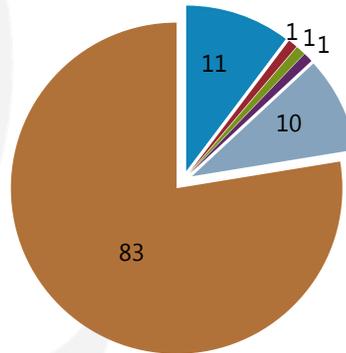
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Official Federal Register Responses

107 Responses/Emails

- IP Organizations and Associations
- Government Agencies
- Academic and Research Institutions
- Law Firms
- Companies
- Individuals



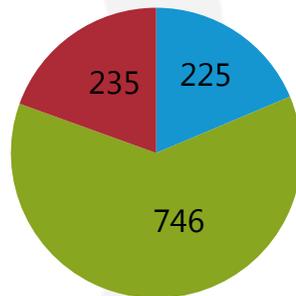
All responses in their entirety have been published at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/comments-public/comments-request-comments-enhancing-patent-quality>

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Submissions – All Sources

1206 Submissions*



- Internal
Includes Examiner Forum/Feedback and WCPQ Internal
- Patent Quality Summit
- WCPQ - External

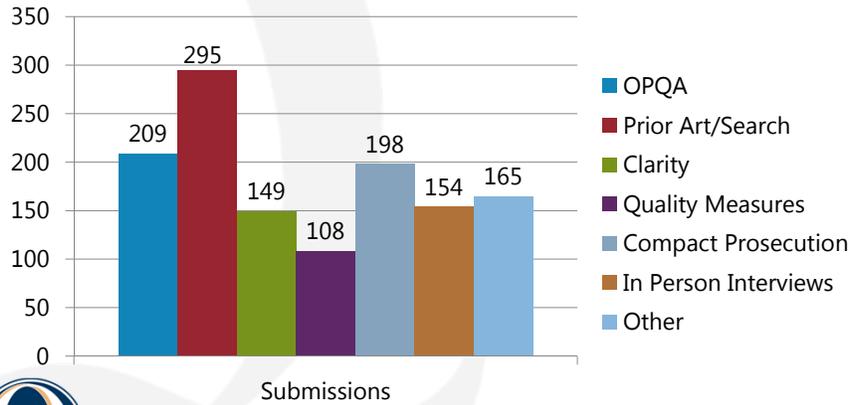


* Response/emails were broken into submissions based on proposal categories. Each email/response, therefore, may map to more than one submission.

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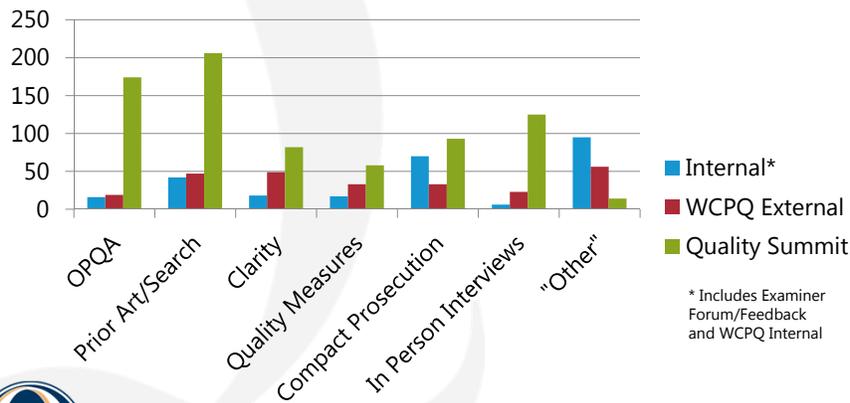
Topic Distribution – All Sources



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Topic Distribution – By Source



* Includes Examiner Forum/Feedback and WCPQ Internal



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“Other” Topic Distribution

- Additional Examiner/SPE Resources
- More Time for Examiners
- Improved/Additional Examiner Training
- Examiner Performance Appraisal Plans/Awards
- Miscellaneous



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Emerging Themes from Comments

- Having examiners clearly articulate their position on the record is a critical component of quality
- The USPTO needs to differentiate between measures of patent process and patent product
- The quality of the interview is much more important than the type of the interview (e.g., telephonic, video conferencing, in-person)



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Question and Answer Session

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