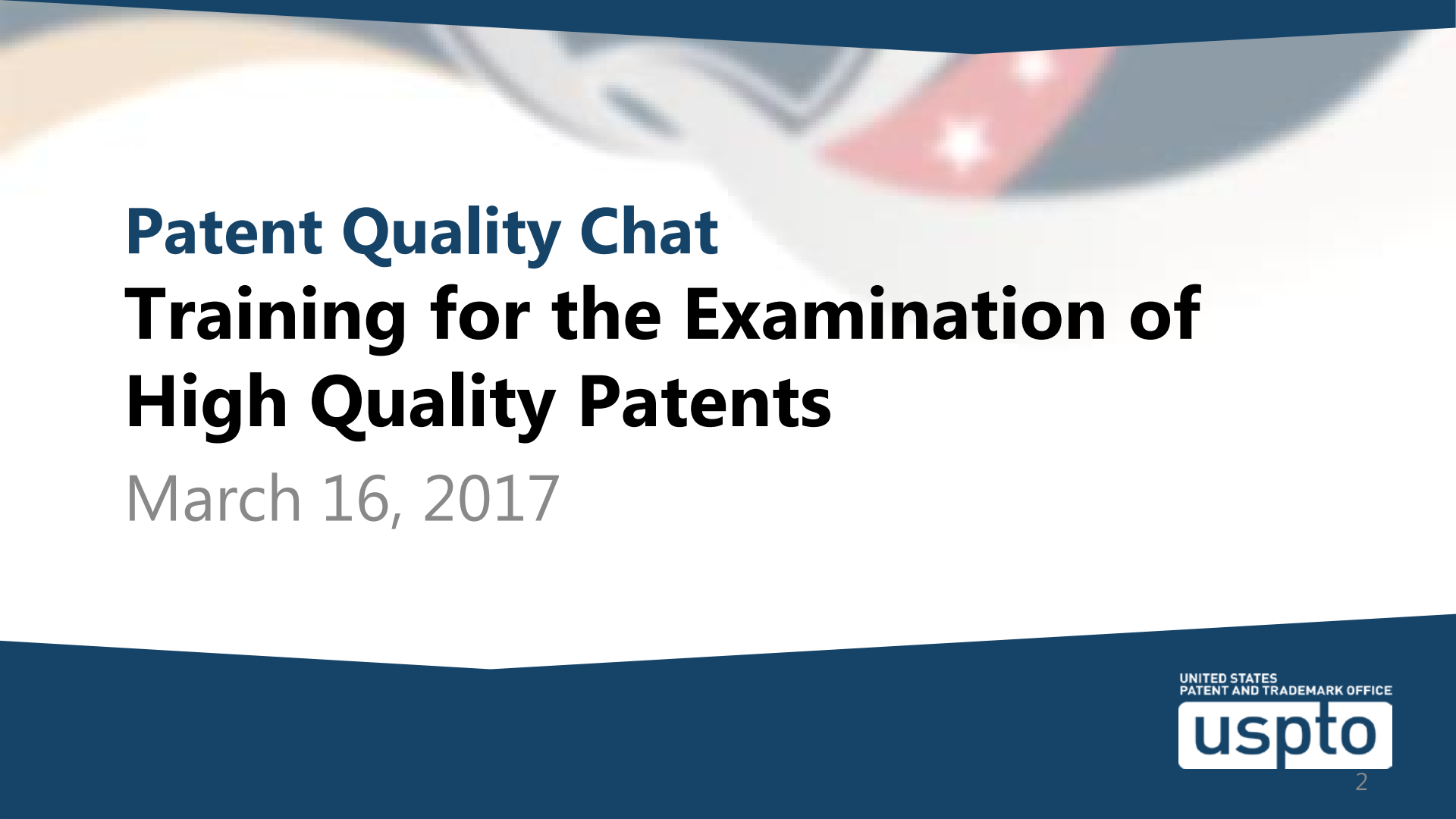


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A blurred, close-up photograph of a mechanical component, possibly a gear or a lens, with a prominent red section. The image is out of focus, creating a bokeh effect.

Patent Quality Chat

Training for the Examination of

High Quality Patents

March 16, 2017

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE





To send in questions or comments during the webinar, please email:

PatentQuality@uspto.gov

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Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative



High-quality patents enable certainty and clarity of rights, which fuels innovation and reduces needless litigation. To ensure we continue issuing high-quality patents well into the future, we established the **Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI)**. We are strengthening work products, processes, services, and how we measure patent quality at all stages of the patent process.

Updates

- Tune into our next [Patent Quality Chat](#) webinar on Thursday, March 16, from 1 - 2 p.m. ET, on "Training for the Examination of High Quality Patents."
- See our new [Quality Metrics](#) approach categorizing into product, process and perception indicators.
- Sign up for an upcoming [Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure](#) (STEPP) course in your area.

EPQI programs

You spoke; we listened. To advance our Initiative, we created **12 EPQI programs** based on feedback from internal and external stakeholders. These programs fall into four areas of concertation for enhancing overall patent quality.

Patent Quality Chat

Training for the Examination of High Quality Patents

Gary Welch

Academy Class Manager, Office of Patent Training

Bao-Thuy Nguyen

Patent Training Advisor, Office of Patent Training

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Email questions to PatentQuality@uspto.gov

Types of Training Provided by OPT

- Internal Stakeholder Training
 - Examiner Training
 - Entry Level Training - Laws, Rules, and Guidelines
 - Clarity of the Record – Improving Clarity and Reasoning (ICR)
 - Refresher and Master Training
 - Technical Training
 - Management Training
 - Patent Examining for Non-Examiners (PEFNE)
- External Stakeholder Training
 - Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP)
 - International Stakeholder Training

Internal Stakeholder: 12 month Entry Level Training Program

- Phase I
 - Months 1-4 of the Training Program
 - Examiners are located in Patent training Academy labs
 - Foundations topics: Statues, Automation, Docket management

Internal Stakeholder: Entry Level Training (con't)

- Phase II
 - Months 7 and 10: Advanced Topics
 - Month 11: Proficiency Exam
 - Month 12: Graduation
 - Post-Graduate Work
 - Selected Training Topics at periodic intervals

Internal Stakeholder Training

In Fiscal Year 2016, the Office completed many training modules for examiners, including:

- Workshops:
 - 112(a), 112(b), 101 II, 101 III
- Presentations:
 - 112(b), Reasons for Allowance, Interview Practice
 - 36 refresher level presentations
 - 7 master level presentations

Internal Stakeholder Training (Cont.)

For Fiscal Year 2017 the Office will continue to provide training modules for examiners including:

- Workshops
 - Legal Analysis and Writing, Clarity of the Record (including 112(f))
- Presentations
 - Interview Practice, Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC), Case Law Year in Review
 - Additional Master and Refresher level training



Improving Clarity and Reasoning – (ICR) Training Program Goals

- To include as an integral part of all substantive training tips and techniques for enhancing the clarity of the record
- To provide not only identification of examination topics, but also a focus on clarity of the Office action through relevant examples
- The Office is working to identify ways to improve training delivery
 - Using workshop-style training for certain topics
 - Delivering training by small groups of select trainers to improve consistency

ICR Training – Examiner Feedback

	Fiscal Year 2016 – Training Completed						
	Levels that "Strongly Agree" and "Agree"						
Level of "agreement" from workshop participants	112(a) Workshop	112(b) Training	101 Workshop II	101 Workshop III	112(b) Workshop	Improve Reasons for Allowance	FY16 Interview Practice Training
The training format was effective in increasing my understanding of the course content	85.5%	78.1%	82.3%	85.4%	85.6%	91.7%	85%
Course materials and/or examples were favorable to learning	83.5%	77.7%	80.4%	82.1%	81.7%	N/A	72.4%

ICR Workshop Structures

	101 Workshop III	112(b) Workshop
Number of Trainers	44	71
Training Sessions	300	539
Art Units	369	All
Number of examiners	5,079	8,200
Training Duration*	5 weeks	5 Weeks

*Additional time was also given for make-up sessions

Refresher and Master Training

- Refresher Training: Designed for examiners with at least one year of experience.
- Master Training: Dives deeper into specific legal areas for examiners with at least one year of experience.

FY16	Refresher	Master	Total
Topics	36	7	43
Classes	316	56	372
Participants	9517	1336	10,853



PETTP - Patent Examiner Technical Training Program

- Voluntary assistance from technologists, scientists, engineers, and other technical experts from industry and academia to participate as guest lecturers
- Provide technical training and expertise to patent examiners regarding the state of the art
- In-person presentations
 - Alexandria, Detroit, Denver, Dallas, Silicon Valley
- Virtual presentation from their own location

PETTP – FY 16

FY16	
Total # of Seminars	173
Total Hours of Training	37,423
Total % of Examiners	77%
Average Hours per Examiners	5.8



PETTP – Tech Fairs: FY 17

Technology Center	Description	Tech Fair Dates
1600	Biotechnology & Organic Chemistry	April 25 & 26
1700	Chemical & Material Engineering	June 27 & 28
2100	Computer Architecture & Software	May 23, 24 & 25
2400	Networking, Multiplexing, Cable & Security	May 11 & June 13
2600	Communications	March 13 & 14

PETTP – Tech Fairs: FY 17 (con't)

Technology Center	Description	Tech Fair Dates
2800	Semiconductors, Memory, Optics, Photocopying, Electrical Circuits & Systems, Printing, Measuring & Testing	May 31
2900	Design Day	April 25
3600	Transportation, Construction, Electronic Commerce, Agriculture, and National Security	April 4-6
3700	Mechanical, Medical Device Customer Partnership & Gaming Technologies	June 6

SEE – Site Experience Education

USPTO funds travel costs for patent examiner Site Experience Education to commercial, industrial and academic institutions within the continental US for technical training

- Help us improve the quality of the patent examination process by hosting a site visit
- Your chance to interact directly with patent examiners
- Showcase your real-world technologies
- An opportunity to conduct on-site training

SEE – FY 16

FY16	
Total Spending	\$408,669
Number of Travelers	308
Number of Trips	17
Number of Site Visited	90
Number of States Visited	13

SEE – FY 17

To date:

- 7 trips approved
- 3 trips planned

Management Training

- Management Training Academy (MTA)
 - provides strategies for enhancing leadership skills and for coaching and mentoring employees for high performance.
- Continuing Training for Managers
 - provides training to assist Patent Managers in performing the administrative and supervisory components of their jobs.
- Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) Mentoring Forum
 - For SPE Mentors to share and discuss best practices for training new supervisors

Management Training (con't)

- Monthly training provided to over 800 Patent Managers
- Topics have included
 - Encouraging and Motivating Employees
 - Dealing with Difficult Situations
 - Giving Constructive and Meaningful Feedback
 - How to Better Meet the Challenges of Managing a Telework Remote Workforce

PEFNE – Patent Examining for Non-Examiners

Training for non-examining internal stakeholders

- Focus on the life of an application in the patent system and the role of a patent examiner
- 84 USPTO employees trained in FY16
- For FY17 86 USPTO employees trained by April 1st



External Stakeholder Training

STEPP (Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure)

- New Program for FY16 delivering courses on examination practice and procedure to external customers
 - Based on USPTO approved training material
- Purpose:
 - Increase transparency by making USPTO training on examination practice and procedure available to external stakeholders
 - Provide perspective to external stakeholders by detailing what an examiner considers in preparing an office action
 - Aid in compact prosecution by disclosing to external stakeholders how examiners are taught to use the MPEP to interpret an applicant's disclosure
- Current Course:
 - 3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure
 - Expected to train 300 attendees in FY17



STEPP 3-Day Course Description

The 3-Day Course is broken into three separate modules

- Day 1 focuses on the role of an examiner and the steps an examiner would take when reading an application for the first time. Claim interpretation and 35 USC 101 and 112 are emphasized on Day 1.
- Day 2 uses the information gathered during Day 1 to plan a search, conduct a search, and map prior art to claims using 35 USC 102 and 103.
- Day 3 focuses on writing of an office action, including a discussion of restriction practices, as well as post-examination options such as the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) and the Central Reexamination Unit (CRU).



STEPP Participant Feedback as of 3/1/17

Survey Questions	Average Score
I understood the learning objectives	4.9/5
This course was easy to follow.	4.8/5
There was a sufficient amount of time for me to understand the content.	4.4/5
The information in this course is relevant and applicable to me.	4.9/5
The knowledge and experience shared by the instructor(s) enhanced my learning experience.	5/5



STEPP Participant Feedback (con't)

Survey Questions	Average Score
I was given ample opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the course material.	4.9/5
The materials aided in my learning.	4.9/5
My knowledge and skills increased as a result of this course.	4.9/5
I plan to apply the knowledge and skills learned in this course.	4.9/5
I would recommend this course to someone else.	4.9/5



STEPP in FY18

Currently it is proposed that STEPP training will increase in FY18 to include:

- Tier 1:
 - Bimonthly Webinars
 - Just In Time Webinars
- Tier 2:
 - Monthly Workshops
- Tier 3:
 - Every Other Month 3-day Agent Course (Current FY17 Course)
 - Biyearly Inventor Course



Training Resources

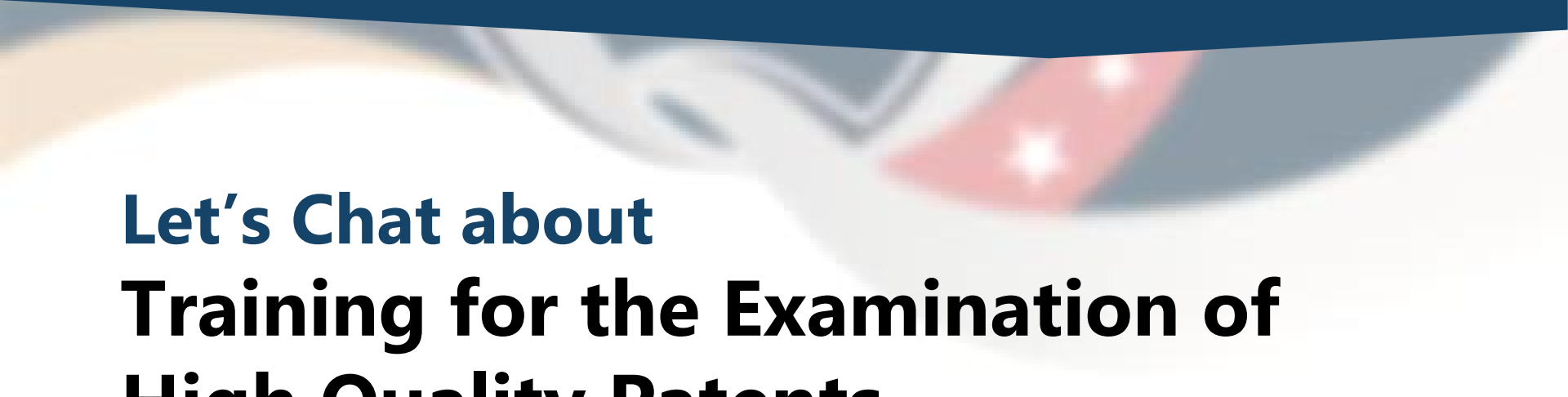
Corps Wide Examiner Training

- Website:
 - <https://www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/examination-policy/examination-guidance-and-training-materials>

PETTP, SEE, and STEPP

- Websites:
 - <https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/patent-examiner-technical-training-program-pettp>
 - <https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/site-experience-education-see-program>
 - <https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/stakeholder-training-examination-practice-and-procedure-stepp>
- 3-Day Course Parent Materials:
 - <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/examiner-training-materials>





Let's Chat about Training for the Examination of High Quality Patents

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Next Patent Quality Chat Examination Time Analysis

April 11, 2017

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Thank you for joining us today!

Patent Quality Chat
Webinar Series 2017
March 16, 2017

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