Patent Quality Conference

Silicon Valley USPTO Agenda
Tuesday, December 13, 2016
9:00 AM – 5:40 PM PT

9:00 AM – 9:10 AM  Check-in

9:10 AM – 9:15 AM  Welcoming Remarks

Ethics Presentation [Interactive]

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM  
Ethics Presentation: Professional Responsibility and Practice Before the USPTO  
Will Covey, Deputy General Counsel, Office of Enrollment and Discipline, USPTO  
(1 hour of MCLE credit in legal ethics will be offered, pending approval from the State Bar of California)

Post Grant Activity [Interactive]

10:15 AM – 10:50 AM  Presentations:  
I. Patent Quality and Post Grant Activities  
Russell Slifer, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

II. Effect of Patent Quality in U.S. Courts  
The Honorable Raymond Chen, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

10:50 AM – 11:45 AM  Panel Discussion:  
Patent Quality and Its Impact in the U.S. Courts  
Moderator: Charles Molster, The Law Offices of Charles B. Molster, PLLC

The Honorable Raymond Chen, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

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The Honorable Paul Grewal, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel for Worldwide Litigation, Facebook; Magistrate Judge (ret.), United States District Court for the Northern District of California

The Honorable Paul Michel (ret.), Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

The Honorable S. Jay Plager, Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

11:45 AM – 11:50 AM  Break

International and Stakeholder Cooperation [Interactive]

11:50 AM – 1:45 PM  Panel Discussions:
   I. International Quality Efforts
      Moderator:  Colleen Chien, Associate Professor, Santa Clara Law

      Roger Gobrogge, IP Counsel, ITIP ProFiciency, LLC
      Dr. Stuart Graham, Associate Professor, Scheller College of Business, Georgia Institute of Technology
      Mark Powell, Deputy Commissioner for International Patent Cooperation, USTPO
      Alfred Spigarelli, Principal Director of Quality Management, European Patent Office

   II. What Can Applicants do to Enhance Patent Quality?
      Moderator:  Arti Rai, Elvin R. Latty Professor of Law, Duke Law School

      Robert Armitage, Consultant, IP Strategy & Policy
      Mark Vallone, Lead IP Counsel, IBM
      Russell Slifer, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
      Saurabh Vishnubhakat, Associate Professor of Law and Engineering, Texas A&M University
      Vera Ranieri, Attorney, Electronic Frontier Foundation

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM  Closing Remarks
   Next Steps of Enhancing Patent Quality/Closing Remarks
   Andrew Hirshfeld, Commissioner for Patents, USPTO

2:00 PM – 2:30 PM  Lunch Break
   (Program following the lunch break is pre-recorded)

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Keynote Speaker [Recorded Viewing]

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM  
Advancing Quality in the IP Community  
Michelle K. Lee, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative Program Results [Recorded Viewing]

2:45 PM – 4:40 PM  
Presentations:  
I. Clarity of the Record Pilot Results  
Robin Evans, Director, Technology Center 2800, USPTO

II. Improving Clarity and Reasoning in Office Actions (ICR) Training/STEPP/Automated Pre-examination Search  
Greg Vidovich, Associate Commissioner for Patent Quality, USPTO

III. Master Review Form and Quality Metrics Results  
Martin Rater, Acting Director, Office of Patent Quality Assurance, USPTO

IV. Topic Submission for Case Studies Results  
Brian Hanlon, Director, Office of Patent Legal Administration, USPTO

4:40 PM – 5:40 PM  
Panel Discussion:  
Patent Quality in the USPTO – Our Next Steps!  
Moderator: Jack Harvey, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations, USPTO

Robert Bahr, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, USPTO  
Andrew Faile, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations, USPTO  
Kevin Rhodes, President and Chief IP Counsel, 3M Innovative Properties Company  
Hans Sauer, Deputy General Counsel, Biotechnology Innovation Organization  
Valencia Martin Wallace, Deputy Commissioner of Patent Quality, USPTO

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