

Patent Quality Conference

Tuesday, December 13, 2016
8:30 am – 5:00 pm | Madison Auditorium

AGENDA

8:00 – 8:30 Check-in/Reception

Opening Remarks:

8:30 – 8:55 Welcome

Valencia Martin Wallace
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality, USPTO

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

8:55 – 10:50 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/Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (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*

BREAK

IV. Topic Submission for Case Studies Results

Brian Hanlon, *Director, Office of Patent Legal Administration, USPTO*

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



10:50 - 11:50 Panel Discussion: Patent Quality in the USPTO - Our next steps!

Moderator:

Jack Harvey, *Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations, USPTO*

Panelists:

Valencia Martin Wallace, *Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality, USPTO*

Andrew Faile, *Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations, USPTO*

Robert Bahr, *Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, USPTO*

Kevin Rhodes, *President and Chief IP Counsel, 3M Innovative Properties Company*

Hans Sauer, *Deputy General Counsel, Biotechnology Innovation Organization*

11:50 - 1:15 Lunch

12:15 - 1:15 Ethics Presentation: Professional Responsibility and Practice Before the USPTO

William Covey, *Deputy General Counsel, Office of Enrollment and Discipline, USPTO*

Post Grant Activity

1:15 - 1:50 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

Hon. Raymond Chen, *Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit*

1:50 - 2:45 Panel Discussion: Patent Quality and Its Impact in the U.S. Courts

Moderator:

Charles Molster, *The Law Offices of Charles B. Molster, PLLC*

Panelists:

Hon. Raymond Chen, *Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit*

Hon. S. Jay Plager, *Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit*

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

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*

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International and Stakeholder Cooperation

2:50 - 4:45 Panel Discussions:

I. International Quality Efforts

Moderator:

Professor Colleen Chien, Santa Clara Law

Panelists:

*Dr. Stuart Graham, Associate Professor, Scheller College of Business,
Georgia Institute of Technology*

Mark Powell, Deputy Commissioner for International Patent Cooperation, USPTO

Roger Gobrogge, IP Counsel, ITIP ProFiciency, LLC

*Alfred Spigarelli, Principal Director of Quality Management,
European Patent Office*

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II. What can Applicants do to Enhance Patent Quality?

Moderator:

Professor Arti Rai, Elvin R. Latty Professor of Law, Duke Law School

Panelists:

*Russell Slifer, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*

Mark Vallone, Lead IP Counsel, IBM

Robert Armitage, Consultant, IP Strategy & Policy

Vera Ranieri, Attorney, Electronic Frontier Foundation

*Saurabh Vishnubhakat, Associate Professor of Law and Engineering,
Texas A&M University*

Closing Remarks

4:45 - 5:00 Next Steps of Enhancing Patent Quality/Closing Remarks

Andrew Hirshfeld, Commissioner for Patents, USPTO

Upcoming Events

Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP)

Website: <https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/stakeholder-training-examination-practice-and-procedure-stepp#step1>

Training delivered through STEPP is designed to provide external stakeholders with a better understanding of how and why an examiner makes decisions while examining a patent application. The STEPP program is administered by the Office of Patent Training (OPT) and consists of in-person courses based on material developed for training employees of the USPTO. Currently the 3-day STEPP session is free to attend. If you are interested in attending one of the following sessions, please visit the STEPP website (link above) to learn more about registering.

Dates	Location
January 10-12, 2017	Dallas, TX – Texas Regional Office
March 14-16, 2017	San Jose, CA – Silicon Valley Regional Office
May 9-11, 2017	Denver, CO – Rocky Mountain Regional Office
July 11-13, 2017	Alexandria, VA Campus
September 19-21, 2017	Detroit, MI – Midwest Regional Office

Examination Time Analysis (ETA) External Outreach

Website: <https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/eta-external-outreach>

The USPTO is soliciting public feedback in an effort to conduct a comprehensive study of examination time. The overall effort is called the Examination Time Analysis (ETA).

Examination time goals vary by technology and represent the average amount of time that a patent examiner is expected to spend examining a patent application in a particular technology. The Office plans to use the public feedback as an input to help ensure that the Office's examination time goals accurately reflect the amount of time needed by examiners to conduct quality examination in a manner that responds to stakeholders' interests.

A final interactive roundtable will be conducted in San Jose, California on January 11, 2017. To attend, you must register by January 4, 2017. For more information about how to provide feedback and to register for the roundtable, please visit the ETA website (link above).

The Different Types of Patent Applications

Mon, January 23, 2017 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST | Webinar

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-different-types-of-patent-applications-tickets-29490635284>

Are you an inventor looking to protect your idea but unsure of which application to file? Then join us as we go over the differences between Utility and Design Patent applications and the advantages of filing a Provisional and/or Non Provisional Utility Patent Application. We will also go over the different forms, fees, and formalities required for the respective type of application. This interactive presentation will allow online users to send questions via the chat function to have them answered live! For Registration assistance contact oidevents@uspto.gov

Patent Basics and Resources for Inventors

Fri, January 27, 2017 | 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST | USPTO Headquarters - 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/patent-basics-and-resources-for-inventors-tickets-29454681746>

Are you an independent inventor trying to get more information on the patenting process? Join us for this free training and opportunity to learn the basics and meet with examiners to help answer your questions about your ideas. For Registration assistance contact oidevents@uspto.gov

Training Resources

Entry-Level Examiner Training Materials: <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/examiner-training-materials>

Examination Guidance and Training Materials: <https://www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/examination-policy/examination-guidance-and-training-materials>