

Mark Powell

Mark Powell is the Deputy Commissioner for International Patent Cooperation for the United States Patent and Trademark Office. In this recently created, senior position, Mr. Powell leads international cooperative efforts with an aim to improve the international patent system in terms of certainty and cost reduction for intellectual property stakeholders, work-sharing, improvements to the PCT system, and other harmonization matters. Prior to holding this position, Mr. Powell served as Special Advisor to the Commissioner for International Patent Cooperation Matters.

Mr. Powell began work at the USPTO in 1986 as a patent examiner in the area of high-energy physics, and became a senior examiner in high-definition television technology. In 1994, he became a supervisory examiner in what is now the main IT examining sector at the USPTO overseeing user-interface, artificial intelligence, source-code management, and computer graphics examination units. Mr. Powell served as a Technology Center Director from 2003-2011 in the telecommunications area, managing some 1,200 patent examiners, all while participating in international patent matters on behalf of the agency.

Mr. Powell holds a B.S.E.E from Clemson University and a Certificate in Advanced Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Robert W. (Bob) Bahr
Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

Bob entered the USPTO in 1984 and has served as a primary examiner in what is now Technology Center 3700, primarily in the art areas of physical therapy and exercising equipment. In 1994, he became a Legal Advisor in what is now the Office of Patent Legal Administration, and in 2000, Bob became the Senior Patent Counsel to the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy. Bob is currently the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy. Bob has been involved in virtually every patents-related rule making since 1995, notably the changes to implement the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act and the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. Bob has been awarded two Department of Commerce Gold Medals and two Department of Commerce Bronze Medals. Bob has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland, and a Juris Doctor from George Washington University, and is a member of the Virginia Bar.