

Robin Evans

Robin Evans joined the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as a patent examiner after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland. She began her career as a patent examiner examining applications in the sprinkler and dispersants technologies. Ms. Evans became a Supervisory Patent Examiner in January 2005 and has supervised the examination of applications in the electrical heating technology and the fluid handling technologies. She became a Management Training Quality Assurance Specialist in 2007 in the mechanical and electrical technologies. Through years of service she has developed a solid understanding of Intellectual Property and as a result was awarded the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal and Exceptional Career Award for exceptional performance and service.

Ms. Evans was named the first Regional Manager of the Elijah J. McCoy Regional Office in Detroit. In this role, she was responsible for handling the daily operations of the first-ever regional office in the over-200 year history of the USPTO. She opened the office in July 2012, and in her first year successfully transformed the office into a highly functional site, staffed with patent examiners and administrative judges. Ms. Evans also served as the Interim Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office located in Denver, CO. Ms. Evans is currently a Director in Technology Center 2800, where she and her co-Directors are responsible for leading over 90 managers and over 1600 examiners in the field of Semiconductors, Electrical and Optical systems and components.

Martin Rater

Martin (Marty) Rater is the Chief Statistician and Acting Director of the Office of Patent Quality Assurance. Mr. Rater joined the USPTO in 2000 as part of the Office of Quality Management and Training where he led efforts related to customer and employee surveys and provided statistical consultation for both the Patents and Trademarks quality review programs. In 2004, Mr. Rater transferred to the Office of Patent Quality Assurance (OPQA) and today oversees several aspects of the quality review program such as sample design, review methodology, and reporting of quality metrics. Mr. Rater also oversees OPQA's ISO 9001-certified quality management system and serves on several teams tasked with evaluating program effectiveness, primarily focusing on impacts to quality and production. Prior to joining the USPTO, Mr. Rater worked as a consultant designing program evaluations and providing data analysis and survey expertise to Federal agencies and Fortune 500 companies. Upon graduation from the University of Georgia in 1990, Mr. Rater began his career working for USDA, conducting surveys and data analyses related to the estimation of crop and livestock production.