

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

A blurred background image showing a close-up of a person's face, focusing on the eyes and mouth. The image is out of focus, with soft colors and light effects.

Patent Quality Chat: Special Programs for Patent Prosecution

Patent Quality Chat
Webinar Series 2015 (5 of 6)
October 13, 2015



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

PatentQualityEventParticipationBox@uspto.gov



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A screenshot of the USPTO website homepage. The header includes the USPTO logo, navigation links for "About Us", "Careers", and "Contact Us", and a search bar. The main navigation menu has "Patents", "Trademarks", and "Learning and Resources" tabs, along with a "Quick Links" dropdown. The main content area features a blue banner with the text "First time here? Let us help you find your bearings." and a "Get Going" button. Below the banner, there are sections for "Learn About the Process" with sub-sections for "Patents" and "Trademarks". A red circle highlights the "Patents & Trademarks Initiatives" section, specifically the "Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative" link.

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Patents Trademarks Learning and Resources Quick Links

First time here? Let us help you find your bearings.

Has your invention already been patented at the USPTO?

New to Trademarks?

Get Going

Learn About the Process

Patents General Information Concerning Patents

Trademarks Trademark Basics

Patents & Trademarks Initiatives
Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative
Learn about USPTO efforts to increase patent quality.

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The screenshot shows the USPTO website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'uspto UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE' on the left, and 'About Us', 'Careers', and 'Contact Us' on the right. A search bar is also present. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Patents', 'Trademarks', and 'Learning and Resources' tabs, along with a 'Quick Links' dropdown. The main content area is titled 'Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative' and features a sub-header 'Leading in Quality Excellence – Every Interaction Counts'. The main text discusses the importance of IP-intensive industries and the USPTO's efforts to reduce the patent application backlog. A sidebar on the left lists various initiatives, and a sidebar on the right contains a 'Patent Quality Chat' link, which is circled in red. The bottom of the page features the USPTO logo and a small number '5'.

The slide features a background image of a microscope lens. The title is 'Patent Quality Chat: Special Programs for Patent Prosecution'. Below the title, the names and titles of the speakers are listed: Robert Oberleitner, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations; Dale Shaw, Acting Administrator of the Ombudsman Program. The event details are: Patent Quality Chat, Webinar Series 2015 (5 of 6), October 13, 2015. At the bottom, there is a contact email: PatentQualityEventParticipationBox@uspto.gov. The USPTO logo and a small number '6' are in the bottom right corner.

Agenda

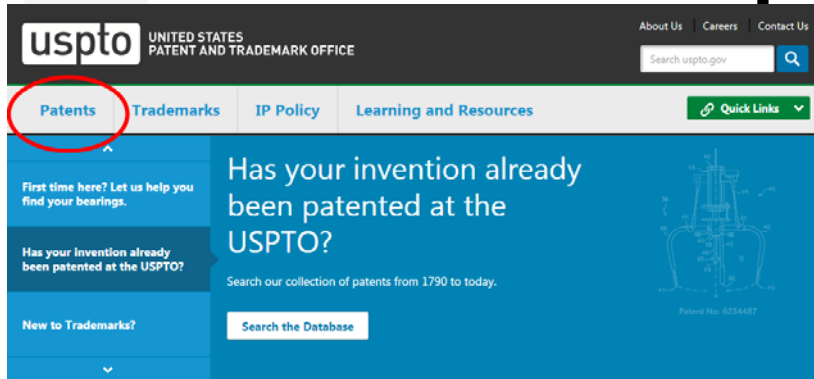
- USPTO Patent Application Initiatives Webpage and Timeline
- Short overview of all patent application initiatives on the timeline
- Ombudsman Program



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Application Initiatives' Webpage



Learn About the Process

Patents

? General Information Concerning Patents
Find out if a utility, design, or plant patent is right for you

Trademarks

™ Trademark Basics
Learn about trademarks and find out if it's right for you to apply for registration

Fees and Payment

Fees and Payment
Pay fees and learn more about filing fees and other payments.



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Application Initiatives' Webpage



Patents

Applying for a patent successfully requires a strong understanding of the application process. This is the first step to a successful application.

- Patent Process Overview
- Using Legal Services
- International Patent Cooperation
- Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTTRCs)
- Patent Statistics

2. Application Process

3. Maintaining Your Patent

Patent Tools & Links

Search for Patents
Find existing patents, published patent applications and other published patent documentation

File Online
File a patent application online with EFS-Web

Check the Filing Status of Your Patent Application
Check patent application status with public PAIR and private PAIR

Fees and Payment
Pay fees and learn more about filing fees and other payments.

Patents Forms
Find existing patents and public patent applications

Patent Trial and Appeal Board
The Patent Trial and Appeal Board's duties include review of adverse decisions, review of appeals of reexaminations, denotation proceedings, inter partes and post-grant reviews...

EPAS / AOTW-P
Patents Assignments: Change & Search Ownership
During the examination of pending patent application as well as after the patent is granted, the owner may create and submit a Patent Assignment Recordation CoverSheet to change patent ownership or owner name

Laws, Regulations, Policies, Procedures, Guidance and Training
Domestic and international rulemaking and law enforcement

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure
Detailed information on patent examination laws, rules and regulations

Official Gazette for Patents
Weekly publication of issued patents

Contact Patents
Contact information for all stages of the patent process

Initiatives
A centralized listing of major Patent Application Initiatives provides applicants with access to information on several patent initiatives designed to advance and support the...



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Application Initiatives' Timeline



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Patents | Trademarks | IP Policy | Learning and Resources

Quick Links

Home / Patents / Initiatives

Past Events
Listing of past events supporting patents programs and initiatives.

Initiatives

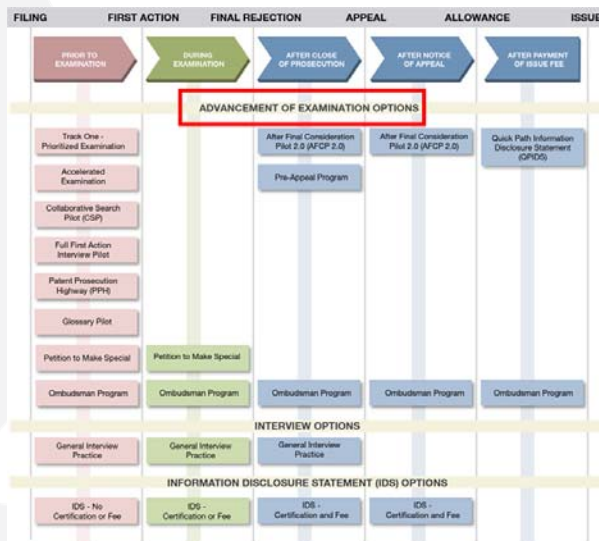


A centralized listing of major Patent Application Initiatives provides applicants with access to information on several patent application initiatives that are available prior to examination, during examination, or after close of prosecution to evaluate and contrast the benefits of participating.



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Application Initiatives' Timeline



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Initiatives Prior To Or During Examination

- **New Initiatives:**
 - Collaborative Search Pilot (CSP) (JPO – 8/1/2015, KIPO – 9/1/2015)
- **Pilot Initiatives (newest to oldest):**
 - Glossary Pilot (6/2/2014)
 - Track One (Prioritized Examination) (9/2011)
 - Full First Action Interview Pilot (10/2009)
- **Permanent Initiatives (newest to oldest):**
 - Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) (Global/IP5 PPH – 1/6/2014)
 - Ombudsman Program (4/2010)
 - Accelerated Examination (8/2006)
 - Petition to Make Special (ca. 12/1959)

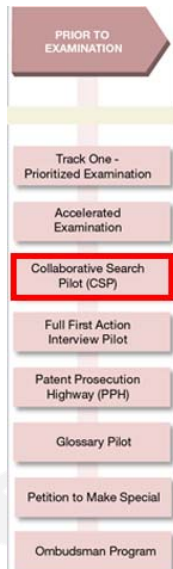


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New Initiatives Prior To Examination



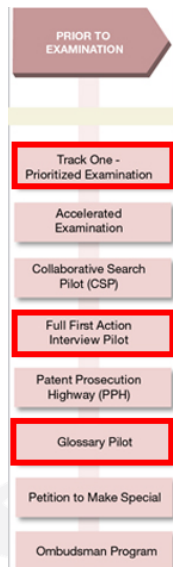
- **Collaborative Search Pilot (CSP):**
 - Allows an applicant with a corresponding application in either Japan or Korea to request a collaborative serial (JPO) or parallel (KIPO) search prior to entering the full first action interview pilot program
 - Discussed during last month's patent quality chat; a video of this chat can be found on the [Patent Quality Chat website](#)



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Pilot Initiatives Prior To Examination



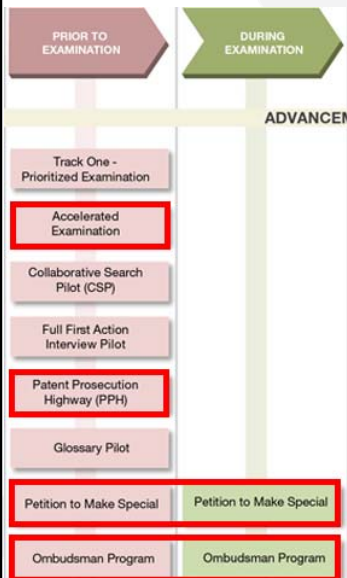
- **Glossary Pilot:**
 - Focuses on enhancing claim clarity in the specification of software-related applications through the use of glossaries
- **Track One (Prioritized Examination):**
 - Provides, for a fee, a final disposition within twelve months, on average, of prioritized status being granted
- **Full First Action Interview Pilot:**
 - Allows an applicant to request a full interview prior to the first Office action on the merits



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Permanent Initiatives Prior To Or During Examination



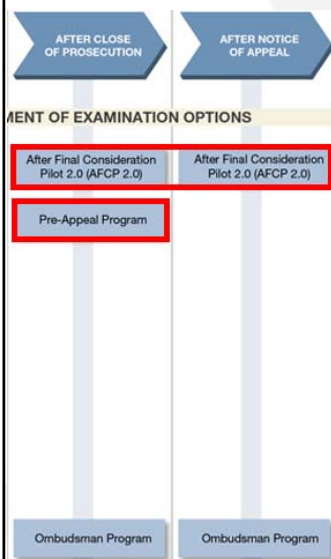
- **Patent Prosecution Highway:**
 - Allows an applicant to fast-track examination of claims in the Office of Later Examination (OLE) when the Office of Earlier Examination (OEE) has found at least one patentable corresponding claim
- **Ombudsman Program:**
 - Enhances the USPTO's ability to assist applicants with issues that arise during prosecution of an application
- **Accelerated Examination:**
 - Provides, upon a grant to make special (except based on PPH Program or applicant's age or health), a final disposition within twelve months of special status being granted
- **Petition to Make Special:**
 - Allows applicants to have their applications examined out of turn in certain circumstances



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Initiatives After Close of Prosecution



- **After Final Consideration 2.0 (AFCP 2.0):**
 - Authorizes additional time for examiners to search and/or consider responses after final rejection
 - Recently extended to September 30, 2016
- **Pre-Appeal Program:**
 - Allows applicants to request that a panel of examiners formally review the legal and factual basis of the rejections prior to the filing of an appeal brief



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Initiatives After Payment of Issue Fee



- **Quick Path IDS (QPIDS):**
 - Eliminates the requirement for filing an RCE with an IDS filed after payment of the issue fee in order for the IDS to be considered by the examiner
 - Recently extended to September 30, 2016



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Ombudsman Program

Email questions to
PatentQualityEventParticipationBox@uspto.gov



Ombudsman Program - Purpose

- Tracks complaints to ensure each is handled within 10 business days
 - Currently averaging 3 business days
 - Tracking database only contains high-level information; the application itself will show the details of the resolution
- Allows identification of training needs through the mining of complaint data to identify trends



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Ombudsman Program - Process

- Applicant/Attorney contacts the program
 - Via email at OmbudsmanProgram@USPTO.gov
 - Via telephone at 571-272-5555 or 1-855-559-8589
- Ombudsman calls within 1 business day to obtain details
 - Ombudsman may address the complaint directly
 - If not, complaint is routed to the person who can address it (e.g., SPE or TC Director)



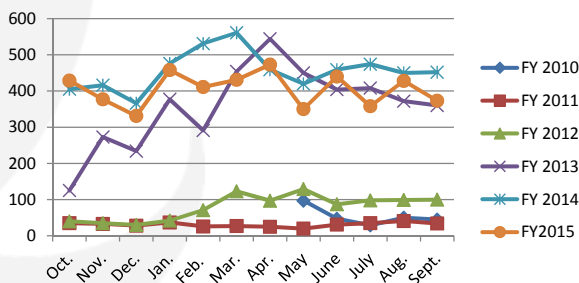
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Ombudsman Program – Monthly Totals

FY	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total
FY 2010								97	47	29	50	45	268
FY 2011	35	33	28	37	26	27	25	20	31	35	41	34	372
FY 2012	40	35	30	42	71	123	97	129	87	98	99	100	951
FY 2013	125	273	234	377	291	454	544	450	404	408	372	360	4292
FY 2014	405	416	366	476	531	561	459	420	459	474	450	452	5469
FY2015	429	377	331	458	411	431	473	350	440	358	428	373	4859



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Ombudsman Program – Results as of 5/31/15

- Total inquiries to the program:
 - 14,623 inquiries from start of program (April 2010) to May 2015
 - 3,260 inquiries from the start of FY15 to May 2015
- Results of annual surveys:
 - 60% are satisfied with the program
 - 68% would recommend the program to others



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Ombudsman Program – Results as of 5/31/15

- Top 5 types of inquiries:
 - After Final
 - Customer Service
 - Petitions
 - Certificates of Correction
 - Case Prosecution Concerns



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Ombudsman Program – Next Steps

- Expand the hours of the Ombudsman Program
 - Desired hours of operation from 8AM-8PM EST
- Establish Points of Contact in each Satellite Office



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Let's Chat about the Special Programs for Patent Prosecution

Robert Oberleitner
Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations

Dale Shaw
Acting Administrator of the Ombudsman Program

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Thank you for joining us today!

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Webinar Series 2015 (5 of 6)
October 13, 2015



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Next Patent Quality Chat: Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Valencia Martin Wallace
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

Cassandra Spyrou
Senior Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality



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**To send in questions or comments related to the
USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative,
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