

Valencia Martin Wallace

Valencia Martin Wallace is Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality. She was appointed to this newly-created position in January 2015. In her role as Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality, Ms. Martin Wallace manages and leads the Patents organization's quality initiatives. She is responsible for improving the high quality of the USPTO's patent examination processes and products by implementing and maintaining a comprehensive quality management system. As part of her twenty-two year career at the USPTO, she recently served as Assistant Deputy Commissioner (ADC) for Patent Operations from 2011-2015. In the position, Ms. Martin Wallace oversaw operations in the software technology centers, served as executive co-lead on the implementation of the AIA First Inventor to File statutory framework, and led the development and implementation of the Office of Patent Examination Support Services, which centralized the technical support staff in a manner that allowed for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Ms. Martin Wallace is a graduate of Howard University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering; and The George Washington University School of Law, where she earned a Juris Doctorate. She has also received a certificate in Advanced Public Administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Public Administration.

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.

Daniel Sullivan

Daniel Sullivan is a current Director of Technology Center 1600, which examines biotechnology, chemical and pharmaceutical inventions. Before joining the USPTO, Dr. Sullivan earned a B.A. in Biology and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Missouri, Columbia and worked as a research scientist at the National Institutes of Health. He joined the USPTO in 2002 to examine in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical art areas. In 2008 he was promoted to Supervisory Patent Examiner and in 2014 he was promoted to Technology Center Director.

Jack Harvey

Jack Harvey is the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations overseeing the areas of communications, transportation, construction, agriculture, e-commerce and national security. Mr. Harvey joined the USPTO as a patent examiner after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Clarkson University. He examined applications in the electrical area and served as a Supervisory Patent Examiner in the areas of Computer Measuring and Testing, Computer Architecture and Computer Networking. He also served as a Quality Assurance Specialist in related fields and e-commerce. Mr. Harvey was appointed to the Senior Executive Service, and over the past 10 years he has served in the capacity of Director in four Technology Centers including the Database, Computer Networking and Semiconductor technologies.

Greg Vidovich

Greg Vidovich was recently named the Associate Commissioner for Patent Quality. Prior to being named to this position, Mr. Vidovich was a Director in Technology Center 3600. As a Technology Center Director, Mr. Vidovich managed in the Business Methods area. He has been instrumental in providing numerous training events to examiners across the corps to improve clarity in Office actions. Mr. Vidovich led: interim guidance and three workshop style training events dealing with 35 U.S.C. 101; a training lecture and workshop style training on 35 U.S.C. 112(b); multiple training lectures dealing with 35 U.S.C. 112(f), and a training lecture and workshop style training dealing with 35 U.S.C. 112(a). Mr. Vidovich has also worked on projects under the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI) focused on improving clarity and reasoning in Office actions. Other projects included implementation of HR Connect to Patents, IT changes to an Office action form to improve clarity, IT changes to improve tools for managers, and new examiner search tools.

Prior to being selected as a Director in January 2012, Mr. Vidovich held a variety of positions in the Office. He first became a Supervisory Patent Examiner in Technology Center 3700. He later became a Quality Assurance Specialist in Technology Center 3700. He then went to the Office of Patent Training as a Class Manager in the Patent Training Academy which focused on the training of new examiners. He later went to the Office of Patent Information Management (OPIM) where he led the Search Team & Data Division which worked on the examiner search systems in the Office. He also developed management systems to substantially automate many of the processes performed by over 600 managers in areas such as performance reviews and ratings, awards, and promotions for over 8,000 examiners. During this time, he also was on a team which helped develop the first Regional Office in Detroit as well as worked on projects with the IP5 international intellectual property community.

Mr. Vidovich received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Penn State and started his career in the Office over 23 year ago.

Drew Hirshfeld

Drew Hirshfeld is Commissioner for Patents for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He was appointed to this position in July 2015.

As Commissioner for Patents, Mr. Hirshfeld manages and leads the patent organization as its chief operating officer. He is responsible for managing and directing all aspects of this organization which affect administration of patent operations, examination policy, patent quality management, international patent cooperation, resources and planning, and budget administration.

In his previous role as Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, Mr. Hirshfeld served as an authority on patent laws, rules, and examining practice and procedure, and provided administrative oversight and direction for the activities of the Office of Petitions, Office of Patent Legal Administration, and the Office of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure. Further, Mr. Hirshfeld established patent examination and documentation policy standards for the Commissioner for Patents.

Prior to serving as Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, Mr. Hirshfeld was the Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. Mr. Hirshfeld began his career at the USPTO in 1994 as a Patent Examiner. He became a Supervisory Patent Examiner in 2001, and was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in 2008 as a Group Director in Technology Center 2100, Computer Architecture and Software.

Mr. Hirshfeld received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Vermont, and a J.D. from Western New England College School of Law.

James Dwyer

James (Jim) Dwyer retired with 36 years at the USPTO and is currently working in an advisory role for the Office as a retired annuitant. During his career at the USPTO he served as a patent examiner and in various patent management positions, including his last 6 years as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations. Mr. Dwyer has a long commitment to patent quality – he authored and implemented the Centralized Reexamination Unit, reengineered the Office of Patent Training, and implemented statistical review of quality data in the Quality Index Review used to track inefficiency and low quality in the patent examining process. Mr. Dwyer received his B.S. in electrical engineering from University of Maryland in 1978.

Andrea Wellington

Andrea Wellington is a senior advisor to the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality where she currently focuses on the development and implementation of projects associated with the USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative. Ms. Wellington began her career at the USPTO as a Patent Examiner in Group 350 examining applications in the Clutch and Transmission technologies. She was selected in 1997 as a Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) in Technology Center 3700 managing manufacturing technologies and, in 2006, she served as a SPE in Technology Center 2006 managing the dynamic memory device technologies. Ms. Wellington has served in various detailed positions for the agency since joining the USPTO, including the Office of Petitions, the Office of PCT, the Office of Patent Information Management, the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, and the Office of Patent Training. Recently, she served on a detail to the non-profit organization, Partnership for Public Service, where she led many projects serving the federal government as a whole. Ms. Wellington received her B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Lawrence Technological University and her J.D. from The George Washington University Law School. Ms. Wellington is a recipient of many awards including a National Performance Review Award, two Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Awards, an Exceptional Career Award and a Leadership in Action Award for superior service as a manager.

Kathleen Bragdon

Kathleen Kerr Bragdon holds a B.A. degree from Connecticut College and a Ph.D. degree from Brandeis University, both in biochemistry. Following a postdoctoral position in the Laboratory of Cell Biology at the National Cancer Institute, NIH, Dr. Bragdon joined the USPTO, specifically in Technology Center 1600 for Biotechnology & Organic Chemistry, in 1999 and examined patent applications in classes 435 and 514 concerning recombinant enzymes and their applications. Dr. Bragdon was recognized as examining Master's level art in 2003, became a primary examiner in 2004, and received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award in 2005. Further in 2005, she became the supervisory patent examiner of Art Unit 1656 examining enzymology and protein crystallography patent applications. In 2008, Dr. Bragdon accepted a position as a Quality Assurance Specialist for Technology Center 1600. Her roles in training and quality assurance prepared her to accept a detail in 2013 that focused on AIA First Inventor to File implementation and training for both examiners and the public; Dr. Bragdon received a Department of Commerce Gold Medal award for this work. Dr. Bragdon recently accepted a new position as Senior Advisor to Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality where she focuses on the development and implementation of the USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative.

Hope Shimabuku

As the Director of the Texas Regional United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Hope Shimabuku carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, and is responsible for leading the Texas regional office. Focusing on the region and actively engaging with the community, Ms. Shimabuku ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders.

Ms. Shimabuku brings to the USPTO nearly two decades of experience as an engineer and intellectual property attorney. Most recently, Ms. Shimabuku was part of the Office of General Counsel at Xerox Corporation serving as Vice President and Corporate Counsel responsible for all intellectual property matters for Xerox Business Services, LLC. She also worked for BlackBerry Corporation advising on United States and Chinese standards setting, cyber security, technology transfer, and intellectual property laws and legislation. As an engineer, she worked for Procter & Gamble and Dell Computer Corporation.

Ms. Shimabuku is a leader in the Texas region. She currently serves as the Chair for the State Bar of Texas Intellectual Property Section and sits on the Board of Visitors for the University of North Texas Law School. She served as Pupilage Group Leader, a Barrister Member and Inaugural Member of the Barbara M.G. Lynn IP Inn of Court, and served as a facilitator for the DFW Women in Intellectual Property group. She is a past president of the Dallas Asian American Bar Association, chaired the Dallas Diversity Task Force, and served on the board of the Dallas Bar Association and as a member of the Grievance Committee for the State Bar of Texas – District 6.

Throughout her career, Ms. Shimabuku has championed diversity efforts, and was honored with the DCEO Champion of Diversity Award by the Association of Corporate Counsel. She has also received numerous professional honors, including being recognized as the 2016 Hero of Innovation by the Institute for Law and Technology, selected as a Dallas Business Journal "Top 40 Under Forty," named Dallas Business Journal's Corporate Counsel Rookie of the Year, and selected as one of DCEO's "500 Most Powerful Business Leaders."

Ms. Shimabuku received a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin, and graduated cum laude with a J.D. from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She is a native Texan, born and raised in Houston, Texas. She currently lives in Flower Mound, Texas, with her husband and two daughters.

Daniel Ryman

Daniel Ryman holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. In 2002, Mr. Ryman joined the USPTO as a patent examiner in an art unit focusing on multiplex communications, and he was recognized as examining Master's level art in 2006. In 2007, Mr. Ryman became a primary examiner, and in the following year, he received a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School and accepted a position as a Supervisory Patent Examiner in the multiplex communications area in Technology Center 2600. In 2011, Mr. Ryman joined the Central Reexamination Unit as a Supervisory Patent Reexamination Specialist in the electrical area. Mr. Ryman received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award in 2009 and the Exceptional Career Award in 2015. In 2014, Mr. Ryman accepted a year-long detail at the non-profit organization Partnership for Public Service, and upon his return to the USPTO in 2015, he accepted a new position as Senior Advisor to Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality where he focuses on the development and implementation of the USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative.

Molly Kocialski

As the Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), since January 2016, Mollybeth (Molly) Kocialski carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, and is responsible for leading the Rocky Mountain regional office. Focusing on the nine states within this region and actively engaging with the community, Ms. Kocialski ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders.

Ms. Kocialski brings more than 20 years of intellectual property experience to the USPTO. Most recently, Ms. Kocialski was the Senior Patent Counsel for Oracle America, Inc, where she was responsible for managing an active patent prosecution docket and was also responsible for all of the post-grant procedures and patent investigations for Oracle and its subsidiaries. Prior to Oracle, she worked at Qwest Corporation and was also in private practice in both New York and Colorado focusing on intellectual property litigation for multiple high-tech companies while maintaining an active prosecution docket.

Ms. Kocialski is a recognized IP leader in the Rocky Mountain region. Ms. Kocialski currently serves on the Colorado Federal Executive Board's Executive Committee. Ms. Kocialski is the Vice President of the Colorado IP Inn of Court and was previously the Chair of the Planning Committee and a member of the Board of Directors of the Colorado IP Inn of Court. Further, Ms. Kocialski is a member of the Planning Committee for the Rocky Mountain Intellectual Property Institute, an annual two-day conference on intellectual property that attracts over 500 attendees. She was the Chair of the Intellectual Property Section of the Colorado Bar Association and served on the Colorado Bar Association's Board of Governors. Ms. Kocialski served as the head of the IP Committee and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel and served on the National IP Committee of the Association of the Corporate Counsel. In 2015, Ms. Kocialski was recognized by *ManagingIP* magazine as one of its North America Corporate IP Stars.

Ms. Kocialski is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law and received a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of New Mexico. Ms. Kocialski is a registered patent attorney and is admitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the New York and Colorado state bars as well as to the United States Courts in those jurisdictions.

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.