

Valencia Martin Wallace

Valencia Martin Wallace is Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality. She was appointed to this position in January 2015. In her role as Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality, Ms. Martin Wallace manages and leads the Patent Organization's Office of Quality Management, as well as the patent quality enhancement initiatives. She is responsible for improving the high quality of the USPTO's patent examination processes, products and customer satisfaction by implementing and maintaining a comprehensive quality management system. As part of her twenty-three year career at the USPTO, she 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 during the examination process.

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.

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 EPQI projects 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 community.

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

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.

Dan 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 BA 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.

Jim Dwyer

Jim Dwyer retired with 36 years at the USPTO and is currently working in an advisory role for the Patent and Trademark Office as a retired annuitant. During his career at the PTO 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.

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. Andrea 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. Andrea 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. Andrea received her B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Lawrence Technological University and her J.D. from The George Washington University Law School. Andrea 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, Kathleen 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. Kathleen 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, Kathleen 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. Currently, Kathleen is on detail with the new Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality Valencia Martin Wallace assigned to the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative working on its development and implementation.

Marty Rater

Mr. 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.

Dan Ryman

Daniel Ryman holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. In 2002, Daniel 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, Daniel 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, Daniel joined the Central Reexamination Unit as a Supervisory Patent Reexamination Specialist in the electrical area. Daniel received the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award in 2009 and the Exceptional Career Award in 2015. In 2014, Daniel accepted a year-long detail at the non-profit organization Partnership for Public Service, and upon his return to the USPTO in 2015, he began a detail in the Office of Patent Quality where he focuses on the development and implementation of projects associated with the USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative.