

Gain an Examiner's Perspective



Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP)

Training delivered through STEPP is designed to provide external stakeholders with a better understanding of how and why an examiner makes decisions while examining a patent application. In person courses are led by USPTO trainers and based on material developed for training employees of the USPTO.

Program Description

The STEPP program provides unique, day-in-the-life, experiences to those attending training. Material used within the program is derived from training delivered to patent examiners and other USPTO employees.

What does STEPP Cover?

The same examination practice and procedure training provided to USPTO staff is now available to external stakeholders.

Learn what an examiner must consider in preparing an office action, and what examiners are taught to interpret an applicant's disclosure.

Why Participate?

STEPP provides perspective by detailing what an examiner considers in preparing an office action. Training focuses on how an examiner is taught to use the MPEP to make patentability determinations and write an office action. Gaining perspective of an examiner's point of view will increase your situational awareness which can aid in compact prosecution.

Payment and Credit

STEPP courses are free of charge. The USPTO will apply for CLE accreditation for specific courses within the program. Please contact STEPPtraining@uspto.gov for additional information.

Please visit the STEPP website for more information:

<http://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/stakeholder-training-examination-practice-and-procedure-stepp>

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Upcoming Events

In-Person Training

Title	Dates	Audience	Location	Registration
Agent/Attorney 3-Day Course	Nov. 14-16, 2017	*Agents and Attorneys	Denver, CO - Rocky Mountain Regional Office	Sept. 5 - Oct. 1, 2017
Agent/Attorney 3-Day Course	Jan. 9-11, 2018	*Agents and Attorneys	Dallas, TX - Texas Regional Office	Oct. 30 - Nov. 26, 2017
Inventor 3-Day Course	Feb. 6-8, 2018	**Inventors	Alexandria, VA - USPTO Headquarters	Oct. 30 - Dec. 3, 2017
Agent/Attorney 3-Day Course	Mar. 20-22, 2018	*Agents and Attorneys	Detroit, MI - Midwest Regional Office	Jan. 8 - Feb. 11, 2018
Agent/Attorney 3-Day Course	May 22-24, 2018	*Agents and Attorneys	Alexandria, VA - USPTO Headquarters	Mar. 12 - Apr. 8, 2018
Agent/Attorney 3-Day Course	Jul. 17-19, 2018	*Agents and Attorneys	San Jose, CA - Silicon Valley Regional Office	May 7 - Jun. 3, 2018
Inventor 3-Day Course	Aug. 14-16, 2018	**Inventors	Alexandria, VA - USPTO Headquarters	Apr. 30 - Jun. 18, 2018
Agent/Attorney 3-Day Course	Sept. 11-13, 2018	*Agents and Attorneys	Alexandria, VA - USPTO Headquarters	Jul. 2 - Jul. 29, 2018

VILT Hops: Online Virtual Instructor Led Training

Title	Dates	Audience	Duration	Registration
Claim Interpretation - Preambles	Feb. 13, 2018	All	1.5 Hours	Jan. 8 - Feb. 4, 2018
Claim Interpretation - Product By Process	Apr. 3, 2018	All	1.5 Hours	Mar. 5 - Mar. 25, 2018
Functional Language Workshop - Claim Interpretation and Definiteness Under 35 U.S.C. 112(b)	Apr. 17, 2018	*Agents and Attorneys	1.5 Hours	Mar. 5 - Apr. 8, 2018
Claim Interpretation - Functional Language including Means Plus Function	Jun. 12, 2018	All	2 Hours	Apr. 30 - May 28, 2018
Inherency, 35 U.S.C. 102/103 Rejections, and Official Notice	Aug. 7, 2018	All	1.5 Hours	Jul. 2 - Jul. 29, 2018

*Agents and Attorneys - Those registered to practice law in patent matters before the USPTO

** Inventors - Those not registered to practice law in patent matters before the USPTO

Note: All courses, times, and dates are subject to change and may be canceled at any time prior to registration opening. All VILT sessions will begin at 1 p.m. ET on the day of training unless otherwise notified.

