

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 for Registered Agents and Attorneys

3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure

| Dates | Location |
|-----------------------|---|
| January 10-12, 2017 | Dallas, TX—Texas Regional Office |
| March 14-16, 2017 | San Jose, CA—Silicon Valley Regional Office |
| May 9-11, 2017 | Denver, CO—Rocky Mountain Regional Office |
| July 11-13, 2017 | Alexandria, VA—USPTO Campus |
| September 19-21, 2017 | Detroit, MI—Midwest Regional Office |

Course Description: 3-Day Training on Examination Practice and Procedure

This training is intended for those who have recently passed the patent bar to represent applicants before the USPTO. The training will make use of statutes, rules, and guidelines relevant to practicing before the USPTO.

Training focuses on how patent examiners examine patent applications according to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP). The training is broken into three separate modules. Similar to the training of entry level examiners a sample application will be provided to each trainee and will be the focus of exercises during each module.

Day 1 focuses on the role of an examiner and the steps an examiner would take when reading an application for the first time. Claim interpretation and 35 USC 101 and 112 are emphasized on Day 1.

Day 2 uses the information gathered during Day 1 to plan a search, conduct a search, and map prior art to claims using 35 USC 102 and 103.

Day 3 focuses on the writing of an office action, including a discussion of restriction practices, as well as post-examination options such as the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) and the Central Reexamination Unit (CRU).

Please note, the content and schedule of this course is subject to change.



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Upcoming Events for Inventors

Inventor 3-Day Course

| Dates | Location |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| June 20-22, 2017 | Alexandria, VA—USPTO Campus |

Course Description: Inventor 3-Day Course

This course is provided through a partnership between the Office of Patent Training (OPT) and the Office of Innovation and Development (OID) and is intended for current and future inventors. The course is not intended for those interested in representing applicants before the USPTO. Prior to attending the course, those accepted will be required to review several computer based training (CBT) modules prior to the start of the course. Similar to the training of entry level examiners a sample application will be provided to each trainee and will be the focus of exercises throughout Day 2 and Day 3. For a detailed schedule please view the Inventor 3-Day Course Schedule.

Day 1 of training begins with a discussion of the patent application process and the role OID plays in helping independent inventors throughout patent prosecution. The end of Day 1 utilizes exercises to refresh attendee's knowledge gained from the CBT modules completed prior to training.

Day 2 focuses on the role of a patent examiner and the steps an examiner would take when reading an application for the first time and how an examiner is taught to map prior art to claims.

Day 3 starts with a discussion of examiner office actions and applicant's response with respect to the sample application. The second half of Day 3 begins with a workshop on USPTO restriction practice and concludes with a discussion of additional resources available to inventors.

Please note, the content and schedule of this course is subject to change.

