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To: [successact](#)
Subject: SUCCESS Act Study
Date: Sunday, June 30, 2019 10:11:30 PM
Attachments: [sigimg0](#)

To whom it may concern:

Please find my oral testimony to several of the Issues for Comment below:

(3) What social and private benefits would you identify as resulting from increasing the number of patents applied for and obtained by women, minorities, and veterans?

Generally speaking, patents and patentable ideas are born from a problem that a person or group of persons are or have experienced. Noting that women, minorities, and veterans experience different problems as underrepresented classes, the ability for these classes to increase their number of patents can also aid in aiding society as a whole, which is the entire purpose of the patent system.

(4) What social and private benefits to small businesses owned by women, minorities, and veterans would you identify as resulting from increasing the number of patents applied for and obtained by those businesses?

Increasing the number of patents for these underrepresented classes also increases their access to funding (e.g., venture capital, etc.) because investors view their ventures as less of a risk if intellectual property has been obtained. This would also increase the opportunity for them to compete in the marketplace competitively without having their product ripped off.

(6) To what extent, if at all, do educational and professional circumstances affect the ability of women, minorities, and veterans to apply for and obtain patents or to pursue entrepreneurial activities?

Additional financial resources for minorities, women, and veterans to pursue patents and patent careers is much needed in this field. They are already disadvantaged by a lack of knowledge regarding career opportunities as patent practitioners, which inevitably can allow them to pursue their entrepreneurial efforts, but even with that knowledge, they need the financial means to pursue such. These issues are directly related to the lack of diversity and opportunity for minorities to succeed within many law firms. Therefore acquiring such knowledge about patents and the patent field can allow these groups to mitigate at least some of these issues they are currently plagued with.

(7) To what extent, if at all, do socioeconomic factors facilitate or hinder the ability of women, minorities, and veterans to apply for and obtain patents or to pursue entrepreneurial activities?

The mere cost of patents and the process associated therewith can be cost prohibitive for most women, minorities, and veterans. Being that these same groups do not have access to the same levels of education, profession, and financial means, the cost of the patenting system affects them at a greater magnitude.

(8) What entities or institutions, if any, should or should not play an active role in promoting the participation of women, minorities, and veterans in the patent system and entrepreneurial activities?

The National Council on Patent Practicum (NCP) is not only an organization developed to

streamline the quality of patent practitioners entering the profession and maintain quality of those already in the profession, but it is a goal of the NCPP to aid minorities in entering the profession, which also helps them to pursue entrepreneurial efforts based on the knowledge they have obtained through the NCPPs programming. For example, the NCPP is currently partnering with the National Society of Black Engineers and the National Bar Association to provide access to these educational and professional opportunities to minorities and women engineers and scientists.

(10) What action could USPTO take to address the participation of women, minorities, and veterans in the patent system and entrepreneurial activities?

More scholarships to pursue education in this field, and partner with more organizations that view this as a top priority.

(11) Are there policies, programs, or other targeted activities shown to be effective at recruiting and retaining women, minorities, and veterans in innovative and entrepreneurial activities?

The National Council on Patent Practicum has programs and vendor partners that have been effective at recruiting and retaining women and minorities in the patent profession, thereby providing them with the knowledge and resources they need to pursue additional entrepreneurial activities.

Best regards,

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