

# PATHWAYS TO INCLUSIVE INNOVATION

## SPEAKERS



### Derrick Brent

**Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Derrick Brent is the Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He serves as the principal advisor to Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for

Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, for one of the largest intellectual property (IP) offices in the world, with more than 13,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$4 billion.

Deputy Director Brent has served in all three branches of the federal government and the private sector. He clerked for the Hon. Algenon L. Marbley, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, and served for six years as a Senior Trial Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, where he received a Special Achievement Award for his trial work. He also served as a Chief Counsel in the U.S. Senate, where handled IP issues along with other areas such as constitutional law, civil rights, and judicial nominations.

Deputy Director Brent's experience in the private sector includes serving as Vice President/Associate General Counsel for Masimo, on the leadership team at Cut Golf, and as an engineer at General Motors.

Deputy Director Brent received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from The Ohio State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the Northwestern University School of Law (now the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law).



## Will Covey

### **Deputy General Counsel and Director for the Office of Enrollment and Discipline**

As Deputy General Counsel, Mr. Covey is responsible for ensuring that the nation's patent attorneys and agents are of good moral character and sufficiently knowledgeable to practice before the USPTO. Mr. Covey's team of attorneys and other professionals develops and administers a registration examination designed to measure an applicant's knowledge of patent law and practice. Successful applicants are registered to practice by OED. In addition, OED investigates complaints of unethical conduct made against individuals practicing patent and/or trademark law before the USPTO.

Mr. Covey has held a number of key positions at the USPTO, including Acting General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel for the Office of General Law. Mr. Covey was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2007.

Mr. Covey received his undergraduate degree from Fordham University (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) and earned his J.D. from Fordham University Law School in 1991. He graduated from Harvard University's JFK School of Government (Senior Executive Fellowship) in 2005 and the U.S. Army War College with an M.S. in Strategic Studies in 2010.

Prior to joining the USPTO in 2000, Mr. Covey was a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. He also served on active duty in the Pentagon, and was a senior officer in the Army Reserve assigned to the Office of the Army Staff, Office of the Judge Advocate General. He completed combat tours in Iraq (2007) and Afghanistan (2011) and served as Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Covey retired from the Army in February 2022.



## James Silberman

### **Senior Counsel for Enrollment and Intellectual Property Legal Services Office of Enrollment and Discipline**

James M. Silberman is USPTO's Senior Counsel for Enrollment and Intellectual Property Legal Services in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline. He leads a team of attorneys that are responsible for all aspects of enrollment to practice before the USPTO, including development of the registration examination to measure an applicants' knowledge of patent law and practice. He also is responsible for oversight and management of the USPTO Patent Pro Bono and Law School Clinic Certification Programs.

Mr. Silbermann is also responsible for Office of Enrollment and Discipline rulemaking and other non-disciplinary matters.

Prior to becoming Senior Counsel, Mr. Silbermann was a staff attorney in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline handling enrollment and discipline matters and also supervising the Law School Clinical Certification Program. Before joining USPTO in 2005, Mr. Silbermann worked at the law firm of Dickstein Shapiro Morin & Oshinsky LLP in Washington, D.C. and the Washington, DC office of Foley & Lardner LLP, where he specialized in intellectual property acquisitions, patent litigation and prosecution, and client consultation.

Mr. Silbermann received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park, and his J.D. degree, magna cum laude, from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, where he was an editor of the Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy.



## Tim Rooney

### **Patent Attorney for the Office of Enrollment and Discipline**

Mr. Rooney is a Patent Attorney at the Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED) of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). His duties include investigating grievances alleging ethical misconduct by practitioners, evaluating

applications for registration to practice before the USPTO in patent matters, and assisting with outreach to USPTO stakeholders. He received his bachelors of science in Biology from Virginia Tech and his J.D. from the George Mason University School of Law. Prior to joining the USPTO, he practiced patent law at Pillsbury Winthrop, specializing in patent procurement and intellectual property transactions.



## Anand Desai

### **Patent Pro Bono Coordinator Detailee**

Anand Desai received a doctorate in Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics from the University of Maryland and Graduate Partnership Program at National Institutes of Health. Anand's research focused on the expression of glutamate gated channels during brain development. Anand has been working at the United States Patent and Trademark Office since June 2003 as a patent examiner in the biotechnology center. Anand is currently on detail with the Patent Pro Bono Program.



## Melanie Canter

### **Staff Attorney for the Office of Enrollment and Discipline**

Melanie Canter joined the USPTO in 2016 as a Staff Attorney in the Office of Enrollment and Discipline. In that role, Ms. Canter investigates grievances alleging ethical misconduct by individuals who practice before the USPTO in patent or trademark matters. Ms. Canter also assists in administering the USPTO Patent Pro Bono Program and the USPTO Law School

Clinic Certification Program.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Ms. Canter was an Assistant Executive Attorney for the Board on Professional Responsibility of the District of Columbia Bar, where she advised volunteer members on the hearing and disposition of attorney discipline cases and represented the Board in matters before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Previously, Ms. Canter practiced law as a litigation attorney in a law firm in New York City. In private practice, Ms. Canter primarily handled commercial and intellectual property litigation.

Ms. Canter received her Bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary and her J.D. from The George Washington University Law School. She is admitted to practice law in New York and Washington, D.C.



## Mariessa Terrell

### **Trademark Examining Attorney**

Mariessa Terrell began her trademark law career at the USPTO in 2000. After her departure from the USPTO, Mariessa worked as a solo trademark practitioner; in-house trademark attorney consultant for Lockheed Martin and Leidos Corporations; and trademark and fashion law professor at her alma mater Howard University School of Law (HUSL). In 2015, Mariessa was

recruited to manage the USPTO Trademark Law Clinic at HUSL and was instrumental in helping to develop a Patent Clinic at HUSL in 2019.

Mariessa returned to the USPTO in 2020 and currently works as a trademark attorney advisor in the office of Trademarks Customer Outreach where she delivers educational content on advanced trademark topics to experienced practitioners. She earned her J.D from Howard University School of Law; her B.A., magna cum laude, from Pace University in New York City; and is admitted to the Maryland and District of Columbia bar associations. In her spare time, Mariessa volunteers with the High Tea Society, a life skills program for Washington, DC girls.



## Jennifer Simmons

**Director, Government Relations, Washington, D.C.,  
International Trademark Association (INTA)**

As Director of Government Relations, Ms. Simmons is INTA's liaison with federal government officials and contributes to the development of INTA's positions on national and global intellectual property (IP) issues.

Prior to joining INTA in 2019, Ms. Simmons served as Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, at the United States Trade Representative (USTR). She was the lead IP attorney for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement and engaged with Congress and industry stakeholders. Ms. Simmons also served as Pro Bono Coordinator in the Office of the Under Secretary and Director, and as Associate Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).



## Nick Rajpara

**Economic Development Specialist at the U.S. Small  
Business Administration (SBA)**

Nirav "Nick" Rajpara is an Economic Development Specialist at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Washington D.C. Area Metro Office (WMADO). In this role, he collaborates with local: SBA Resource Partners, (public and private) economic development organizations, and other stakeholders to develop, bolster and support informational initiatives which aid and assist small business and entrepreneurs across the national capital region.

In addition, he is the Program Manager for SBA's "Train. Hope. Rise. Innovate. Venture. Elevate." (T.H.R.I.V.E.) (Emerging Leaders Reimagined) initiative, a CEO-level acceleration academy which guides small business leaders on scaling and growing their business.

Nick is the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Project Officer for WMADO. He oversees and collaborates with local SBDC networks in the Washington, DC metro area. Prior to joining the SBA, Nick served as a Small Business Counselor for the DC-SBDC at Howard University. He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and a Master's degree in Public Policy from Pepperdine University. He has a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Riverside.