

Cassandra (Sandie) Spyrou holds a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Widener University. Sandie joined the USPTO in 1989 and examined patent applications in both the technological arts of cameras and musical instruments becoming a primary examiner in 1995. While a Primary Examiner, she received a Department of Commerce Bronze Medal for her contributions to the development of an innovative training program for new hires and the 1997 Office of Civil Rights Director's award for her support of the equal employment opportunity program. Sandie was selected as a Supervisory Patent Examiner in the technology of Optical Elements in 1998 and stepped into a newly developed position as the first Training Quality Assurance Specialist for Technology Center 2800 in 2002. In 2008, she took on the leadership role for the quality program in TC 2800 first as a Workgroup Coordinator and then in 2011 as the Quality Subject Matter Expert. Sandie has served as acting Group Director both 2008 and 2013 and earned for her individual performance the Department of Commerce Bronze medal in 2009, the USPTO Exceptional Career award in 2010 and the Distinguished Career award in 2013. 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. Sandie recently received a Department of Commerce Gold Medal award for her work on the AIA First Inventor to File implementation. Sandie recently accepted a new position as Senior Advisor to Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality Valencia Martin Wallace where she focuses on the development and implementation of the USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative.