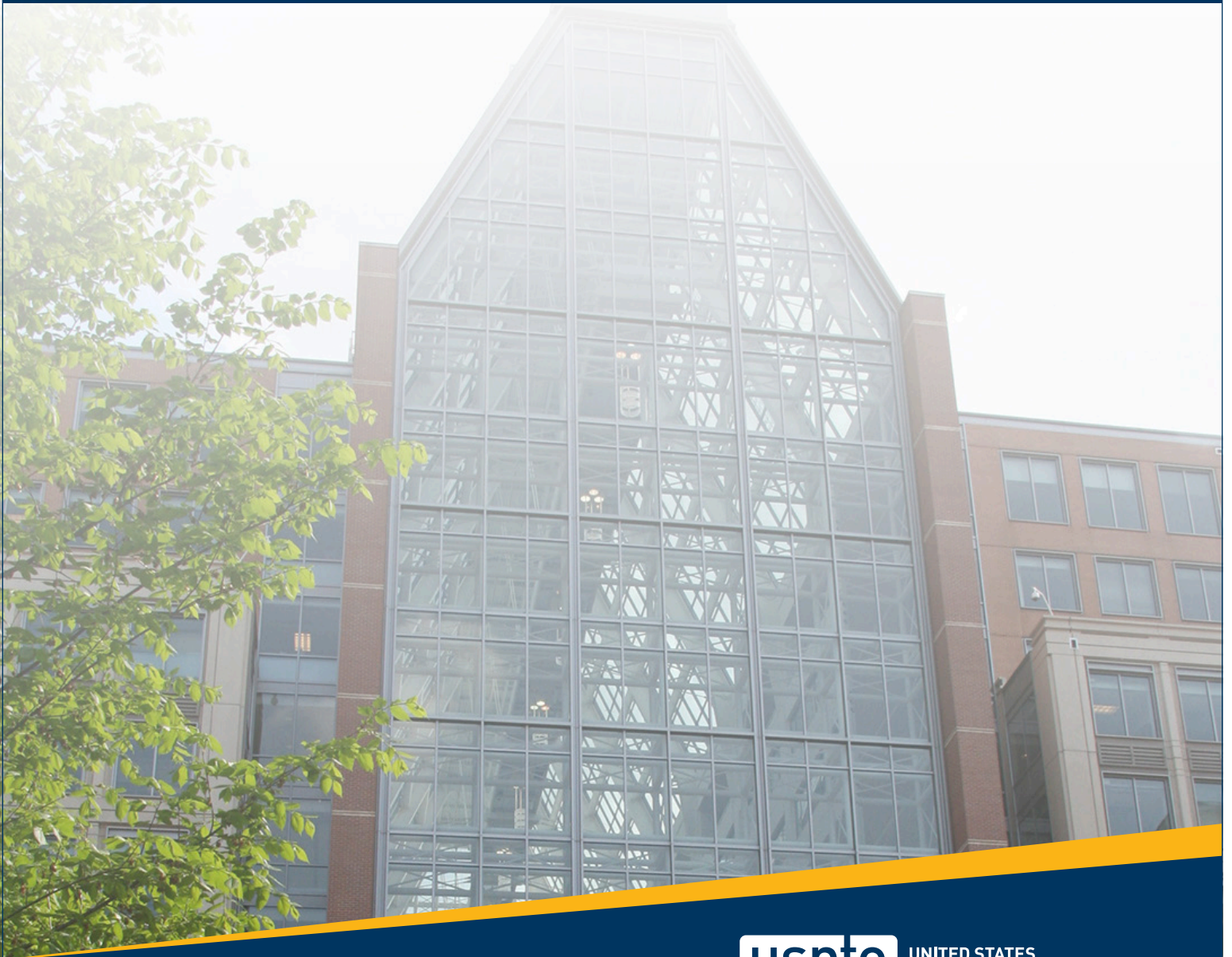


Join the Trademarks legal team at USPTO

Registering America's success

Learn about a career as a
Trademark Examining Attorney
at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

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Join our team as a trademark examining attorney at the USPTO

If you are an attorney, a law school professor looking for unique intellectual property career opportunities to share with your students, or a law school student looking for a solid, interesting career path at the cutting edge of innovation—read on!

About Trademarks

The Trademarks organization is part of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. Our mission is to register trademarks with exceptional quality and provide excellent customer service.

Who qualifies to be a trademark examining attorney?

To apply, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or national
- Possess a law degree (or graduate law school before the vacancy closes)
- Have active Bar membership in any state, D.C., or Puerto Rico

Learn more about becoming a trademark examining attorney

Like all federal government jobs, any open vacancy will be posted on USAJOBS.gov.

If you:	Apply to be a:
Are graduating from law school before the vacancy closes and will complete Bar admission within 14 months of being hired	Law clerk (GS-9). Once your Bar admission is complete, new GS-9 hires will be immediately converted to GS-11. No prior experience is required.
Have a Law degree and will complete Bar admission within 14 months of being hired	
Have a law degree, an active Bar membership in good standing, and no prior experience	Trademark examining attorney (GS-11). The GS-12-14 vacancy is for former USPTO trademark examining attorneys only.
Are a practicing attorney with no trademark experience	
Are a practicing attorney and have experience with Trademarks outside of the USPTO	
Are a practicing attorney and previously worked as USPTO trademark examining attorney	Trademark examining attorney (GS-12-14).

About the vacancies

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3XQyoPr>



A career based on core values

We look for top talent whose core values align with ours: **commitment, collaboration, customer service,** and **community**. These convey how relationships play a central role in our work.

Commitment

As a trademark examining attorney, you will be a committed public servant, serving the intellectual property needs of America's innovation community.

What do trademark examining attorneys do?

Trademark examining attorneys review trademark applications for compliance with the Lanham Act for the purpose of determining registrability in the United States. They research and write correspondences to applicants on various statutory and procedural issues, work with applicants to correct informal defects in applications, and approve applications for publication and registration. They also draft appeal briefs and represent the USPTO before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB).

When you join our team as a trademark examining attorney, you will conduct preliminary review of applications which may pose complex factual and legal questions, analyze the record, evaluate facts, and determine questions of law. You will recommend approval of a mark for publication for opposition or draft the final position of the agency on an application during the examination stage. Issues that may arise include likelihood of confusion; ownership; use of the mark in commerce; descriptive or generic uses of the mark; acquired distinctiveness; functionality; and/or ornamentation. You may speak with an applicant or attorney in order to resolve these issues. You may also prep cases for TTAB ex parte appeal.

Collaboration

Learning to become a trademark examining attorney is a collaborative process. To begin, you'll receive extensive training to help you serve in your new career to the best of your ability. The Trademarks organization proudly offers a comprehensive training program through the Academy. No previous trademark experience is necessary. Training is a two-year process where the new attorney gains successive competence and independence and becomes a trademark legal expert.



"For law students wanting to serve in this role, I highly recommend participating in a trademark clinic if their law school offers one. I also tell everyone to take administrative law in law school!"

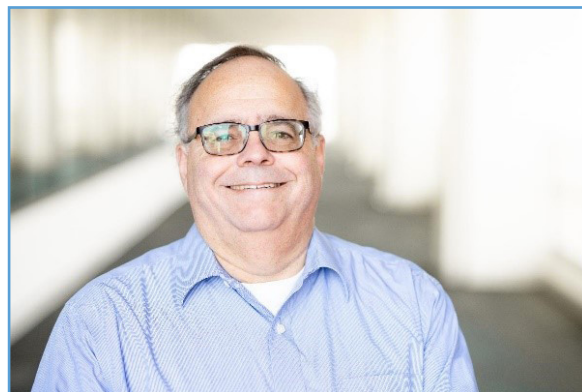
— Edward P., Trademark Examining Attorney

Additionally, mentorship programs are provided to all trademark examining attorneys. Through this program, you'll gain valuable career and professional insight that helps you grow. The mentor-mentee relationship is one that is consistently described as one that is valuable and beneficial, both personally and professionally. Mentees can expect to receive detailed, specific, and practical feedback from their mentors that directly relates to their goals, challenges, and aspirations at work.

Customer Service

Trademark examining attorneys serve customers: the individual or organization that files the trademark application. In doing so, they help American innovators protect their intellectual property. This improves the American economy by bolstering the market and encouraging creative innovation. It also protects against the negative impacts of counterfeit products.

Oftentimes after the registration process has completed, the applicant will reach back out to the examining attorney just to say "Thank you," or, "I really appreciate all the time you spent with me in getting this trademark registration." Trademark examining attorneys often report that this is a wonderful part of their jobs—and it's part of the USPTO's commitment to excellent customer service.



"It's interesting work—you get to talk to people inside and outside of work. You get to see what's going on in the market. I'm proud to have worked on trademarks that are currently in market."

— Howard S., Trademark Examining Attorney

Community

As a trademark examining attorney, you'll have the opportunity to bond with colleagues, while still getting your work done through a flex-time schedule that meets your need for work-life balance.

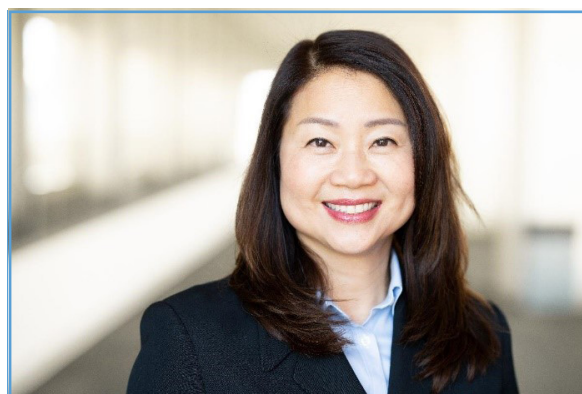


"Overall, the USPTO is a great place and your colleagues are very helpful. It's congenial overall. There is a clear vision and expectation of your role."

— Carol S., Trademark Examining Attorney

Benefits

A trademark attorney career at the USPTO also grants you access to impressive, extensive federal employee benefits, including health, life and long-term care insurance, paid annual and sick leave, and retirement benefits under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) and Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) including a Roth TSP feature. Examining attorneys are eligible for reimbursement of Bar dues as well as public transportation subsidies.



"This is the perfect job for those that want a professional career and to raise a family."

— Alex K., Trademark Examining Attorney

