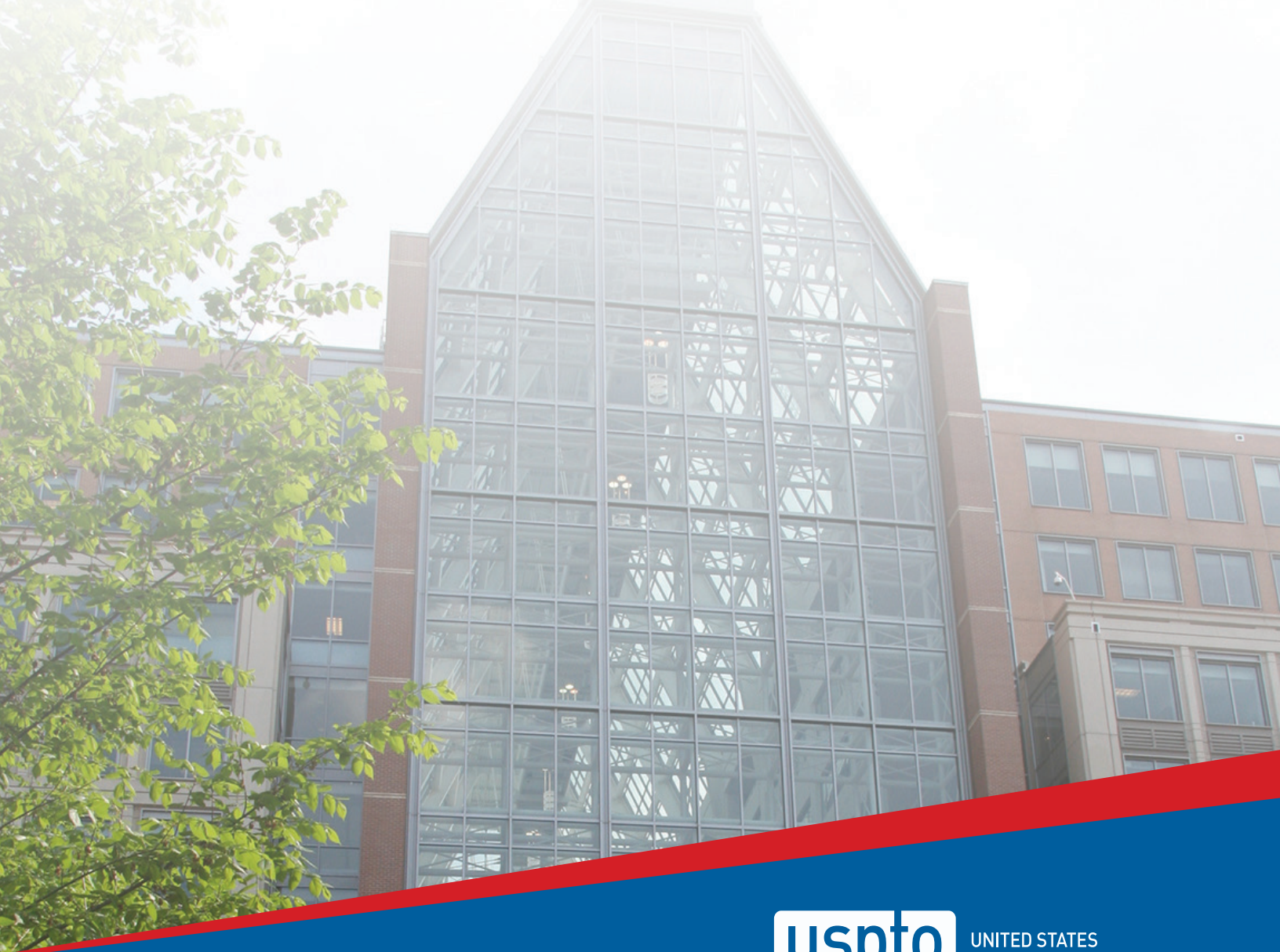


Join the Trademarks legal team at USPTO

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®

Join the Trademarks legal team at USPTO

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Join our team as a trademark examining attorney at the USPTO

Purpose

This brochure provides information about Trademark Examining Attorney roles at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (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 USPTO, a federal agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Trademarks organization employs over 1000 employees and is growing rapidly. 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

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.



*"If you are into brands, current trends, events, and law—this is the job for you."
- Samantha M., Trademark Examining Attorney*

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.

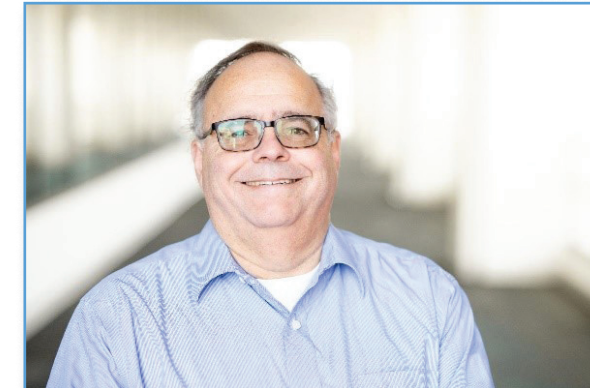


"Everyone gets a mentor, no matter what. But you don't keep the same one; you change mentors to understand other perspectives. This allows consistent guidance within the first two years of work. I really like the outside perspective it provides. It provides help with cases, life advice, career path, general support, and creative strategies."
– Karen O., Trademark Examining Attorney

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 remote, flex-time schedule that meets your need for work-life balance. The USPTO features an award-winning telework program that allows trademark examining attorneys the opportunity to work at home full time and utilize flexible work schedules.



“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

The USPTO also prides itself on providing a vibrant, diverse community and inclusive environment. We value and actively recruit professionals who are veterans and individuals with disabilities. There are also 30 officially recognized volunteer employee organizations (VEOs) that champion the principles of diversity and inclusion by creating opportunities for information sharing, learning, cultural and intellectual exchange, and open dialogue. They're open to all employees and formed around a shared interest or goal. Each VEO provides a unique opportunity for employees to engage with one another and with agency leaders.



"My favorite part of the job is the flexibility. I tend to work 'late' hours until 6:00 p.m.—but don't start until 10:00 a.m., and I flex within the day. I enjoy working a few hours, and then I take a walk. Later, I tend to get online after dinner because it's quiet and I can focus."
- Karen O., Trademark Examining Attorney



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

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. Annual salary* as of May 2023: \$64,957-\$84,441
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-12/13/14 vacancy is for former USPTO trademark examining attorneys only. Annual salary* as of May 2023: \$78,592-\$102,166
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). Annual salary* as of May 2023: \$94,199-\$172,075

*Salaries based on OPM salary tables for the DC-MD-VA area.

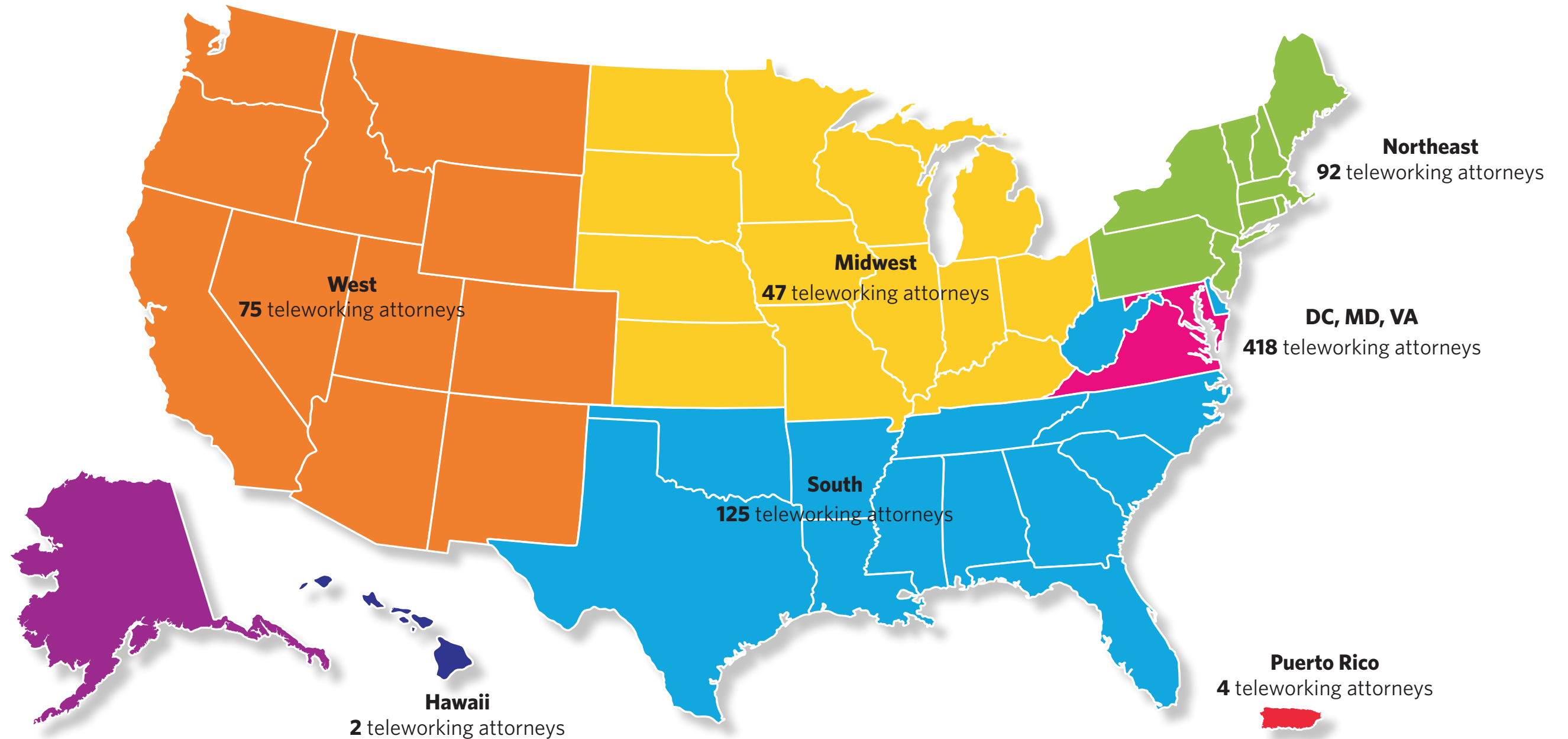
About the vacancies

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



Work with us, wherever you are

The USPTO offers an award-winning telework program that allows over 10,000 employees to work at home full time and utilize flexible work schedules. **Trademark examining attorneys make up nearly 1,000 of these professionals who work to expand innovation across the US!**



Trademark teleworking attorneys in the U.S.

West 75	Northeast 92
Midwest 47	Alaska 0
South 125	Hawaii 2
DC, MD, VA 418	Puerto Rico 4

Did you know?

Approximately 97% of all USPTO employees telework at least part-time, and 86% telework full-time.

