

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



USPTO Hour

Introduction to the Office of Enrollment and Discipline

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UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

Practitioner Enrollment

Who are “practitioners”?

- Registered patent practitioner
- Trademark practitioner
- Limited recognition practitioner
- Law School Clinic Certification Program practitioner

See 37 CFR § 11.1

How do I become a patent practitioner?

- Apply! (Applicant portal)
<https://oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI/>

Applicant portal

Start an application, complete a draft, view status, submit supplemental information, or requests. Submit your registration.

A USPTO.gov account is required.

Sign In

- Have your scientific and technical qualifications evaluated
- Be admitted to sit for the registration examination
- Take (and pass) the exam
- Undergo moral character evaluation

See 37 CFR § 11.7.

Where do I find the requirements to become a patent practitioner?

[Home](#) > [Learning and Resources](#) > [Patent and Trademark Practitioners](#) > [Becoming a patent practitioner](#)

Patent & trademark practitioners

Becoming a patent practitioner

Registration examination

General requirements bulletin

Finding a patent practitioner

Becoming a trademark practitioner

Finding a trademark practitioner

Information for current practitioners

Intellectual property legal assistance programs

About OED

OED FAQs

Becoming a patent practitioner

Learn about applying for registration to practice in patent matters before the USPTO, including requirements, forms, and exam information.

Applicants may [submit an application](#) to become a design patent practitioner as of January 2, 2024. Additional information can be found on the [Design Patent Practitioner Flyer](#).

All attorneys and agents practicing before the USPTO in trademark or patent matters are subject to the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 11.101 et. seq. and disciplinary jurisdiction under 37 C.F.R. § 11.19(a). Additionally, unauthorized individuals who represent others before the USPTO are subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the USPTO. See 37 C.F.R. § 11.19(a).

Registration examination

Learn about the contents of the [examination for registration to practice before the USPTO](#), updates to the exam, exam statistics, and review sessions.

General Requirements Bulletin

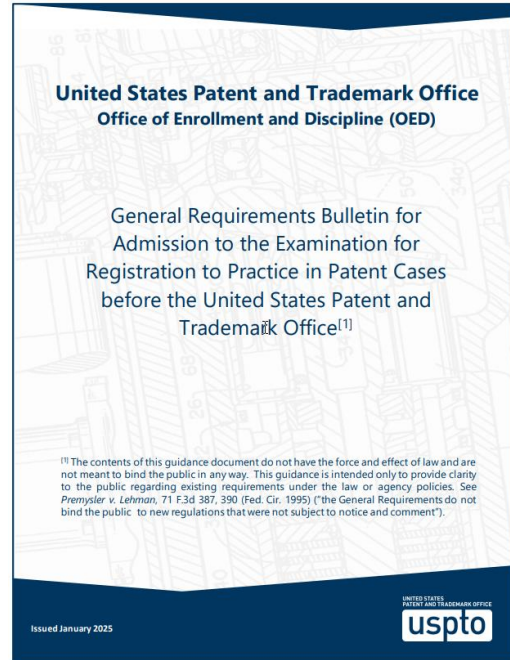
Individuals seeking registration or recognition must meet the requirements of 37 CFR § 11.7, including the legal, scientific, and technical qualifications, as well as good moral character and reputation. General instructions for demonstrating possession of the necessary qualifications can be found in the [General Requirements Bulletin](#). The bulletin also contains information regarding applicable fees and includes the application form (PTO 158) and credit card authorization form (PTO 2038).

[General Requirements Bulletin](#)

Application and Registration Process

INITIAL STEPS:

The registration process begins with submission of an application to practice before the USPTO in patent matters (apply online using the [Applicant Portal](#) or [PTO 158 form](#)) along with i) a \$118.00 non-refundable application fee, ii) a \$226.00 registration examination fee, and iii) required information to show the necessary scientific and technical qualifications.



⁽¹⁾ The contents of this guidance document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This guidance is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies. See *Premysler v. Lehman*, 71 F.3d 387, 390 (Fed. Cir. 1995) ("the General Requirements do not bind the public to new regulations that were not subject to notice and comment").

<https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/patent-and-trademark-practitioners/becoming-patent-practitioner>

https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/OED_GRB.pdf



What are the scientific and technical qualifications to become a patent practitioner?

- All Patent Matters
 - Categories A, B, and C
- Design Patent Matters Only
 - Category D

See “General Requirements Bulletin”

https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/OED_GRB.pdf

What does the registration examination look like?

- 100 multiple choice questions
 - 10 beta questions
 - Computer-based
 - Two 3-hour sessions in one day
- Searchable PDF Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP)
- Offered year-round at a commercial testing facility
- 70% score required to pass (63/90)



What is the exam pass rate?

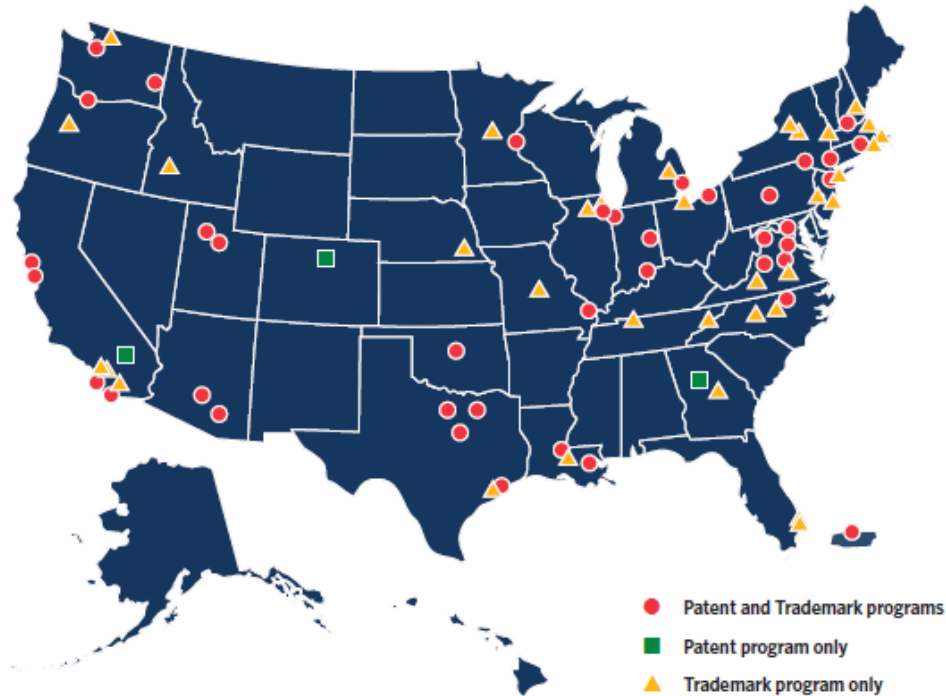
Exam Results by Fiscal Year		
Fiscal Year	Number of Exams	Percent Pass
2025	2278	46%
2024	2025	49%
2023	1957	46%
2022	1768	46%
2021	2062	45%

Is there a “trademark bar”?

- U.S. licensed attorney
- Active member in good standing of the highest court of any U.S. state
- Attorneys are not required to apply for registration or recognition to practice in trademark matters

How can I gain experience to be a practitioner when I'm in law school?

USPTO Law School Clinic Certification Program



How can I gain experience to be a practitioner when I'm in law school? (cont'd)

Arizona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law ● University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law
California	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ California Western School of Law ● Lincoln Law School of San Jose ▲ Loyola Law School ● Thomas Jefferson School of Law ▲ University of California, Irvine School of Law ■ University of California, Los Angeles School of Law ● University of San Diego School of Law ● University of San Francisco School of Law
Colorado	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ University of Colorado Law School
Connecticut	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● University of Connecticut School of Law
District of Columbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● American University, Washington College of Law ● Howard University School of Law ● The George Washington University School of Law
Florida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Barry University School of Law ▲ University of Miami School of Law
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Emory University School of Law ▲ University of Georgia School of Law
Idaho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ University of Idaho College of Law
Illinois	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ DePaul College of Law ▲ Northwestern Pritzker School of Law ● University of Illinois Chicago School of Law
Indiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Indiana University Maurer School of Law ● Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law ● University of Notre Dame Law School
Louisiana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center ● Southern University Law Center ● Tulane University Law School

Maryland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● University of Maryland School of Law
Massachusetts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Boston College Law School ▲ Northeastern University School of Law ● Suffolk University Law School ▲ Western New England University School of Law
Michigan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● University of Detroit Mercy School of Law ▲ University of Michigan Law School
Minnesota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mitchell Hamline School of Law ▲ University of St. Thomas School of Law
Missouri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ University of Missouri School of Law ● Washington University in St. Louis School of Law
Nebraska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ University of Nebraska College of Law
New Hampshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law
New Jersey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Rutgers Law School
New York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brooklyn Law School ▲ Columbia Law School ▲ Cornell University School of Law ● Fordham University School of Law ● New York Law School ▲ Syracuse University College of Law
North Carolina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North Carolina Central University School of Law ▲ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law ▲ Wake Forest University Law School
Ohio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Case Western Reserve University School of Law ▲ University of Akron School of Law
Oklahoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oklahoma City University School of Law

Oregon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lewis & Clark Law School ▲ University of Oregon Law School
Pennsylvania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ University of Pennsylvania Law School ● Penn State Law, The Pennsylvania State University
Puerto Rico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● University of Puerto Rico School of Law
Rhode Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Roger Williams University School of Law
Tennessee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ University of Tennessee College of Law ▲ Vanderbilt Law School
Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baylor Law School ● South Texas College of Law Houston ● Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law ● Texas A&M University School of Law ▲ Texas Southern Thurgood Marshall School of Law
Utah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brigham Young University Law School ● University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law
Virginia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School ▲ Liberty University School of Law ▲ University of Richmond School of Law
Washington	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gonzaga University School of Law ▲ Seattle University School of Law ● University of Washington School of Law

I just started working for the USPTO. Do I need to let OED know?

- Patent practitioners must notify OED
 - *administratively inactive* while employed.
- 37 CFR § 11.11(c)
- USPTO employees may **NOT** practice before the USPTO while employed
- Must provide agency name/address/phone
- If qualified, USPTO employees may take the exam and become registered.

I'm a patent examiner who is leaving the USPTO. Can I be registered or reactivated?

- A former patent examiner may seek waiver of the exam to be registered.

See 37 CFR § 11.7(d)

- Upon separation from the USPTO, an administratively inactive practitioner must request reactivation in order to practice.

See 37 CFR § 11.11(f)(2)

How do I find a patent practitioner?

[Home](#) > [Learning and Resources](#) > [Patent and Trademark Practitioners](#) > Finding a patent practitioner

Patent & trademark practitioners

Becoming a patent practitioner

Finding a patent practitioner

Register of active patent practitioners

Disciplined practitioners

Becoming a trademark practitioner

Finding a trademark practitioner

Finding a patent practitioner

Finding a registered patent practitioner

The Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED) maintains a [register of active patent practitioners](#) who are eligible to represent others before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in all patent matters, or design patent matters only. Only registered patent attorneys and agents, and individuals granted limited recognition, may represent patent applicants before the USPTO in all patent matters, including utility, design, plant matters. Registered design patent attorneys and design patent agents may represent patent applicants before the USPTO in design patent matters only. Individuals not listed on the register are generally unable to represent others before the USPTO in patent matters.

While OED maintains the register, the USPTO cannot aid in the selection or recommendation of an attorney or agent. You may also consider the services of the Law School Clinic Certification or Patent Pro Bono programs.

<https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/patent-and-trademark-practitioners/finding-patent-practitioner>



How do I find a patent practitioner? (cont'd)

Practitioner search Search results Practitioner roster

Practitioner search

Last name OFF Exact match

First name OFF Exact match

Middle initial

Business/firm OFF Exact match

Country

State/province

City OFF Exact match

Postal code OFF Exact match

Registration No.

Type of Registration All Patent Matters ⓘ Design Patent Matters Only ⓘ

OFF Only search for practitioners currently accepting new clients

OFF Include limited recognition ⓘ

How do I find a trademark practitioner?

- The USPTO does not maintain a roster of trademark attorneys
- May contact a local state bar association

I'm a patent practitioner, how do I update my information with OED?

- Access to OEDIS-CI (practitioner portal)

<https://oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI/>


Registered practitioner portal

Sign in with your OED account credentials

User ID (Not Reg. #)

Password

[Forgot User ID or Password?](#)

I'm not a robot  reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

[Sign In](#)

I'm a patent practitioner, how do I update my information with OED? (cont'd)

- Update contact information with OED within 30 days of change. *See* 37 CFR § 11.11(a).
- Updating contact information in a customer number or patent applications does *NOT* update information with OED.

How many practitioners are registered?

Find a patent practitioner

Currently, there are **53215 active patent practitioners** (**14303 agents, 38092 attorneys, 5 design and 815 limited recognition**). All searches reflect current information available to OED. Search results will not include registered practitioners who are currently inactive, suspended or excluded.

Practitioner Discipline

What is the disciplinary process?

- Overview
- Timeline
- Confidential
- Neutral and unbiased investigations

What is OED's jurisdiction?

- **Disciplinary jurisdiction 37 CFR § 11.19(a)**
 - All attorneys and agents practicing before the USPTO in patent, trademark and non-patent matters
 - Unauthorized individuals who represent others before the USPTO
- **USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct
37 CFR §§ 11.101 et. seq.**

How do you file a grievance?

Filing a grievance about an attorney or agent who practices before the USPTO

All registered patent attorneys and agents (registered practitioners), as well as attorneys practicing in trademark and other non-patent law cases before the USPTO, are bound by the ethical standards set forth in USPTO [Rules of Professional Conduct](#), 37 C.F.R. § 11.101. Allegations that a registered practitioner or attorney acted unethically are serious, and filing a grievance should not take the place of communicating with the registered practitioner or attorney to resolve differences or misunderstandings.

If you believe a registered practitioner or attorney practicing before the USPTO has violated any of the USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct, you may submit a written grievance^[1] to OED by mail^[2] or email:

Mail Stop OED
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
OED@uspto.gov

If you believe you have been involved in a scam, or have received [suspicious non-USPTO solicitations](#) from non-attorneys offering patent renewal services or [misleading trademark-related notices](#), please consider reviewing the USPTO webpages concerning those matters.

Content of a grievance

It is suggested, but not required, that a written grievance contain the following information:

- Your name, email address, mailing address, and daytime telephone number where you can be reached.
- The name, email address, mailing address, and telephone number of the registered practitioner or attorney.
- Whether you have filed this grievance with any another agency or bar association. If yes, the name of that agency, when the grievance was filed, and what happened to the grievance.
- Whether your grievance involves patent or trademark matter(s) that are pending before the USPTO. If yes, the identity of the patent or trademark matter(s) by the application number(s).
- The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons (witnesses) who can provide information, if necessary, in support of your grievance.
- Explanation of the facts of your grievance in chronological order, including dates.
- Description of the conduct committed by the practitioner that you believe is unethical.
- Attached copies (do not send originals) of any correspondence and documents, including any emails, retainer agreements, and payment receipts that support your grievance.

<https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/patent-and-trademark-practitioners/finding-patent-practitioner>



What should I do if I receive a request for information (RFI) from OED?

- Review the RFI.
- Provide a complete and thorough response.
- Provide all additional information and evidence that is reasonable for the OED to consider.
- A practitioner has an obligation to cooperate with OED in an investigation of any matter before it and proscribe knowingly failing to respond to a request from OED. *See 37 CFR § 11.801(b)*

What happens after a practitioner submits a response to an RFI?

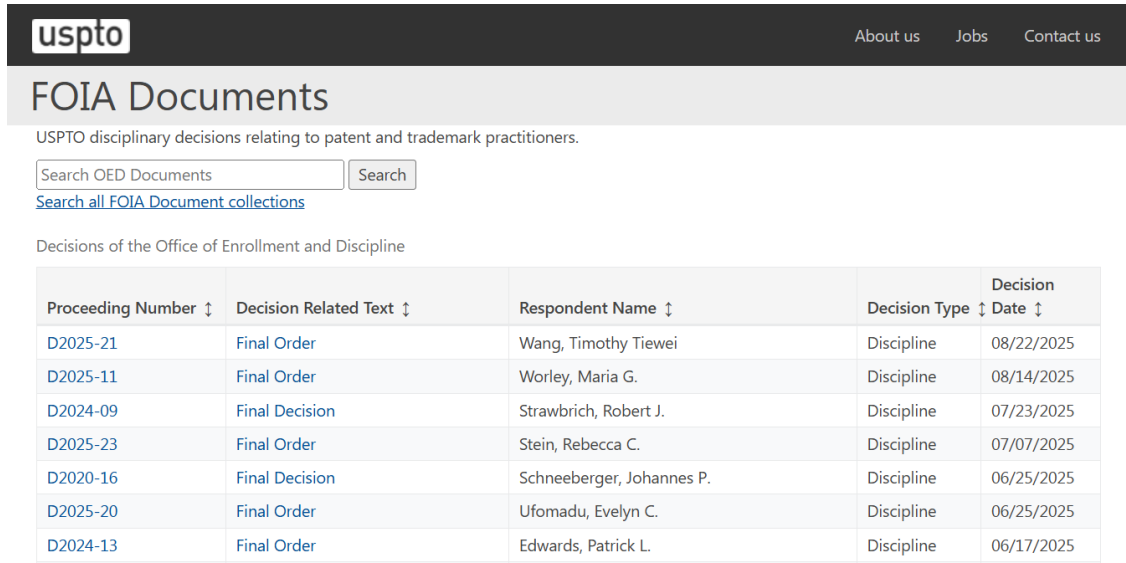
- Case by case determination
- Based on the facts and circumstances of each matter

What type of discipline may be imposed?

- Exclusion (minimum of five years)
- Suspension (appropriate period of time)
- Reprimand or censure
- Probation
- Possible conditions
- Warning (not public, not discipline)

How do I find out if a practitioner has been disciplined?

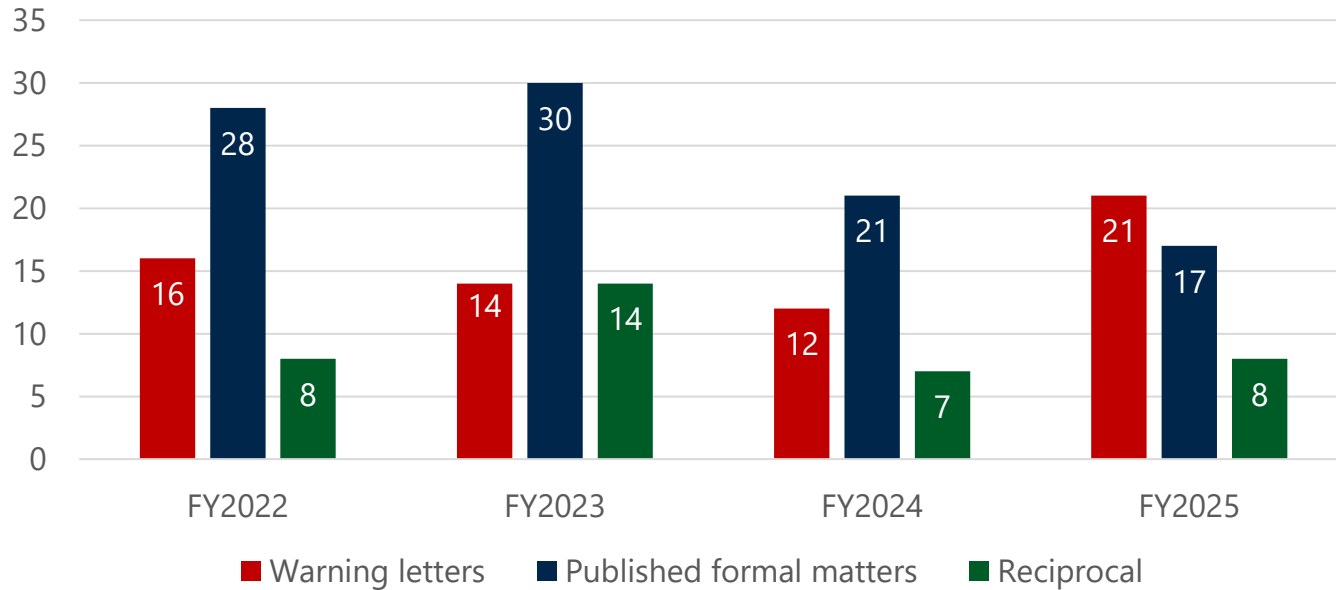
- OED Final Decisions can be found at:
<https://foiadocuments.uspto.gov/oed/>



The screenshot shows the USPTO FOIA Documents page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the USPTO logo and links for "About us", "Jobs", and "Contact us". Below this is a header for "FOIA Documents" with a sub-header "USPTO disciplinary decisions relating to patent and trademark practitioners." A search bar is present with the text "Search OED Documents" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar is a link "Search all FOIA Document collections". The main content area is titled "Decisions of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline" and contains a table of disciplinary decisions.

Proceeding Number ↓	Decision Related Text ↓	Respondent Name ↓	Decision Type ↓	Decision Date ↓
D2025-21	Final Order	Wang, Timothy Tiewei	Discipline	08/22/2025
D2025-11	Final Order	Worley, Maria G.	Discipline	08/14/2025
D2024-09	Final Decision	Strawbrich, Robert J.	Discipline	07/23/2025
D2025-23	Final Order	Stein, Rebecca C.	Discipline	07/07/2025
D2020-16	Final Decision	Schneeberger, Johannes P.	Discipline	06/25/2025
D2025-20	Final Order	Ufomadu, Evelyn C.	Discipline	06/25/2025
D2024-13	Final Order	Edwards, Patrick L.	Discipline	06/17/2025

What are recent disciplinary statistics?



What is OED's role in combatting patent and trademark fraud?

- Disciplinary investigations regarding patent and trademark fraud
- Refer fraud matters to State Bars for potential reciprocal investigation or discipline
- Ethics rules, patent rules, trademark rules

How do I protect myself from scams?

- USPTO.gov ID Verification:
 - Use your own email address
 - If you have verified an account using an email address not under your control, contact the USPTO and ID.me.
- Know the rules for sponsoring accounts
 - Remove sponsorship *immediately* if support staff are no longer under your direction
- Report account security concerns and change your password *immediately*.

How do I protect myself from scams?

(cont'd)

- Regularly monitor the use of your name and bar number using [TMSearch](#)
- Beware of "cooperation" solicitations
- Unauthorized use of your name, bar number, and/or law firm name on USPTO submissions
 - Report immediately via TMScams@uspto.gov
- Ethics questions? Contact OED at OED@uspto.gov

What should practitioners do when using AI in their practice?

In re Matos, Disciplinary Proceeding No. D2025-13 (USPTO Mar. 6, 2025)

- Practitioner:
 - used a generative artificial intelligence ("AI") tool to learn more about the mechanics of Trademark Trial and Appeal Board ("TTAB") proceedings.
 - asserted that he did not use AI in the drafting of the brief itself, but did present non-existent case law to the TTAB.
 - did not conduct an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances in order to certify that the legal contentions set forth in the brief were warranted by existing law.
 - did not utilize reasonable legal research tools in connection with representation of a client.
 - did not adequately review the case law submitted to the TTAB.
- Practitioner disciplined for, *inter alia*, violating various USPTO Rules of Professional Conduct.

What is a practitioner's duty of civility toward examiners?

In re Schroeder, Disciplinary Proceeding No. D2014-08 (USPTO May 18, 2015)

- Patent attorney:
 - submitted unprofessional remarks in two separate Office action responses.
 - remarks were ultimately stricken from application files pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 11.18(c)(1).
 - order noted that behavior was outside of the ordinary standard of professional obligation and client's interests.
 - aggravating factor: did not accept responsibility or show remorse for remarks.
- Default: 6-month suspension

Contacting OED

Can OED speak at my event?

- Complete speaker request form
uspto.my.salesforce-sites.com/events/SpeakerRequestForm

Requests or Questions?

Contact OED

Phone: 571-272-4097

Fax: 571-273-0074

Email: OED@uspto.gov

Mailing Address:

Mail Stop OED

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Schedule appointments

Visit the [OED enrollment appointment request page](#) to schedule a virtual or in-person appointment with an enrollment specialist.



