

MAY 26th - 27th

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Mindy Bickel

Associate Commissioner for Innovation
Development, USPTO

Mindy Bickel was appointed Associate Commissioner for Innovation Development in December 2015. The Office of Innovation Development ensures independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, university inventors, and minority and underserved populations better understand, secure, and use intellectual property (IP), with a focus on patents.

Ms. Bickel previously managed the Patents Ombudsman Program, which serves as a resource for patent applicants, agents, and attorneys. During 2012, Ms. Bickel served on a three-month detail to SelectUSA, a White House jobs creation initiative, where she assisted in formalizing their ombudsman program and its functions.

Ms. Bickel has also coordinated and conducted university outreach and partnership efforts for the United States Patent and Trademark Office since 2007. Prior to this assignment, Ms. Bickel served as Chief of Staff to the Commissioner for Patents from March 2006 through June 2007. As chief of Staff, she was responsible for oversight of the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, the independent inventor programs, and coordination of speaking requests and tours received by the patents organization. She also assisted the commissioner with his daily schedule and business area operations.

Prior to her role as chief of staff, Ms. Bickel was part of a team responsible for developing and implementing the USPTO Patent Training Academy, a program designed to train 1200 new patent examiners each year in an eight-month training program.

Ms. Bickel began her career at the USPTO in 1989 as a patent examiner in biotechnology, becoming a supervisory patent examiner in 1995. She has held numerous assignments including a detail to the Office of the Commissioner for Patents in 1997 and a work assignment beginning in 1998 in the Search and Information Resources Administration, where she was responsible for the training programs for examiners and technical support staff on the software tools available to employees, customer outreach on electronic filing initiatives, and the electronic business center that provides support to patent applicants who are filing electronically.

Throughout her career, Ms. Bickel has received numerous awards including the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal for examination and supervisory accomplishments; a Silver Medal for improvements in customer service, and the Vice Presidential Hammer Award for work in establishing a new customer outreach program in the biotechnology group.

Ms. Bickel received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Bryn Mawr College. She also received an M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in biophysical inorganic chemistry from Columbia University.



MAY 26th - 27th

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM




Catherine Pace Cain

Staff Attorney, Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks, USPTO

Catherine Pace Cain is a Staff Attorney in the Trademark Legal Policy Office and is the Editor of the Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure. She provides expert guidance and training on all aspects of the federal trademark registration process to both internal and external customers. Catherine also drafts rules, notices, and guidelines on trademark policy matters and has drafted final agency decisions in petitions to the Director. As the legal policy liaison to the Office's Pre-Examination Units, Catherine provides policy guidance and support to employees on legal and procedural matters related to the filing and prosecution of trademark applications.

Before joining the Commissioner's office in 2006, Catherine worked as an examining attorney for six years, trained new attorneys, and performed other management functions, such as publication review of approved applications. Prior to attending law school and joining the USPTO, she worked in the publishing industry at John Wiley & Sons, Inc. in New York, at Little, Brown and Company in Massachusetts, and as a freelance copy editor.

Catherine received her law degree from the New England School of Law and her undergraduate degree from Marymount Manhattan College.



MAY 26th - 27th

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Elizabeth Lea Dougherty, J.D.

Director of Inventor Education, Outreach, and Recognition, Office of Innovation Development, USPTO

Elizabeth Dougherty is the Director of Inventor Education, Outreach, and Recognition in the Office of Innovation Development at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). In this capacity, she develops, implements, and supervises programs that support the independent inventor community, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and the intellectual property interests of colleges and universities. Elizabeth has spearheaded a number of special projects with federal, state and local governments, and private organizations to promote and support invention and innovation in the United States. She oversees a portfolio of ongoing and future initiatives designed to assist independent inventors, entrepreneurs, and underserved communities.

Prior to her current assignment at the USPTO, Elizabeth served in various executive service roles, most recently as Acting Deputy Director in the Office of Patent Legal Administration. In this capacity, she was responsible for the oversight and direction of a team of senior legal advisors and staff assisting the Patent Examining Corps in matters of legal policy. Having begun her career at the USPTO as a patent examiner, Elizabeth examined patent applications filed in the area of Class 73, Electric Devices used for Measuring or Testing.

Elizabeth is frequently called upon to lecture, often to student groups of all ages, about the USPTO, the patent process, innovation and creativity, and legal aspects of obtaining and maintaining a U.S. patent.

Elizabeth received a bachelor's degree in physics from the Catholic University of America in 1991 and a juris doctorate from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in 1996. She is a member of the Virginia Bar, the Giles S. Rich American Inn of Court, the Pauline Newman American Inn of Court, the American Bar Association, the Federal Circuit Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, the Patent and Trademark Office Society, the Supervisory Patent Examiners and Classifiers Organization, Women in Science and Engineering, and the Prince George's County Historical Society.

Elizabeth enjoys history, living in an 1854 home on the Maryland Historic Register and is the owner of nearly eighty patent models. In addition, she collects other books, documents, and artifacts of USPTO history.

MAY 26th - 27th

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Siobhan Dullea

Chief Growth Officer

The Grommet


Siobhan Dullea is the Chief Growth Officer at The Grommet. The Grommet is a product launch platform for innovative, new to market products or emerging businesses. Every weekday The Grommet reveals an innovative new product, hand-picked by our Discovery experts. Since 2008, The Grommet has launched more than 2,000 innovative consumer products in 16 categories.

The focus of Siobhan's role is creating and providing services that help the makers of innovative products build strong businesses beyond the initial product launch.

Before that Siobhan was the Chief Client Officer at C Space (formerly Communispace), where she was part of the founding team. C Space is a consumer collaboration agency, which helps big brands like Coca-Cola, Hasbro, Converse, and Hallmark collaborate with their customers to get advice, create new product ideas, or get feedback on existing products. They use online communities, videoconferences and in-person workshops to work together. After helping the company grow in the U.S., Siobhan focused on building on that success in Europe and Asia.

Siobhan has a degree in Political Science and Business from Boston University. She has served on the Advertising Research Foundation Program Committee, is currently a mentor for the MassChallenge, LearnLaunch, MIT Venture Mentoring Service startup accelerators, and works with underserved high students with the Build Greater Boston program, delivering entrepreneurship curriculum.

Siobhan has been a guest lecturer at Boston College Carroll School of Management, Boston University College of Communication, Harvard Business School, Northeastern Graduate School of Business Administration, Emerson College of Communication, Business Development Institute, and more.



MAY 26th - 27th

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Aaron Krause

President and CEO Scrub Daddy, Inc.

Aaron Krause is an accomplished entrepreneur and inventor with more than 25 years of experience in patenting and manufacturing innovative products. With patented products in major big-box retailers and acquisitions by such industry giants as 3M Company (NYSE:MMM), Krause is a self-made entrepreneurial success story who prides himself on hard work, dedication and imagination.


Krause received national attention when he appeared on the hit ABC show Shark Tank with his invention the smiley face Scrub Daddy scrubber sponge. After successfully pitching the sharks Krause received a capital infusion from prolific inventor and celebrity mogul Lori Greiner. Since then, Krause and Greiner have sold tens of millions of "the smiling sponges" to well-known retailers including QVC, Bed Bath & Beyond, Wal-Mart, Target, Kroger, Home Depot, Lowe's, Ace Hardware, Giant, CVS, and Buy Buy Baby. As a result of continued media, marketing and business development efforts, Scrub Daddy has exceeded \$85 million in retail sales since the Shark Tank appearance and continues to gain recognition as a household brand. The product line, which was developed with extensions and iterations, was also spotlighted in The Wall Street Journal as a contender in the half-billion-dollar sponge market. In 2014, Scrub Daddy was named the Most Successful Product ever in the history of the Shark Tank show and continues to hold that prestigious title.

In 2016, Krause again was featured on the Shark Tank spin off show Beyond The Tank as the featured season premiere episode highlighting the product line and the company's continued success.

Prior to Scrub Daddy's success, Krause developed and patented a double-sided buffing pad that solved many problems he and his associates encountered in the car detailing business. Krause then refined the pad, gained additional patents and developed even more car detailing products. Knowing he was onto something special, Krause's new mantra summarized what he was most dedicated to: solving problems through innovation and invention. In September 2008, after Krause engaged in lengthy discussions with the industry leader in his category, 3M agreed to acquire his company.

Krause is currently starting up four other companies, in addition to serving as a manufacturing consultant and appearing regularly on QVC. His inventions including a new patented fashionable battery charging belt have garnered the attention of several media outlets and have been featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer, as well as on highprofile TV shows like Good Morning America, The View, CNBC Squawk Box, ABC News, New York Live and ABC's Shark Tank as well as the new spin off Beyond The Tank.

A graduate of Syracuse University with a degree in psychology, Krause plays and coaches ice hockey for the Flyers Youth Ice Hockey organization in Voorhees Township, New Jersey. Although his managerial duties often take him around the globe, he makes time to mentor budding entrepreneurs, and enjoys spending time and traveling with his devoted wife, and 10-year-old twins.



MAY 26th - 27th

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Edward Lack

President, 4id LLC

Edward Lack is currently president of 4id LLC, a company specializing in LED products for anyone participating in nighttime activities. He is also chief financial officer of Hope Paige Designs LLC, a designer of contemporary medical emergency bracelets and awareness jewelry. Ed is a seasoned financial executive with over 30 years of experience in private industry including hospitality, distribution, technology, manufacturing, and public accounting. He is an experienced problem-solver who has worked with startups and established businesses. Ed specializes in product development, strategic planning, financial goal-setting, financial modeling and risk management. Ed earned a B.S. in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

MAY 26th - 27th

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Edith G. Tolchin

Author and editor of *Secrets of Successful Inventing: From Concept to Commerce*

Edith G. Tolchin, "The Sourcing Lady" (SM), is the author and editor of *Secrets of Successful Inventing: From Concept to Commerce*, a handbook for novice inventors. She has been helping the inventor community for nearly 20 years. Edie founded EGT Global Trading in 1997 with the goal of linking U.S. inventors with Asian manufacturers and providing exclusive import services for sourcing, quality control, production testing and safety, manufacturing, international financing, shipping, customs clearance arrangements, and dock-to-door delivery.

Edie holds a prestigious U.S. Customs Broker License. She is an expert in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act's requirements for product safety issues, including all regulations and documentation. Edie also specializes in SAFE China sourcing and helping her clients work efficiently with Chinese factories.

She is a contributing editor for *Inventors Digest*, a freelance writer for numerous publications, and is co-author of *Sourcing Smarts: Keeping it SIMPLE and SAFE with China Sourcing and Manufacturing* along with Don Debelak and Eric Debelak.

MAY 26th - 27th

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Warren Tuttle

Board President, United Inventors Association
Open Innovation Director for Lifetime Brands and
Techtronic's Industries, NA

For those familiar with the television direct response megahit Smart Spin, Warren Tuttle was the person behind the scenes that helped orchestrate its overnight success. Teaming with a Boston-based inventor, Tuttle selected an explosive path to market. With over 10 million units sold, Smart Spin was one of the most successful DRTV launches in housewares history.

Warren also teamed to initiate the market launch of several other innovative kitchen products, including the MISTO Gourmet Olive Oil Sprayer, which has sold close to 10 million units around the world to date, and the Toss and Turn Pan, one of the bestselling cookware frypans in the United States in 2005. Warren has also helped numerous housewares product patent holders obtain licensing agreements with major U.S. manufacturers and has counseled many inventors who went on to start their own small businesses.

Currently, Warren focuses on external product development for two large U.S. companies: Lifetime Brands of Garden City, New York (the world's largest manufacturer of kitchen utensils and a major supplier of food prep and table top products to America's major retailers), and Techtronics Industries North America (the largest manufacturer of power tools in the United States).

Lifetime Brands manufactures and markets over 18,000 products under multiple brand names including Farberware, KitchenAid, Cuisinart, Pedrini, Mikasa, Towle, and Pfaltzgraff, introducing over 4,000 new products each year. In the past four years, Warren has initiated over 50 new product licensing agreements with Lifetime Brands, including the Odor Absorbing Splatter Screen and Food Huggers. Techtronics manufactures and markets power tools under the well-known brand names Ryobi, Ridgid, and Milwaukee. Warren has been working as an outside contractor with TTI for the past 18 months and has launched four new products and is currently involved with advancing a dozen more.

Prior to developing and marketing products for the housewares industry, Warren owned five of his own gourmet specialty kitchenware stores (the Complete Kitchen of Southern Connecticut), a prepared food and catering business (the Good Food Store of Darien, Connecticut), a nationally recognized cooking school, and a partnership in a kitchen design business. Food and Wine Magazine once described the Complete Kitchen as "one of the finest gourmet stores in America." Warren began his career as a department store buyer of cookware and small appliances in New York City.

Additionally, Warren serves as the President of the United Inventors Association, a national nonprofit dedicated to educating aspiring inventors, patent holders and product developers. He speaks regularly around the country on licensing and open innovation at inventor clubs and industry trade shows.

He currently resides in Connecticut with his wife and three daughters.