

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**





INVENTION-CON 2017

The Place for **Inventors**, **Makers**, & **Entrepreneurs**

USPTO's Inventors Conference • August 11-12 • Alexandria, VA

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Free Legal Services (Pro Bono Programs Overview)

Invention-Con 2017
Office of Enrollment and Discipline

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Purpose

- Highlight USPTO pro bono programs that support entrepreneurs and small businesses:
 - Law School Clinic Certification Program, and
 - Patent Pro Bono Program.



Law School Clinic Certification Program

- **Educates students while supporting entrepreneurs.**
 - Real-world experience for students working under strict guidance of a Law School Faculty Clinic Supervisor while providing IP pro bono services to the community.
- **Currently 47 law schools actively participate.**
 - 21 provide trademark services only,
 - 6 patent services only, and
 - 20 provide both patent and trademark services.





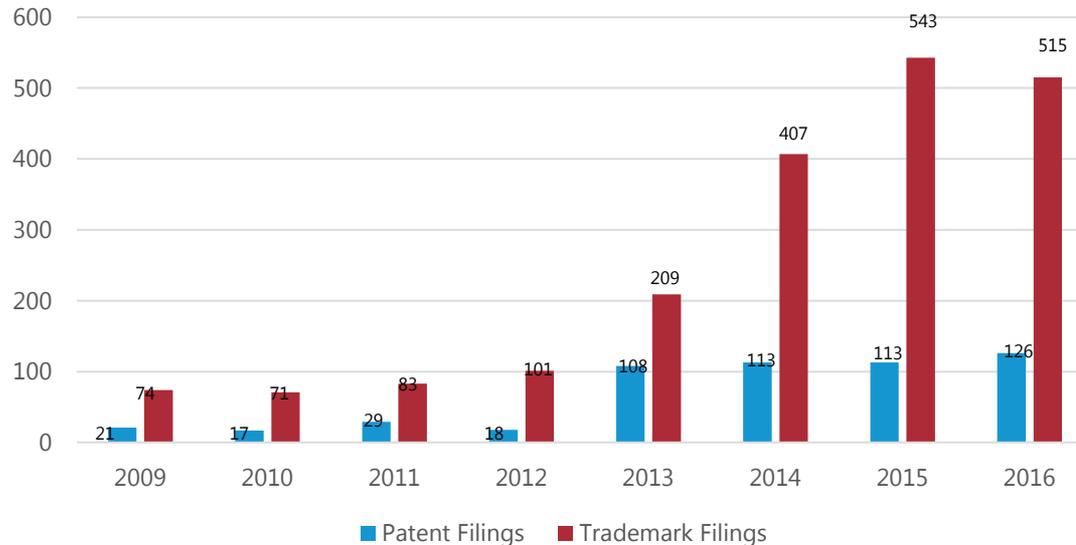
LAW SCHOOL

CLINIC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



Law School Clinic Impact

Law School Clinic Certification Program Filings by Year



2016 Report to Congress:

- Over 2,700 students have participated
- 545 patent and 2,003 trademark applications filed

https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USPTO_Law_School_Clinic_Cert_Program_Report-Dec_2016.pdf

Invention-Con 2017 - Free Legal

Services

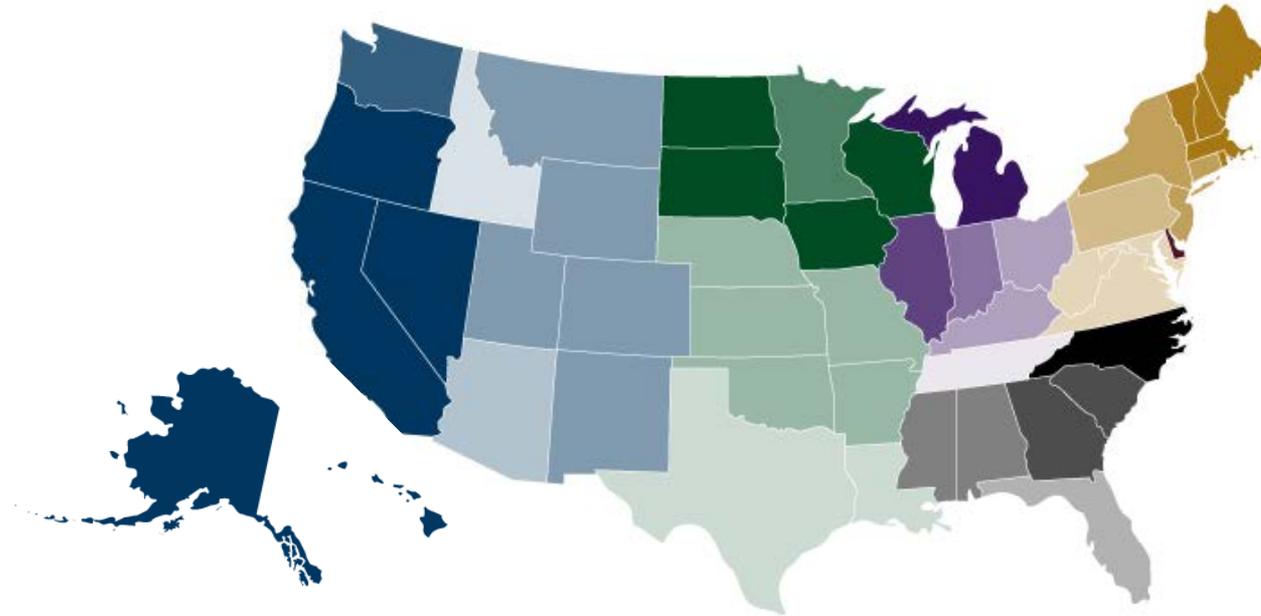


Patent Pro Bono Program

- Matches financially under-resourced inventors and small businesses with registered patent attorneys to file and prosecute patent applications.
 - 23 regional programs across the country provide matching services.
 - Helps ensure that no deserving invention lacks patent protection because of a lack of money for IP counsel.
 - Creates a path for inventors to become job creators.
- **Inventor Qualifications**
 - Income below 3X federal poverty guidelines.
 - Show knowledge of the patent system by taking intro course: <https://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/certpck/index.htm>.
 - Have more than an idea.
 - Pay all USPTO filing fees.
- **To date, more than 1,000 attorneys have signed on to volunteer.**



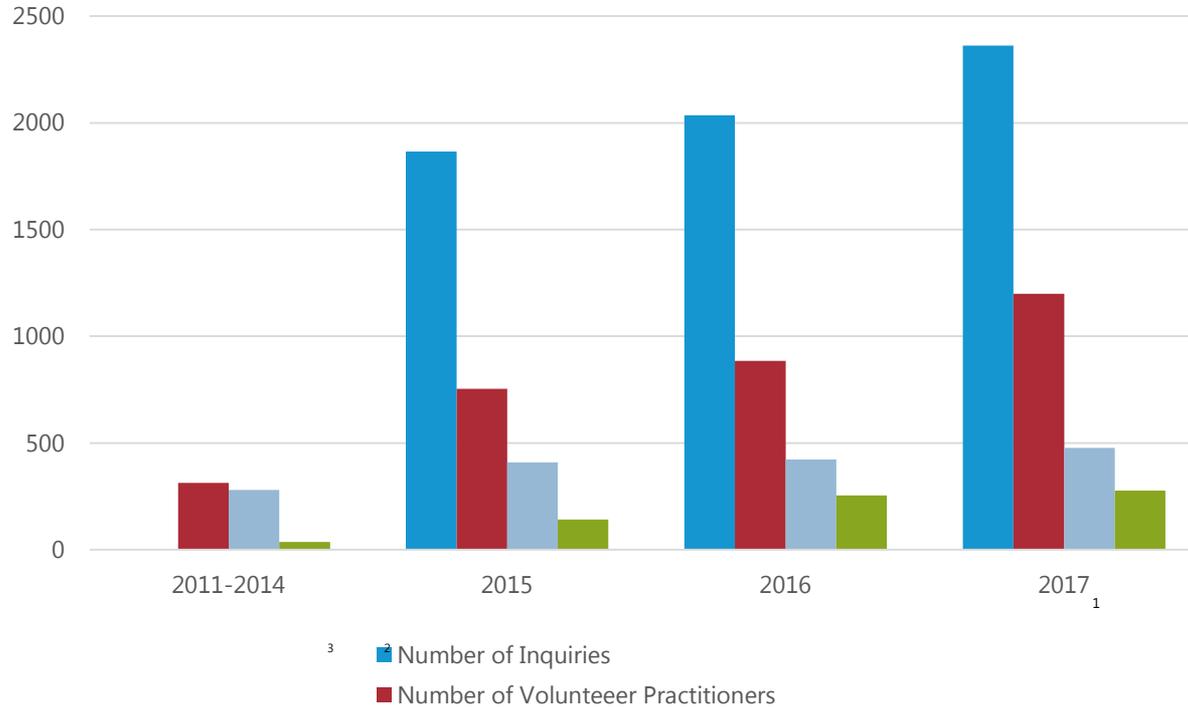
Current Coverage



- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ■ Washington Pro Bono Patent Network | ■ Gateway Venture Mentoring Service | ■ New England Program |
| ■ Idaho Patent Pro Bono | ■ TALA | ■ New York Tri State Program |
| ■ CIAP | ■ Chicago-Kent Patent Hub | ■ Delaware Program |
| ■ ProBoPat | ■ Patent Connect for Hoosiers | ■ FCBA (Mid-Atlantic) |
| ■ Arizona Public Patent Program | ■ IP Venture Clinic (OH KY) | ■ PA Patent |
| ■ Upper Midwest Program | ■ LAVPA (TN) | ■ NC Leap |
| ■ LegalCorps (MN) | ■ BBVLP Patent Program (MS AL) | ■ Georgia Patents |
| ■ Pro Bono Patent Project (MI) | | ■ Patent Pro Bono FL |



Patent Pro Bono Program Growth



¹ Data available for Q1 2017 only; remaining three quarters of 2017 are projected using Q1 and Q2 data.

² Number of Inquiries unavailable for 2011-2014.



Regional Program Contacts

Program Name	States Covered	Email
California Inventors Assistance Program	CA, OR, NV, AK, HI	LRIS@calawyersforthearts.org
Tri-State	NY, NJ, CT	vlany@vlany.org
Michigan Pro Bono Patent Project	MI	rmathis@mail.michbar.org
NC LEAP Inventor Assistance Program	NC	ncleap@ncbar.org
ProBoPat	CO, WY, UT, NM, MT	probopat@micasaresourcecenter.org
Inventor Assistance Program	IA, ND, SD, WI	inventors.help@mitchellhamline.edu
Inventor Assistance Pro Bono Program	TX, LA	patent@talarts.org
Patent Pro Bono	AR, KS, MO, NE, OK	kdaniels@gatewayvms.org
PatentConnect for Hoosiers	IN	njhedges@indiana.edu
PTO Pro Bono Program	DC, MD, VA, WV	smart@fedcirbar.org
PA Patent	PA	PVLAlegal@artsandbusinessphila.org
Patent Pro Bono Program of New England	MA, RI, VT, NH, ME	quincy@artsandbusinesscouncil.org
Georgia PATENTS	GA, SC	kellybray@glarts.org
BBVLP Patent Program	AL, MS	ghewitt@vlpbirmingham.org
Arts and Business Council of Miami	FL	laura@artsbizmiami.org
Chicago-Kent Patent Hub	IL	msmith@kentlaw.iit.edu
IP Venture Clinic	OH, KY	esw42@Case.edu
Legal Assistance Volunteers for Patent Applicants	TN	srudsenske@tnbar.org
Patent Pro Bono Program	DE	aegarfield@widener.edu
LegalCORPS Inventor Assistance Program	MN	iapadmin@legalcorps.org
Arizona Public Patent Program	AZ	azpublicpatentprogram@list.arizona.edu
Washington Pro Bono Patent Network	WA	wapatent@uw.edu
Idaho Patent Pro Bono	ID	dillion@uidaho.edu



More Information

- **Law School Clinic Certification Program**
 - Visit www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/ip-policy/public-information-about-practitioners/law-school-clinic-1.
- **Pro Bono**
 - Visit www.uspto.gov/probonopatents.
 - Email probono@uspto.gov.



