Global Forum on Patent Innovation Policies

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Speaker Biographies

USPTO | INPI | OEPM | DKPTO

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BIOGRAPHIES

Mr. John Squires

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

John A. Squires is the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). As chief executive, he leads one of the largest intellectual property (IP) offices in the world—an almost $5 billion operation with over 13,500 employees located across the 50 states and Puerto Rico. He is also the principal IP advisor to the President and Administration, through the Secretary of Commerce.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Director Squires served as Partner and Chair of the IP and Emerging Companies Practice at Dilworth Paxson LLP and an adjunct law professor at the University Pennsylvania Carey School of Law. He has extensive experience in all aspects of IP and emerging companies, across a vast array of scientific and technology disciplines, including patent and trademark asset creation, procurement and acquisition, transactions, licensing, corporate formation, governance, and structuring, high-stakes litigation and regulatory issues, and risk management matters.

Mr. Squires led the creation of the United States' first patent asset–backed finance platform for one of the world's leading funds. He also led the founding, launch, and was a board member of numerous IP and risk-related businesses, including iQ4, the Risk Assistance Network + Exchange (RANE), and FinClusive.

In response to the September 11 attacks, Mr. Squires and 20 of the world's leading financial institutions established the nation's first anti-money laundering, anti-terrorist financing consortia, founded upon patents expedited as inventions to combat terrorism. His previous Fintech/Regtech engagements include groundbreaking efforts focused on financial inclusion and empowerment, impact investing, and global standards-setting and compliance. Mr. Squires began his IP/Fintech career as Chief IP Counsel for Goldman Sachs from 2000-2009.

Mr. Squires received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Bucknell University and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law (magna cum laude). Mr. Squires has served as an adjunct professor, legal writing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, and as a faculty member and lecturer with the Cybersecurity Workforce Alliance (a partnership with the New York Federal Reserve Bank, its Member Banks, and the CUNY and SUNY systems).

Ms. Mary Critharis

Chief Policy Officer and Director of International Affairs
USPTO

Mary Critharis is the Chief Policy Officer and Director for International Affairs at the USPTO. In this position, she serves as a policy advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, and oversees the USPTO's domestic and international IP policy activities; legislative engagement, through the Office of Governmental Affairs; education and training, through the Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA); and global advocacy, through the IP Attaché Program.

Ms. Critharis first joined the USPTO as a patent examiner in 1992 before progressing to Assistant Solicitor in 2000. From 2001 to 2002, she served as Counsel to the United States Senate Judiciary Committee before returning to the USPTO as Attorney Advisor (2002-2004) and Senior Patent Counsel (2004-2011). Most recently, Ms. Critharis served as Deputy Chief Policy Officer and Senior Counsel (2023-2025).

Ms. Critharis has lectured worldwide on a variety of industrial property issues, focusing on patenting emerging technologies. She is the recipient of the 2008 Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Senior Professional for her demonstrated leadership in advancing the intellectual property interests of American enterprises in the global economy.

Ms. Critharis received her law degree from Brooklyn Law School, where she was the executive editor of the international law journal. Ms. Critharis also has an MS in biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University and an MS in physical chemistry from New York University, where she studied the effects of stereochemistry on carcinogenicity. Prior to graduate school, Ms. Critharis received her BA in chemistry and political science from New York University.

Mr. Barry J. Schindler

Acting Commissioner for Patents
USPTO

Barry J. Schindler serves as Acting Commissioner for Patents at the USPTO, where he provides executive leadership for the Patents organization in his capacity as chief operating officer. He oversees a workforce of almost 11,000 Patents employees, including approximately 9,500 patent examiners whose work helps drive American innovation by delivering patent protection to inventors, consistent with Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. Along with his duties as Acting Commissioner, he will focus and lead Patents on super intelligence (SI) policy, practice, and operations.

Mr. Schindler previously served as a Deputy Commissioner for Patents at the USPTO, where he provided executive leadership and strategic direction for the Office of Information Technology for Patents, the Office of Application Processing for Patents, and Technology Center 2400. In this role, he helped guide the USPTO's patent operations through a period of rapid technological change, with a particular focus on information technology, generative SI, and process innovation.

Mr. Schindler brings more than 30 years of experience at the intersection of patent law, emerging technology, and business strategy. His background spans patent prosecution, intellectual property protection, SI and machine learning, software and internet-based systems, search technologies, and database systems. He has worked extensively on how new technologies can be applied thoughtfully to improve quality, efficiency, and scalability in patent-related workflows.

Before joining the USPTO, Mr. Schindler served as Co-chair of Greenberg Traurig LLP's Global Patents and Innovation Strategies Group, a practice of more than 150 USPTO-registered attorneys and agents supporting thousands of domestic and foreign patent applications. In that role, he helped lead a global patent platform serving both major corporations and high-growth startups navigating complex innovation landscapes.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Schindler has advised clients across a broad range of advanced technologies, including SI and machine learning, AgriTech, FoodTech, fintech, cloud computing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, materials science, and medical devices. He has secured hundreds of U.S. patents and worked closely with foreign counsel in China, France, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and other jurisdictions to help build and protect worldwide patent portfolios.

Mr. Schindler also served on the committee advising the New Jersey Supreme Court on the use of generative AI, contributing practical insight on responsible governance, ethics, and the integration of AI into professional practice.

Mr. Schindler earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering (Process Control) from Cornell University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center.

Mr. Carlos María Gallo

President

National Institute of Industrial Property of Argentina (INPI)

- Carlos María Gallo currently serves as President of the Instituto Nacional de la Propiedad Industrial (INPI), Argentina's national authority for industrial property rights. He was appointed to this role in December 2023.
- In this position, he oversees the administration of trademarks, patents, and other industrial property rights, helping ensure compliance with national and international intellectual property laws.
- Prior to becoming President of INPI, Gallo advised companies, nongovernmental organizations, civil associations, and foundations on complex legal matters, including intellectual property enforcement, litigation, and international arbitration.
- He also served as Head of the National Trademarks Division at INPI, where he was responsible for trademark administration and related policy matters.
- Gallo has participated in negotiations for the MERCOSUR–EU and MERCOSUR–EFTA free trade agreements.
- He holds a law degree from the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA) and completed a specialization in Derecho de la Alta Tecnología at the Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA).
- Gallo has authored numerous articles on intellectual property, including topics such as the role of industrial property agents, co-ownership of trademarks, and the functions of trademarks.
- In 2008, he received the Premio Ernesto Aracama Zorraquín for excellence in intellectual property.

Ms. Elisa Rodríguez Ortiz

Director

Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM)

- Elisa Rodríguez Ortiz has served as Director of the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM) since June 11, 2024.
- In that role, she has pledged to make the office more people-focused, sustainable, digital, innovative, transparent, and effective. She is responsible for implementing the OEPM's new strategic plan in 2025, while also addressing major challenges such as new EU regulations on industrial designs and geographical indications.
- She is further engaged in international negotiations, including a diplomatic conference on a new global design treaty, and has emphasized the need to modernize the office so it can better serve stakeholders and respond to changes in the global intellectual property landscape.
- She entered the Superior Civil Service of the State in 2010 and has held senior roles across several ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism, the Ministry of Energy, Tourism and Digital Agenda, the Ministry of Science and Innovation, Turespaña, and the Subsecretariat of Industry, Energy and Tourism.
- Before becoming Director of the OEPM, she led the office's Support Unit for Management, overseeing internal operations and strategic planning, and she has also represented Spain before the World Intellectual Property Organization and served on the Administrative Council of the European Patent Office.
- Rodríguez holds a Bachelor's degree in political sciences and sociology from the University of Granada, a Diploma of Advanced Studies from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, and a Fulbright Master's in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Government.

Mr. Sune Stampe Sørensen

Director General

Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO)

- Mr. Sune Stampe Sørensen assumed the role of Director General and CEO of the DKPTO under the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs on October 1, 2017.
- Prior to assuming this position, he held several executive positions in the Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark and at the Danish Ministry of Finance. Before those roles, he served as the private secretary to the Prime Minister of Denmark.
- He currently serves on several boards of IP-focused organizations: the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO); the Nordic Patent Institute; the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences; and the Administrative Council in the European Patent Office (EPO).
- Mr. Sørensen holds an M.A. degree in political science from University of Copenhagen and a Certificat d'Etudes Politiques de Sciences Po (France).

Mr. John F. Duffy

General Counsel and Acting Solicitor

USPTO

John Duffy serves as the principal legal advisor and counsel to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. He will also supervise the Office of General Counsel (OGC) and its three offices: the Office of the Solicitor, the Office of General Law, and the Office of Enrollment and Discipline (OED).

Duffy is the John S. Shannon Distinguished Professor of Law and the Class of 1966 Research Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law (now on leave from the university). He focuses his teaching and scholarship on administrative law, patent law, and the law and economics of regulation.

Duffy previously clerked for Judge Stephen Williams on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. He served in the Office of Legal Counsel in the Department of Justice and worked in private practice prior to entering academics. He has published articles in numerous prominent law journals, including the Yale Law Journal, the University of Chicago Law Review, the University of Virginia Law Review, the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, the George Washington Law Review, Stanford Law Review, Columbia Law Review, NYU Law Review, Texas Law Review, Emory Law Journal, Northwestern University Law Review, and the Supreme Court Review. He is a co-author with Professor Robert Merges of a leading casebook on patent law and also serves as a senior fellow at the Administrative Conference of the United States.

Mr. Lucas Lehtinen

Executive Director of the Master in Intellectual Property and New Technologies

Austral University

Lucas Lehtinen is an intellectual property attorney. He holds a law degree from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, an MBA from the Escuela de Graduados de Ciencias Económicas, and a Master's in Intellectual Property from Universidad Austral, where he graduated with honors. He is Executive Director of the Master's Program in Intellectual Property and New Technologies and of the Intellectual Property Center at Universidad Austral. He is also the founder of Argeopolis, an IP consultancy advising clients across Latin America, Asia, and Europe, and serves as Global Education Lead at GLIPA. He is a consultant to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Bank.

Ms. Monica Lupi

Legal & Intellectual Property Director

CAEMe

Mónica Lupi is the Legal & Intellectual Property Director at CAEMe, the association representing Argentina's innovative pharmaceutical industry. She has extensive experience in intellectual property, pharmaceutical law, regulatory affairs, and corporate legal strategy. Previously, she was Reginal Legal Director of Novartis and prior to this Regional Legal and Compliance Head at AbbVie.

She is qualified to practice law in both in Argentina and in the state of California, and holds an LL.M. with Honors and Dean List Award from Northwestern University School of Law. She is also a law professor at Universidad de San Andrés, specializing in intellectual property and innovation.

Mr. Gonzalo Rovira

Chair of the Latin American Committee

IPO

Gonzalo Rovira is Head of Intellectual Property for Latin America at Bayer Group. He graduated as a Juris Doctor from the Law School of the Argentine Catholic University (UCA) in Buenos Aires. He also completed a Master's in intellectual property and commerce from Franklin Pierce Law Center, ath the University of New Hampshire.

He began his professional career in the National Judiciary in the National Commercial Court No. 2 and later in Chamber D of the National Chamber of Commercial Appeals, where he served as clerk for Judge Carlos María Rotman. Years later he began his private practice as an associate at Brons & Salas in the corporate and intellectual property department.

In 2005, Dr. Rovira joined Monsanto Company, in the United States, where he served as legal counsel at the intellectual property law department. In 2009, Dr. Rovira was relocated to Argentina to serve as Senior Legal Manager for the Law Team at Monsanto Latin America South. Dr. Rovira took different responsibilities within the company through November 2019. In December 2019, Dr. Rovira assumed regional responsibilities in intellectual property matters for the Bayer Group business (Health Sciences and Crop Sciences business unit) in the Southern Cone Region and Licensing Strategy for the Latin American region.

Dr. Rovira is a professor of IP and Innovation at the Universidad de San Andres and the Universidad Austral. He is author and co-author of several articles related to the IP field, biotechnology and innovation. Dr. Rovira has an active involvement in the IP community. He is Chairman of IP Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce in Argentina. He is also Vice President and Regional Leader of the Global Intellectual Property Alliance (GLIPA), Academic Director at the Academia de Intercambio de Estudios Judiciales (AIEJ), Member of the Patent Committee at the International Trademark Association (INTA), and Chairman of the Latin America Committee at the Intellectual Property Owners (IPO).

Ms. María Vazquez

Director of the WIPO Latin American Program in Intellectual Property and Innovation

UDESA

María de Lourdes Vazquez directs the WIPO Joint Master Program in Intellectual Property and Innovation at Universidad de San Andrés in Buenos Aires, where she recently served as Dean of the Law School. She holds an LL.M. from Harvard Law School and completed her doctoral studies at the European University Institute in Italy. Her professional experience includes serving as in-house counsel at Virgin Records in London, and EMI Records in New York, and as a partner at Marval, O'Farrell & Mairal in Buenos Aires. María was awarded the Fortabat Visiting Scholarship at Harvard University's David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies. She is a faculty member in the Harvard Law School program "Patent Law and Global Public Health" and serves on the editorial board of the WIPO–WTO Colloquium Papers.

Mr. Peter Choi

VP and Assistant General Patent Counsel

Eli Lilly

Peter Choi is Associate Vice President, Assistant General Patent Counsel, IP Litigation & Strategy at Eli Lilly, where defends and enforces Lilly's GLP-1 IP portfolio and leads the company's Latin American patent strategy. He has 20+ years of experience prosecuting, diligencing, licensing, and litigating life science patents for leading biopharmaceutical companies, including as partner for an international law firm.

Ms. Victoria Zolezzi

Director of Legal & Compliance for Argentina

Novo Nordisk

Victoria Zolezzi is Legal & Compliance Director at Novo in Argentina. She has more than 20 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry, with a background spanning healthcare law, compliance, intellectual property, and regulatory matters. Prior to joining Novo in 2023, she held several Legal & Compliance roles at Roche Argentina, ultimately serving as Legal & Compliance Director. She holds a law degree from Universidad Católica Argentina and pursued postgraduate studies in Business Law at Universidad de San Andrés.

Ms. Soledad Oubina

Legal Director, North & South Clusters, LATAM

AbbVie

Soledad Oubiña is an Argentine lawyer and Legal Director for LATAM & Puerto Rico at AbbVie. She previously served as Legal Manager for the Southern Cone at GlaxoSmithKline and spent 17 years as a Senior Associate at Marval, O'Farrell & Mairal, advising on corporate, M&A, regulatory, intellectual property and data privacy matters, with special assignments for several multinational companies. She holds a law degree and a Master's in Business Law from Universidad Católica Argentina, along with specializations in compliance, private international law, and corporate finance. She currently participates in Caeme IP workstream.

Mr. Philip Warrick

Head of IP Policy & Advocacy

Amgen

Phil Warrick is Senior Counsel and Head of IP Policy & Advocacy at Amgen. Prior to joining Amgen, Phil practiced intellectual property law for 20 years, working in a variety of roles in the United States spanning private practice and all three branches of government. Most recently, at Irell & Manella LLP, he focused on patent litigation, appellate practice, and policy matters. He also worked in the Solicitor's Office at the USPTO, provided IP counsel to U.S. Senator Chris Coons on the Judiciary Committee, and served as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard Linn on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Phil holds a B.S. in Computer Science and a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Akron, as well as a J.D. from George Washington University Law School, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review.

Mr. Cairo Jennings

IP Attaché for Brazil

USPTO

Cairo Jennings is the intellectual property (IP) attaché for Mercosur – Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Based in Rio de Janeiro, he is the principal officer within U.S. embassies and consulates in the region on matters related to the protection and enforcement of IP rights.

Mr. Jennings works closely with U.S. businesses on promoting and protecting their IP interests in the region. He advises and coordinates with U.S. government agencies and foreign government counterparts to promote U.S. IP policy, secure high IP standards in laws and trade agreements, and conduct training and public awareness programs on IP matters.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Jennings was a Senior Counsel for International Trade in the Office of Chief Counsel for International Commerce (OCCIC) in the U.S. Department of Commerce. As Senior Counsel, he provided legal counsel on matters relating to IP, standards, good regulatory practices, competition, and industry engagement. He also represented the Department of Commerce as part of international trade negotiations. Before joining OCCIC, Mr. Jennings was a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State with postings to diplomatic missions in North Africa and South America.

During his government service, Mr. Jennings has received several commendations, including the Department of State's Meritorious Honor Award, the Franklin Award, and the Department of Commerce's Distinguished Attorney Award.

Mr. Jennings joined the public sector with nearly a decade of experience as an IP attorney in private practice. He assisted clients with the protection and enforcement of their global portfolios of patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.

Mr. Jennings received both a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering and a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a registered patent practitioner and a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Ms. Nyeemah A. Grazier

Senior Patent Attorney
Office of Policy and International Affairs
USPTO

Ms. Nyeemah Grazier is an Attorney of the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA) at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). As a member of OPIA's Patent Team, Ms. Grazier manages a diverse portfolio of international and domestic patent law matters in Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Africa, and the Middle East. Additionally, Ms. Grazier also works with counterparts at the Trilateral (Japan, Europe, and United States) and IP5 (United States, Japan, Europe, China, and Korea) offices to enhance patent harmonization, quality, and efficiencies within the patent system. Ms. Grazier was selected as a Mike Mansfield Fellow in 2024. The Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program was established by Congress in 1994 to build a corps of U.S. government officials with substantial Japan expertise. She is also a recipient of the U.S. Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Award, the USPTO Exceptional Career Award, and the USPTO Director's Award. Ms. Grazier holds a J.D. from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey School of Law, an M.S. in biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, and a B.A. in chemistry (with a minor in Japanese) from Lincoln University (PA).

Mr. Keith M. Mullervy

Patent Attorney
Office of Policy and International Affairs
USPTO

Keith Mullervy is a Patent Attorney in the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA) at the USPTO where he advises the USPTO on domestic and international IP issues as well as on United States treaty obligations and helps to formulate U.S. domestic and international policy on intellectual property rights. Prior to joining OPIA, Keith was a Patent Attorney at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) at the USPTO, where he drafted administrative decisions and orders for a panel of Administrative Patent Judges.

Before he joined the USPTO, Keith was an associate at Miles and Stockbridge and Squire Patton Boggs, where his practice focused on counseling and prosecution of utility and design patent matters, principally in the electrical and computer arts. Keith was in private practice for almost eight years prior to joining the USPTO.

Keith has a Bachelor's in Computer Science from Boston College and a Juris Doctor from George Mason University School of Law.