

# Welcome to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Congratulations on taking the first step to protect your invention. You can now advertise or mark any products covered by this application for your invention as **"Patent Pending"** for as long as this application is pending!

We are here to help you on the rest of your journey.

**New to the process?** The Patent Basics page will take you from "What is a patent?" to assistance with the application process.

- [www.uspto.gov/PatentBasics](http://www.uspto.gov/PatentBasics)

**Consider cost savings.** You might qualify for small entity or micro entity status, which means a discount on most USPTO patent fees.

- [www.uspto.gov/EntityStatus](http://www.uspto.gov/EntityStatus)

**Become a registered electronic filer (eFiler).** You'll gain access to the full capabilities of Patent Center. As a registered eFiler, you can electronically view your submission, track the progress of your application, and respond to USPTO correspondence.

- [www.uspto.gov/NewPatentFilers](http://www.uspto.gov/NewPatentFilers)

**Learn how to identify which of your creative ideas might be intellectual property assets** and how to protect them by using the USPTO Intellectual Property (IP) Identifier.

- [ipidentifier.uspto.gov](http://ipidentifier.uspto.gov)

We also provide Pro Se Assistance, support specifically geared for **independent inventors without an attorney or agent**. Follow the link below, call us at 866-767-3848, or email [proseassistancecenter@uspto.gov](mailto:proseassistancecenter@uspto.gov).

- [www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents](http://www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents)

**Need help near you?** We have regional offices across the country, as well as Patent and Trademark Resource Centers in libraries in nearly every state, with specialists standing by to help you at no cost.

- [www.uspto.gov/locations](http://www.uspto.gov/locations)
- [www.uspto.gov/ptrc](http://www.uspto.gov/ptrc)

## Contact us:

- **General information:** USPTO Contact Center
  - [www.uspto.gov/help](http://www.uspto.gov/help)
- **Patent Center:** Patent Electronic Business Center
  - [www.uspto.gov/EBC](http://www.uspto.gov/EBC)
- **Pre or post-examination:** Application Assistance Unit
  - [www.uspto.gov/PatentAssistance](http://www.uspto.gov/PatentAssistance)

## Want to learn more?

- **Access our free services** all in one spot. Find all of our contact centers, nationwide services, events, education, and training.
  - [www.uspto.gov/FreeServices](http://www.uspto.gov/FreeServices)
- **Connect with us** on Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.
- **Hear about resources for startups, inventors, and entrepreneurs**, as well as our initiatives engaging women, the military community, and others. These programs offer helpful tips and tricks on identifying and managing your IP, finding options for funding, and expanding your network to support your business.
  - [www.uspto.gov/startups](http://www.uspto.gov/startups)
  - [www.uspto.gov/inventors](http://www.uspto.gov/inventors)
  - [www.uspto.gov/initiatives](http://www.uspto.gov/initiatives)
- We hope you connect with us by subscribing to receive important notifications by email.
  - [www.uspto.gov/subscribe](http://www.uspto.gov/subscribe)

Kathi Vidal



**Kathi Vidal**

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

Derrick Brent



**Derrick Brent**

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



UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®