United States Patent and Trademark Office

about the uspto

Our work spurs the kind of American innovation that can change the world.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has been serving the economic interests of America for more than 200 years. We are responsible for granting U.S. intellectual property rights for patents and trademarks. Our efforts have provided inventors exclusive rights over their discoveries. These efforts continue to contribute to a strong global economy, to encourage investment in innovation and to cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit for the 21st century.

why uspto?

♦ Bringing innovation to life — Your expertise will be put to use to analyze cases arising in advanced, complex areas of technology and the law to serve the USPTO’s mission.

♦ Challenging, Engaging Atmosphere — The USPTO is the largest IP rights entity in the nation where you will have the opportunity to work alongside the highest caliber of IP professionals in a collegial environment.

♦ Flexible Work Schedules — The USPTO’s award-winning telework program will provide you with the ability to create a lifestyle that suits your needs to find a better work-life balance.

Based on employee feedback through the annual Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, the USPTO was ranked as one of the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government® in 2014 by the Partnership for Public Service, an independent nonprofit organization.
The Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) provides a dynamic environment and a premier group of colleagues who work collaboratively to decide cases on the cutting edge of technology and patent law. The PTAB offers these high caliber work opportunities and allows judges to achieve work-life balance and high job satisfaction.

**What is the PTAB?**

**Areas of the PTAB’s jurisdiction include:**
- Appeals from adverse examiner decisions in patent applications and reexamination proceedings.
- AIA trial proceedings.
- Interferences.

**BASIC QUALIFICATIONS**
- Many years of experience in the practice of patent law (prosecution, litigation, or both).
- Degree(s)/work experience in science or engineering.
- Preferred experience in handling of patent matters in the areas of electrical engineering, software, data processing.
- Must be able to work collaboratively (typically, in 3 judge panels).
- Must have excellent written and oral communication skills and excellent legal reasoning skills.
- Must have basic proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite, including Word and Outlook, and Adobe Acrobat.

**PTAB’S HIRING PROCESS**

**Current Judge Staffing**

*As of April 2014

- 39% AIA
- 40% Ex Parte Appeals
- 10% Inter Partes Reexamination Appeals
- 8% Management
- 3% Interferences

^ All judges begin with a docket of ex parte appeals. Assignments to other areas are based on need.

**Benefits**

USPTO’s comprehensive Federal benefits package rivals those offered by top U.S. corporations. Our balanced work-life package includes:
- Flexible work schedules including telework
- Paid Leave: starting with 13 days of vacation, 13 days of sick leave
- Health Benefits Plan and Retirement Package
- Gain-Sharing Bonuses
- 10 Paid Holidays Each Year
- Transit Subsidy

*As of April 2014

**The transition from private practice to the Board has been welcome in many ways, but one of the most pleasant aspects has been the collegial atmosphere here.—Administrative Patent Judge Matt Clements, Silicon Valley Office**