

**From:** Bonnen, Alice  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2013 8:39 AM  
**To:** RCE outreach  
**Subject:** Comment on RCE practice -Question #2

Dear Sirs,

Below is my comment on Question 2. What change(s), if any, in USPTO procedure(s) or regulation(s) would reduce your need to file RCEs?

I think that if the Office allowed at least one further office action between the first non-final and the final office action, it would reduce the filing of RCE's considerably. As the system is presently set-up, an applicant has one opportunity to present amendments and new evidence and that is in response to the first office action. However, it often takes at least two back and forth conversations with the examiner to reach an understanding. While you may believe you have addressed all of the issues raised in the non-final OA, the examiner may feel differently. So, you receive a final OA and even with an interview at this stage (which is usually when you more fully understand what is needed), you still need to file an RCE to have further amendments and evidence considered because most often examiners will not consider amendments or declarations under final. Thus, I believe that providing a further opportunity to present amendments/evidence after the first office action would reduce submission of RCE's significantly.

Thank you for your consideration of my comment on this issue.

Best regards,

Alice

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