

OPQA EXTERNAL QUALITY SURVEY QUESTIONS

Demographic Section

1. What is your affiliation?
2. Which technology field best describes the majority of patent applications you have files over the past 3 months?
3. Approximately how many Office Actions have you received during the past 3 months?
4. How often have you communicated over the telephone or in person with USPTO patent examiners in the past 3 months?

Interactions with Patent Examiners

5. To what extent were the non-supervisory Patent Examiners:
 - a. Available to resolve your issues?
 - b. Attentive to your concerns?
 - c. Responsive to your inquiries?
 - d. Properly prepared to discuss the issues at hand?
 - e. Able to facilitate a positive resolution?

Patent Examiners' Decisions

6. Consider your experiences over the past 3 months. Please think about the rules and procedures Patent Examiners must adhere to in their decisions. To what extent did the Patent Examiners you worked with adhere to the following rules and procedures with respect to:
 - a. Citing appropriate prior art?
 - b. Treating all claims?
 - c. Providing enough information to advance prosecution?
 - d. Substantively addressing your responses to Office Actions?
 - e. Following appropriate restriction practice?

Rejections Practice

7. Consider all rejections you have received over the past 3 months. How often do you think the rejections made under the following statutes were reasonable in terms of being technically, legally, and logically sound with respect to:
 - a. 35 U.S.C. 101 Rejections
 - b. 35 U.S.C. 102 Rejections
 - c. 35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections
 - d. 35 U.S.C. 112 Rejections, Paragraph 1
 - e. 35 U.S.C. 101 Rejections, Paragraph 2

Overall Examination Quality

8. In the past 3 months, how would you rate overall examination quality?
9. In the past 3 months, has overall examination quality declines, stayed the same, or improved?
10. In the past 3 months, have you experienced problems with the consistency of examination quality from one examiner to another?