

Notification of First Rules Customer Partnership Meeting

November 9, 2005

**United States Patent and Trademark Office
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Auditorium, Madison Building**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announces the first Rules Customer Partnership Meeting to be hosted by the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy (DCPEP) and managers of the Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA). Members of the public are invited to attend the partnership meeting. The format of the partnership meeting is anticipated to be a series of presentations by Office staff, with each presentation followed by a period, time permitting, for comments or questions from the attending audience. Anticipated topics for the partnership meeting include recent rule packages, patent practice and policy initiatives, programs for enhanced quality in examination and reexamination procedure, and other topics specific to patent practice and policy. This Rules Customer Partnership initiative is designed and developed to be a forum to share ideas, experiences, and insights between individual users and the USPTO. The USPTO does not intend to use these customer partnership groups to arrive at a group consensus. Individual opinions are sought from varying participants, and the meetings are intended to be informal in nature. We value our customers and the feedback provided from individual participants is important in our efforts to continuously improve the quality of our products and services. Your willing participation in this informal process is helpful in providing us with new insights and perspectives.

DATE AND LOCATION: This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2005, from 8:00 am to 11:30 am, in the Madison Auditorium, located at 600 Dulany Street, in Alexandria, Virginia, 22313.

Requests for Attendance at the Partnership Meeting

Requests for attendance will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis according to the time and date of receipt of each request. In order to ensure a broad cross-section of attendees, the USPTO reserves the right to limit the number of attendees from any single organization or law firm. Therefore, organizations and law firms should designate their official representatives. Individuals will be notified of accepted requests for attendance by the USPTO. Non-accepted requesters will also be notified by the USPTO.

Requests for attendance at the partnership meeting should be submitted to the attention of Grace Ramdat at (571) 272-7746 or by electronic mail through the Internet to grace.ramdat@uspto.gov. Requests for attendance must include the attendee's name, affiliation, title, mailing address, and telephone number. Facsimile number and Internet mail address, if available, should also be provided. Requests must be received by November 4, 2005.