

Intellectual Property Leadership

One of the chief missions of the USPTO is to strengthen intellectual property (IP) protection in the United States and abroad, making it more accessible, affordable, and enforceable. The role of the IP system in stimulating the American economy has become increasingly important. International negotiations, consultations, and information-sharing efforts led by USPTO leaders and international specialists are geared to secure, improve, and expand protection of U.S. intellectual property rights throughout the world. We work closely with other U.S. government agencies and foreign counterparts to create a consistent environment that is mutually beneficial to all parties and fosters economic development on a global scale.

The Under Secretary and Director champions intellectual property rights and forges a balance between the public's interest in intellectual property and each customer's interest in his/her patent and trademark. The Administrator for External Affairs, including the Office of Legislative and International Affairs (OLIA), serves as the principal adviser to the Under Secretary and Director on public policy matters related to IP protection. Duties include drafting legislative and policy proposals concerning IP matters, preparing supporting documentation to carry out the legislative programs and policies of the Under Secretary, and reviewing and analyzing other legislative proposals concerning IP matters. Policy specialists also engage in multilateral and bilateral negotiations to strengthen IP protection worldwide. On-going efforts include the development and maintenance of multilateral systems for the protection of IP rights, assistance in the establishment of bilateral agreements with other IP offices; participation in the IP aspects of trade consultations, patronage in the establishment of adequate systems in developing countries for the protection of IP rights, and development of international standards and procedures to make it easier for U.S. nationals to obtain rights in other countries and to facilitate access to the information contained in patent and trademark documents.

Another major component of Intellectual Property Leadership is centered around the quality of products and services provided by the USPTO. One facet is the validity of our end products – the issued patent and the registered trademark. Investments in training and search tools are essential to increase the quality of these two major products. A second perspective is the quality of our services and our daily interactions with our customers. To enhance our customer satisfaction, we make investments in outreach efforts. A third facet is employee satisfaction which ultimately results in more satisfied customers.

Fiscal Year 2002 Budget Request

The following chart identifies the distribution of fee income to the Intellectual Property Leadership processes and operations and other USPTO organizations that directly or indirectly provide support, as computed in accordance with our activity-based cost accounting model:

Fiscal Year 2002 IP Leadership Budget
(\$ in Thousands)

Major Function	FY 2001 Estimated Actual		FY 2002 Base		FY 2002 Request		FY 2002 Change Compared To FY 2001 Estimated Actual	
	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars
IP Leadership	154	23,720	156	26,014	156	26,014	2	2,294
Corporate Support - Resource Management	10	5,525	10	5,739	10	5,739	0	214
Corporate Support - Information Technology	12	5,503	12	5,505	12	5,505	0	2
Total	176	34,748	178	37,258	178	37,258	2	2,510

The IP Leadership requires a budget of \$37,258,000 and 178 FTE. This represents an increase of \$2,510,000 and 2 FTE over the fiscal year 2001 estimated actual. This additional funding includes inflation for fixed operational costs.

The USPTO has proposed appropriations language that would make \$5,000 in base funds available in fiscal year 2002 for official representational events and functions reasonably necessary to achieve its goal of promoting and improving systems to effectively promote intellectual property protection and enforcement. Planned hosted international conferences include the Trilateral (European Patent Office and Japanese Patent Office, Regional Conferences – Asia Pacific, Western Hemisphere and Africa), the Visiting Scholars Program, TRI Ps Enforcement training program, and country-specific training (i.e., Russia and Lithuania).

Performance Indicators

The following table shows key IP Leadership workload indicators from fiscal years 2000 through 2002:

Performance Results at the Requested Level of Funding

Performance Measure	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Target	FY 2002 Request
Increase in technical assistance to developing countries and countries moving to a market economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of technical assistance activities completed	106	105	125
Provide leadership role in enforcement of intellectual property rights: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of activities completed	N/A	N/A	N/A