

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



USPTO 2021 National Patent Application Drafting Competition

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What's it all about?

- Started as a regional competition
- Expanded to a national competition in 2020
- Opportunity to bolster your school's reputation
- Only competition providing direct access to USPTO resources and experts

Director lancu video

- [Director's remarks](#)

Never considered intellectual property before?

- Learn the basics of intellectual property (IP)
- Learn the patent application process
- Gain exposure to daily life of patent attorneys

Real life simulation of IP law

- **Clients**
 - Interpreting client's vision and description into claims and formal patent application
 - Balancing patentability and scope
- **Patent application process**
 - Searching using USPTO databases
 - Drafting claims
 - Preparing drawings and writing specifications
 - Amending claims
 - Arguing validity



Learn valuable patent skills

- Experience first-hand what patent attorneys do
- Work with coaches who have decades of patent experience
- Showcase your work as a writing sample
- Talk about the experience in job interviews

Webex poll

- How do we conduct networking virtually?

2021 key dates

- October 1–registration opens
- November 7–registration closes
- November 13–team invitations sent
- November 16–invention statement released
- February 8, 2021–applications due
- March 6, 2021–virtual regional round
- April 9, 2021–National Finals at the USPTO headquarters

But wait, there's more!

- Patent Prosecution Boot Camp—Four module series:
 - Module one—Learn the basics of patent law and how to file a patent application.
 - Module two—Learn about patent claims and how to interpret them.
 - Module three—Learn about prior art, prior art rejections, and why understanding them is key to understanding the patent prosecution process.
 - Module four—Learn the basics of claim drafting.



Webex poll

- What is the preferred day of the week?
 - Weekday–afternoon
 - Weekday–evening
 - Weekend–afternoon
 - Weekend–evening
 - Other

Resources

- See [2021 National Patent Application Drafting Competition](#) for:
 - 2021 rules
 - 2020 invention statement
 - 2020 past winners
 - Boot camp schedule and registration

Questions?

- www.uspto.gov/midwest
- www.facebook.com/uspto.gov
- www.youtube.com/user/USPTOvideo/
- Social media: @uspto

And the Winner is.....



