



INVENTION-CON 2024

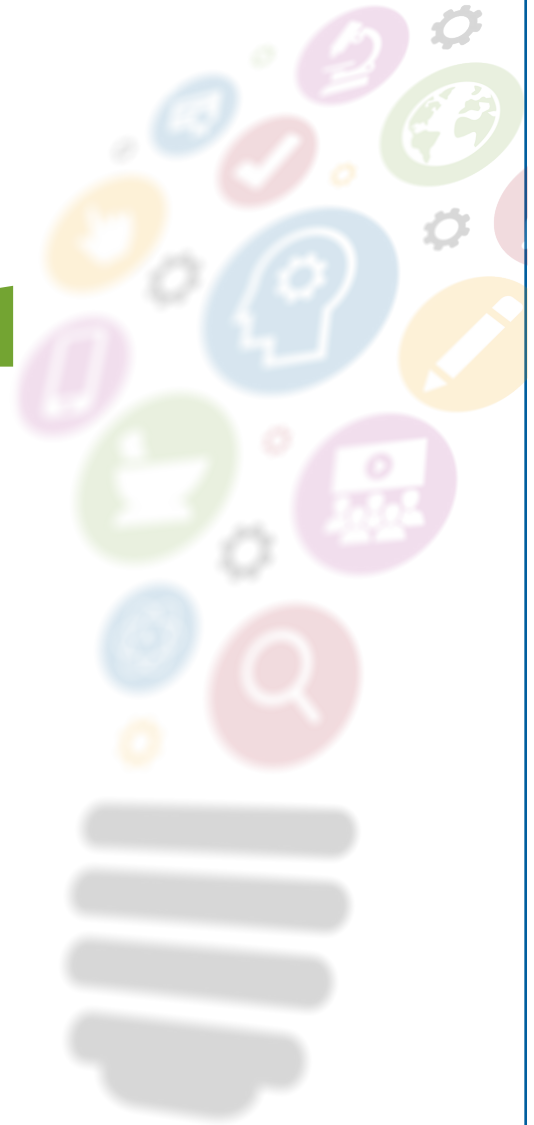
The Place for **Inventors**, **Makers**, & **Entrepreneurs**

USPTO's Inventors Conference · August 16 - 17 · In person/virtual



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

Expanding your intellectual property potential



The USPTO's
Innovation Outreach Division presents
Invention-Con 2024

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Expanding your intellectual property potential

Agenda

Friday, August 16, 2024

- 11:30 - 12:50 p.m.** **In-Person Networking**
- 1:00 - 1:10 p.m.** **Welcome and Overview**
Sean Wilkerson, Innovation Outreach Specialist, USPTO
- 1:10 - 1:50 p.m.** **Why IP is Beneficial to Both Innovators and Companies Alike**
Join United States Intellectual Property Alliance (USIPA) board members to discuss why it's in the best interests of companies to work together with independent innovators to find the marketplace's next big hit products.
Gillian M. Fenton, Esq. founder and managing director of LST Strategies LLC
James Howard, Executive Director, Black Inventors Hall of Fame
Christie Thoene, Vice President of Policy and Legal Communications, Qualcomm
Warren Tuttle, Founder, Tuttle Innovation
- 1:50 - 2:40 p.m.** **The spark of creativity**
Learn how experience inspired innovation that became a commercialized product.
Alison Denbigh, Co-Inventor and Co-Owner Skyler Innovations
Carmine Denisco, President, United Inventors Association, Inventor and Entrepreneur
Alan Guyan, Founder and CEO, Made Plus Inc.
Dawn N. Myers, Founder CEO, Richualist
- 2:40 - 2:50 p.m.** **Break**
- 2:50 - 3:30 p.m.** **Monetizing Your IP Through Licensing**
Learn from a panel of seasoned experts about the initial ins and outs of licensing your IP. We'll explore why IP protection is necessary, early development fundamentals and how to get started finding strong partners.
Elizabeth Dougherty, Eastern Region Outreach Office Director, USPTO
Raquel Graham, CEO and Founder, ROQ Innovation
Asmod Karki, Senior Associate, FedTech
Matt Nuccio, President and Creative Director, Design Edge

3:30 - 4:20 p.m.

Practical AI Solving Real World Problems

Learn how public and private institutions are using AI to provide solutions to businesses. Hear what investors are looking for in AI start-ups.

Erika Bahr, Founder and CEO, Daxe AI

Mariane Bekker, CEO, Progressive Ventures

Jerry Ma, Director of Emerging Technology and Chief AI Officer, USPTO

Anna Yuan, Co-founder and CEO, ScaleGrowth AI

4:20 - 4:30 p.m.

Closing and Wrap up

NaThanya Ferguson, Director, Innovation Outreach Division, USPTO

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Optional Networking

Saturday, August 17, 2024

10:00 - 10:05 p.m.

Welcome and Overview

10:05 - 2:00 p.m.

Open House and Resource Fair



Speakers

Erika Bahr, Founder and CEO, Daxe AI

Erika Bahr is the co-founder and CEO of Daxe, Inc., an innovative company specializing in AI-powered data room platforms. With over a decade of experience working with Fortune 500 companies, Erika has a strong background in managing data pipelines and building advanced machine learning models. She has played a key role in developing go-to-market strategies for AI solutions at AWS and has a deep understanding of data security and compliance.



Erika participated in the US DoD NSIN Foundry program and was a finalist at the showcase, demonstrating her commitment to advancing technology in highly regulated sectors. Under her leadership, Daxe is developing the next generation of Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) systems, offering highly accurate and secure AI solutions tailored for industries with stringent regulatory requirements.

Erika's expertise in AI and data management is complemented by her academic achievements, including her alumni status from the Harvard Business Analytics Program and the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business MSBA. Passionate about empowering women in tech, she is actively involved in hosting industry events and fostering innovation in highly regulated sectors.

Mariane Bekker, General Partner, Progressive Ventures

Mariane Bekker is a tech executive and the founder and CEO of Women Founders Bay, a non-profit that helps female entrepreneurs grow their startups. She runs one of the largest and most active communities of female tech founders in the Bay Area. She is also a General Partner at Progressive Ventures, an early-stage venture fund in Silicon Valley that invests in innovative AI startups.



Alison Denbigh, Co-Inventor and Co-Owner Skyler Innovations

Alison Denbigh is a serial entrepreneur in diverse industries, including Skyler Innovations—the inventor of the Watch Ya' Mouth board game. It reached #1 on three Amazon platforms in 2016 and 2017. The game received the Australian Toy Of The Year award in 2017. It has been eight years since its inception and still selling strong on retail stores/e-commerce platforms making it an evergreen product.



Carmine Denisco, President, United Inventors Association, Inventor and Entrepreneur

President, United Inventors Association, Inventor, Board Member USIPA, FLIPA, IFIA, Author, Podcaster, Investor, Patent and Trademark Holder. Carmine has directed the launch, design, development and manufacture for hundreds of products as seen on Shark Tank, shopping channels, online, infomercials and retail shelves, some have gone on to be licensed by major companies. Denisco is dedicated to helping product developers correctly navigate the development and manufacturing process, giving each their best shot at success. Currently, CEO EarMark Sourcing Carmine consults with a large number of consumer product brands across every major category to be sold in retailers around the world. Don't miss his monthly New Product Show on Fox News!



Elizabeth Dougherty,
Eastern Region Outreach Office Director, USPTO

As the Eastern Regional Outreach Director for the USPTO, Elizabeth Dougherty carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, and is responsible for leading the USPTO's East Coast stakeholder engagement. Focusing on the region and actively engaging with the community, Ms. Dougherty ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders.



Ms. Dougherty has more than 25 years of experience working at the USPTO. She served as the Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. In this role, she worked closely across the Agency's leadership to implement the policies and priorities for the USPTO. She began her career at the USPTO as a patent examiner and went on to obtain her J.D. from The Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America and served as a Senior Legal Advisor in the Office of Patent Legal Administration. Over the years, she has also served in the USPTO's Office of Petitions, the Office of Innovation Development, and the Office of Government Affairs. Ms. Dougherty has dedicated much of her career to the USPTO's outreach and education programs focusing on small businesses, startups and entrepreneurs.

Gillian M. Fenton, Esq., founder and
managing director, LST Strategies LLC

Gillian M. Fenton, Esq., CLP recently became the founder and managing director of LST Strategies LLC, a specialty law practice dedicated to life science transactions (<https://lifesciencetransactions.com>). She is also a Practitioner in Residence at the Center for Intellectual Property x Innovation Policy (<https://cip2.gmu.edu/>), hosted by George Mason University.



Previously, she served GSK (GlaxoSmithKline) as Vaccines Special Counsel for Innovation and Government Collaborations. Gillian supported a wide variety of

international business development transactions, R&D collaborations and strategic alliances to feed the pipeline for GSK's vaccines and infectious diseases business segment. She also negotiated and managed GSK Vaccines' R&D U.S. Government Contracts, patent licenses, and scientific collaborations with NIH/NIAID, BARDA, DARPA, CARB-X and NIIMBL. Before joining GSK, Gillian was VP, Chief Intellectual Property Counsel at Emergent BioSolutions Inc., where she founded the IP department and supported all IP aspects of the company's IPO and subsequent 9 years of growth through M&A in the vaccines, biodefense, and global health fields. Gillian also spent over twelve years in private practice at law firms in Boston, MA and Washington, DC.

Gillian is an active member of the Licensing Executives Society (LES, USA & Canada), and served as the society President in 2020-2021. Gillian's contributions to LES and to the field of licensing were recognized with the society's Frank Barnes Award in October 2022. She has been listed in the IAM 300 since October 2023. Gillian has published several manuscripts on the Bayh-Dole Act and speaks frequently on this and other topics of interest to the licensing and dealmaking community. She is also the course chair for the LES IP Licensing Basics course.

NaThanya Ferguson,
Director, Innovation Outreach Division, USPTO

NaThanya Ferguson serves as the director of the USPTO's Innovation Outreach Division, which focuses on outreach to independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and underrepresented communities of innovators across America.



Ferguson joined the USPTO in 1989. During her 32-year tenure at the agency, she has worked as a contracting officer representative, lead patent analyst for the Patent Process Reengineering initiative, strategic planning project manager for the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, and project manager for the National Council for Expanding American Innovation (NCEAI). Ferguson has received numerous awards, including a Department of Commerce Gold Medal in 2015 for her contribution to the innovative and collaborative implementation of the First Inventor to File statutory provisions of the America Invents Act, a Department of Commerce Distinguished Career Award in 2011 for continued outstanding service, and a Silver Medal Award in 1999 for her contribution to the development and implementation of the Patent Process Reengineering initiative. Ferguson holds a Bachelor of Science degree in

business and management from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's Certificate in project management from Management Concepts and Regis University.

Raquel Graham, CEO and Founder, ROQ Innovation

Serial entrepreneur, inventor, innovation maven, perpetual problem solver, and accomplished marketing executive Raquel Graham has an unwavering commitment to helping people make their lives better. This passion has inspired her inventions, propelled her award-winning entrepreneurial journey, and fueled her resilience and tenacity in the face of adversity. For over 17 years, she led strategy, media production, and content management solutions for editorial, consumer, and philanthropic clients such as international brands McDonald's and Honey Can Do. After helping corporations elevate their brands for more than 25 years, Raquel established her own product development company, ROQ Innovation. Inspired by her own life journey, Raquel creates custom-made products that solve everyday problems, making people's lives easier and more fulfilling. Two of Raquel's innovations, NEKZ® (a scarf alternative) and HEADLIGHTZ™ (a rechargeable beanie that provides hands-free LED lighting for outdoor activities) sold out during her appearances on HSN (Home Shopping Network). She now has multiple products on the network, fulfilling her dream to "invent products that sell on a TV shopping channel and make money while she sleeps". Raquel has been featured multiple times on ABC's The View, Good Morning America, in Forbes and Entrepreneur magazine, twice on Oprah Magazine's "The O List" and three consecutive years on Oprah's Favorite Things List. She recently appeared in Shark Tank (receiving an investment from two sharks) and gave a TEDx talk at her alma mater Wesleyan University on "The Business of Resilience".



Alan Guyan, Founder and CEO, Made Plus Inc.

Alan Guyan is an accomplished executive with a career spanning more than 25 years that encompasses product creation, manufacturing innovation, and business development within the realm of 3D printing. Throughout his



professional journey, Alan has led diverse global teams, orchestrating the conception and launch of pioneering products and solutions across various sectors, including aerospace, medical, and footwear.

As the Founder and CEO of Made Plus Inc., Alan is reshaping the footwear trajectory by bridging consumer desires with efficient, waste-reducing manufacturing through an innovative platform. Previously, he founded Additive Accelerator, guiding startups and enterprises in harnessing additive manufacturing's potential for refined workflows and revenue growth. Alan consulted with large brands on adopting additive manufacturing and led the development of new manufacturing technologies to drive revenue growth.

During Alan's tenure at Under Armour, he was the Director of 3D Design and Manufacturing Innovation for Under Armour's Manufacturing Innovation Center, Lighthouse. In this role, he leveraged performance goals to innovate the product experience for footwear, apparel, and accessories. He also served as the brand's resident expert on all additive manufacturing and directed 3D design and manufacturing innovation, driving breakthroughs in wearables, the first 3D-printed training shoe, and the MagZip zipper.

James Howard, Executive Director, Black Inventors Hall of Fame

James Howard is a lecturer, design historian, and industrial designer/inventor of some 300 products with 20 patents. He owns and operates "Bridge" Exploring New Career Pathways, takes students through the problem-solving processes: problem/necessity, solution, and execution and leads them to new career pathways and job opportunities.



Mr. Howard serves as Executive Director of The Black Inventors Hall of Fame, a virtual museum devoted to immortalizing African Americans whose noteworthy inventions have improved lives yet gone unnoticed. Mr. Howard also serves on the board of directors for the United States Intellectual Property Alliance, and recently assisted the National Inventors Hall of Fame to curate their very first Black inventors exhibit: Breaking Barriers. Mr. Howard serves on the advisory board for the American Institutes for Research, addressing the question - Does Race and Gender of the Patent Examiner Matter for Innovation? He is also the recent recipient of the TAGIE award for his documentary film, The Gathering, and the co-producer of

the groundbreaking film, *The Great Equalizer*, examining fairness in the patent system.

Mr. Howard has served as a subject matter expert on design thinking for the Keller Innovation Center at Princeton University. He is also a visiting lecturer for the University of Texas Center for Integrated Design. Mr. Howard earned a Master's and Bachelor of Fine Arts -Industrial Design at the University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. Mr. Howard was recently awarded as an honorary member of the National Academy of Inventors, and he serves on the panel for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the innovation ecosystem. He is also a recent recipient of the Inspire Top 100 award. For the past two years, Mr. Howard has served as a keynote speaker for various USPTO Black History Month symposiums.

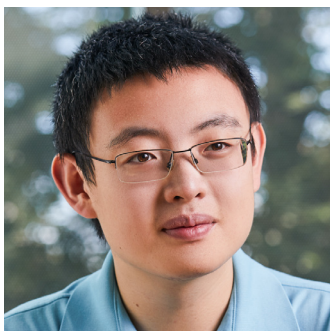
Asmod Karki, Senior Associate, FedTech

Asmod Karki is a Senior Associate at FedTech, a global deeptech catalyst. FedTech enables government, large organizations, and startups to commercialize R&D technologies through various customized programming. We have screened 5500+ technologies, trained 2000+ researchers, accelerated more than 400 startups, and our portfolio firms have raised over \$1 billion in private investments. Asmod is in the growth team at FedTech supporting strategic efforts in regional and international markets.



Jerry Ma, Director of Emerging Technology and Chief AI Officer, USPTO

Jerry Ma serves as the Director of Emerging Technology at the USPTO, overseeing a comprehensive portfolio of artificial intelligence and emerging technology matters within the agency. In this role, Mr. Ma provides strategic and technical leadership toward ensuring that the USPTO deploys innovative technologies in service of innovators, and that the USPTO adopts forward-thinking policies to support new domains of invention and creativity.



Prior to joining the USPTO, Mr. Ma developed engineering and infrastructure agendas for global R&D teams, overseeing major initiatives resulting in the world's first public-domain superhuman Go bot and the first deep neural network to be trained on the known protein universe. Mr. Ma's scientific research has been published at venues such as ICML, ICLR, AAAI, PNAS, and S&P, and he has taught computer science and mathematics in undergraduate, graduate, and professional settings across multiple institutions. Mr. Ma holds an A.B. in Economics and the Classics from Harvard University, and he is admitted to practice before the USPTO.

Dawn N. Myers, Founder and CEO, Richualist

Dawn Myers is a Founder and CEO in the hardware, CPG, and retail space and a DC region ecosystem builder, having held several leadership positions in nonprofits in the tech and startup sphere.



She started her company, THE MOST, Inc. to make products to meet the nuanced needs of women of color through physical products, but engineering and manufacturing tech-enabled hardware takes an incredible amount of capital and training. Dawn had to get creative to raise funds to surmount the heightened barriers to entry in this space and quickly found herself advising and coaching other women on how to work what they have to get what they need.

A Howard University JD and adjunct professor of Entrepreneurship at Georgetown University, she is committed to creating quality programming for founders striving to innovate for their communities. Dawn was named one of Washington, D.C.'s Tech Titans by the Washingtonian and her startup was named one of Washington's top 21 Startups to watch by The Washington Business Journal.

She has negotiated partnerships with and secured funding from the world's top manufacturers including Dow, Proctor and Gamble, Sephora, and Glossier for her patented technologies in the personal care and beauty space. Her patented invention was named Baltimore's 2023 Invention of the year by Technically DC. She is among fewer than 100 Black women to have secured over \$1m in venture funding, and has secured investment from the spaces most elite investors including Mark Cuban and Emma Grede.

Matt Nuccio,
President and Creative Director, Design Edge

With over 30 years of experience, Design Edge has established itself as a premier toy design and development firm, contributing to the success of iconic products and brands like Creepy Crawlers, Tickle Me Elmo, Nintendo Power Glove, Laser Challenge, and Barbie Sparkle Kingdom.



Since 2008, Matt has actively contributed to the toy industry through volunteer work. For four years, he chaired the Toy Association (TA) associate panel, advocating for designers and inventors. Currently, Matt holds positions on the Board of Directors of the United Inventors Association of America (UIA), the People of Play (POP) advisory board, and the education committee of the Toy Association (TA). In 2023, he was elected as a board member of the International Federation of Inventors Association (IFIA) by the United Nations, representing the U.S. independent invention community.

Matt's insights and expertise are widely recognized in the industry. He authors a column in Toy & Family Entertainment magazine, addressing key topics in the field, and is a sought-after speaker, having lectured at prestigious events such as New York Toy Fair, ASTRA, ChiTAG, and the Hong Kong Toy Fair. In recognition of his contributions, Matt has received prestigious honors. The National Security Agency (NSA) named him an American Innovator in 2018, and he represented the United States at the Emerging Innovation Summit in Melbourne, Australia, in 2019. Additionally, he has been listed by MOJO NATION as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the toy industry for consecutive years.

Matt's diverse contributions, spanning design, advocacy, and mentorship, underscore his leadership and vision in the industry. His dedication continues to shape the world of play, leaving a lasting impact for generations to come.

Christie Thoene, Vice President of Policy and Legal Communications, Qualcomm

Christie Thoene supports the government affairs, technology licensing and legal teams at Qualcomm with external communications regarding U.S. and international policy, regulatory and legal matters. In this capacity, Christie works closely with Qualcomm's senior management and executive team to position Qualcomm and its leading-edge technologies with the media, industry analysts and other key stakeholders.



Her work covers a wide range of complex public policy and legal issues including litigation, intellectual property rights, antitrust, standards, national security, and trade as well as state and local issues. She also supports Qualcomm's advocacy campaigns to educate key stakeholders on policies that support the company's historic culture of invention, including expanding the pool of diverse patent holders in the U.S., and reinforce the importance of strong patent rights as a critical driver of innovation.

Christie also serves on the Board of Trustees and as a mentor for Nativity Prep Academy, a middle school for low income, first-generation college-bound students. Prior to her work at Qualcomm, Christie was a partner in the San Diego office of the law firm Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith LLP. She received her Juris Doctor from the University of San Diego School of Law ('94) and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Central and East European Studies from the University of Colorado, Boulder ('91).

Warren Tuttle, Founder, Tuttle Innovation

Mr. Tuttle has been active for decades as an advocate for inventor's rights at the USPTO, throughout the Department of Commerce, and within the halls of Congress. Mr. Tuttle is among the elite leaders in corporate, academic, professional, and government organizations who is a member of the Council for Inclusive Innovation lead by Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo. CI2's mission is to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office develop a comprehensive national strategy to increase participation in



our innovation ecosystem by encouraging, empowering, and supporting all future innovators. That includes increasing the involvement of women and other underrepresented groups. Professionally, Mr. Tuttle oversees open innovation product programs for Lifetime Brands the nation's leader in the housewares and tabletop arenas (Farberware, Kitchen Aid and 40 other brands) and Merchant Media in the DRTV space (Smart Spin, True Touch). Mr. Tuttle is currently involved in the launch of MarketBlast (www.marketblast.com) a technologically advanced platform that connects innovators with established entities featuring marketplace presence and identifiable brands.

of the U.S. Department of Commerce. As an education program analyst in the Global Intellectual Property Academy from 2008 to 2011, he managed international programs focused on providing IP training related to enforcement of patents, trademarks, and copyrights and the U.S. patent and trademark system. Prior to working for the federal government, he served as the Director of Events for the National Association of Homebuilders in Washington, D.C. and as the Ideas Exchange Manager for Accenture in Reston, Virginia.

Sean Wilkerson, Innovation Outreach Specialist — National Programs, USPTO

Sean Wilkerson works in the Innovation Outreach Division at the USPTO creating IP awareness programs and managing outreach services to independent inventors, small businesses, entrepreneurs, makers, and universities.



Wilkerson previously worked as an outreach coordinator for the programs leading up to the opening of the USPTO's Silicon Valley and Texas Regional Offices. He also spent a year as part of the New York engagement team that developed the 2015 Future of Urban Innovation Startups Summit in coordination with Columbia University and the USPTO.

From 2011 to 2013, he served as the program manager of the inaugural Select USA Summit, developing the program, structure, and outreach efforts of a U.S. government-wide program housed in the International Trade Administration

Anna Yuan, Co-founder and CEO, ScaleGrowth AI

Anna Yuan is a dynamic entrepreneur, investor, and co-founder of ScaleGrowth AI, a pioneering multi-agent platform that creates hyper-personalized business solutions and transforms the landscape of AI-driven business optimization.



Prior to founding ScaleGrowth, Anna spearheaded product growth across various industries, including mobile, SaaS, consumer products, and open-source projects through Ysquared, her Product Marketing Agency. She has a track record of helping both startups and major corporations such as Apple and REA Group, significantly boosting product strategies, engagement, and revenue. Her innovative work has also led to being awarded two patents by the USPTO, further solidifying her reputation as a leader in technology development.



Federal agency assistance and resources

America's Seed Fund powered by the U.S. Small Business Administration serves as the coordinating agency for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.



www.americasseedfund.us

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce that promotes the growth of minority-owned business through the mobilization and advancement of public and private sector programs, policy, and research.



www.mbda.gov • 202-482-2332

Innovation programs at the **National Science Foundation (NSF)** advance ideas from the laboratory to the marketplace to strengthen America's economy, health, and security.



www.nsf.gov • TIP@nsf.gov

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum, education, and research complex, with 21 museums and the National Zoo—shaping the future by preserving heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world.



Smithsonian

www.si.edu • info@si.edu

The Census Bureau's (USCB) mission is to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy. Our primary dissemination platform, data.census.gov, allows you to access these data from our most popular surveys and programs free of charge.



www.census.gov • census.data@census.gov
800-923-8282

The U.S. Copyright Office (USCO) registers copyright claims, records information about copyright ownership, provides information to the public, and assists Congress and other parts of the government on a wide range of copyright issues, both simple and complex. The U.S. Copyright Office is part of the Library of Congress.



www.copyright.gov

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Trade (CBP) protects the intellectual property rights of American businesses, safeguarding them from unfair competition, and use for malicious intent while upholding American innovation and ingenuity.



www.cbp.gov/trade

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) serves as the central research and development organization of the Department of Defense. DARPA has held to a singular and enduring mission: to make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies for national security.



www.darpa.mil

The federal securities laws empower the **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)** with broad authority over all aspects of the securities industry. The SEC's mission is to protect investors; maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets; and facilitate capital formation.



www.sec.gov

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) works to ignite change and spark action so small businesses from main street to new high tech startups can confidently start, grow, expand, or recover.



www.sba.gov

Partner assistance and resources

The National Inventors Hall of Fame is the premier nonprofit organization in America dedicated to recognizing inventors and invention, promoting creativity, and advancing the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

museum@invent.org or 571-272-0095



National Inventors
Hall of Fame®

USPTO assistance and resources



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE®

The Application Assistance Unit (AAU), within the Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience, assists with a broad range of questions and issues pertaining to pre-examination processing of patent applications by the Office of Patent Application Processing and the post-examination processing of patent applications by the Office of Data Management.

HelpAAU@uspto.gov, 888-786-0101
www.uspto.gov/PatentAssistance

The Council for Inclusive Innovation's (CI2) mission is to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) develop a comprehensive national strategy to increase participation in our innovation ecosystem by encouraging, empowering, and supporting all future innovators.

CI2@uspto.gov
www.uspto.gov/ExpandingAmericanInnovation

The Global Intellectual Property Academy (GIPA), under the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA), provides international capacity-building intellectual property (IP) training in a variety of IP topics for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders.

(571) 272-1500 or AskGIPA@uspto.gov
www.uspto.gov/GIPA

The Innovation Outreach Division (IOD) develops awareness and outreach programs and training for inventors, organizations, and universities. The IOD is located in the Office of Public Engagement of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and creates annual programming to help everyone better understand, secure, and utilize IP. They have resources for inventors, entrepreneurs, and small business owners getting started.

www.uspto.gov/inventors • www.uspto.gov/startups
InnovationOutreach@uspto.gov

The Intellectual Property (IP) Attaché Program is within the USPTO's Office of Policy and International Affairs. IP attachés advocate to improve IP policies, laws, and regulations abroad for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders.

www.uspto.gov/IPAttache

The Inventors Assistance Center (IAC), within the Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience, provides patent information and services to the public. The IAC is staffed by former supervisory patent examiners and primary examiners who answer general questions concerning patent examining policy and procedure.

800-PTO-9199 (800-786-9199) TDD/TTY customers can dial 800-877-8339 for customer assistance.
www.uspto.gov/InventorAssistance

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) is a reference work on the practices and procedures relative to the prosecution of patent applications before the USPTO.

www.uspto.gov/MPEP

The Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC) leads efforts to assist U.S. inventors and businesses in protecting their patent rights worldwide and supports the global innovation community. For more information, contact:

OIPC@uspto.gov, 571-272-2IPC or 571-272-2472
www.uspto.gov/patents/basics/international-patent-cooperation

The Office of Patent Legal Administration (OPLA) drafts rules and develops practices for the examination of patent applications, as well as assists in the implementation of these new rules and practices. Rule packages, Official Gazette notices, collection and review of public comments, examiner training,

forms, and public guidance are among the services provided in this area.

General policy and procedures questions: 571-272-7701,
patentpractice@uspto.gov
www.uspto.gov/PatentLegalAdministration

The Office of Petitions (OPET) is responsible for reviewing and deciding most petitions, requests, and inquiries related to the prosecution of patent applications.

Help desk: 571-272-3282
www.uspto.gov/about-us/organizational-offices/office-commissioner-patents/petitions

The Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) assists customers with filing their electronic patent application submissions via the Electronic Filing System (EFS-Web) and the newest filing system, Patent Center, with the review of patent applications in Public and Private PAIR (Patent Application Information Retrieval), and Searching the Patent and Patent Application Full-Text and Image databases.

EBC@uspto.gov, 866-217-9197 • www.uspto.gov/EBC

The Patents Ombuds Office provides assistance to applicants and attorneys throughout the application process including initial filing, patent examination, and post-examination.

PatentsOmbudsOffice@uspto.gov, 855-559-8589
www.uspto.gov/Ombudsman

The Patent Pro Bono Program endeavors to match financially underresourced independent inventors and small businesses with a patent practitioner who provides patent preparation, filing, and prosecution services, without charge for their legal services.

ProBono@uspto.gov • www.uspto.gov/PatentProBono

Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs) are a nationwide network of 85 public, state, and academic libraries designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information. For more information, contact:

Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program (PTRCP)
PTRCOffice@uspto.gov
www.uspto.gov/PTRC

The Pro Se Assistance Program, within the Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience, provides outreach and education to inventors who file patent applications without the assistance of a registered patent attorney or agent (also known as “pro se” filing).

ProSeAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov, 866-767-3848
www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents

Regional Offices: The USPTO operates six regional offices around the country:

- **Northeast Regional Outreach Office** (formerly Eastern Regional Outreach Office)
- **Elijah J. McCoy Midwest Regional Outreach Office**
- **Southwest Regional Outreach Office** (formerly Texas Regional Office)
- **Rocky Mountain Regional Outreach Office**
- **Western Regional Outreach Office** (formerly Silicon Valley Regional Office)
- **Southeast Regional Outreach Office**

Each regional office offers a variety of services, including events, patent examiner interviews, teacher professional development and STEM workshops, consultations with patent and trademark experts, and Patent Trial and Appeal Board hearings. Additionally, each regional office collaborates with the network of Patent and Trademark Resource Centers. For more information, contact the regional office serving your area to learn more about what the USPTO can do for you.

www.uspto.gov/Locations

The Stakeholder Education and Training Division (SETD), within the Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience, provides timely and innovative training products, delivery methods, and educational assistance. SETD’s mission is to provide excellent education and training to the IP community by delivering curricula tailored to each specific stakeholder group, in order to provide a foundation, empowerment, and ongoing support to navigate the application and examination processes.

SETD@uspto.gov

The Trademarks organization of the USPTO is responsible for the federal registration of trademarks in the United States.

Trademark Assistance Center: 800-786-9199 or
TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov
www.uspto.gov/TrademarkAssistance

The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) hears and decides appeals taken by trademark applicants from final refusals of registration by USPTO examining attorneys; presides over opposition proceedings filed by parties challenging applications approved by examining attorneys; presides over cancellation proceedings filed by parties seeking cancellation of USPTO-issued registrations; and determines appropriate geographically distinct territories for parties involved in concurrent use proceedings.

TTAB Assistance Center: 571-272-8500
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