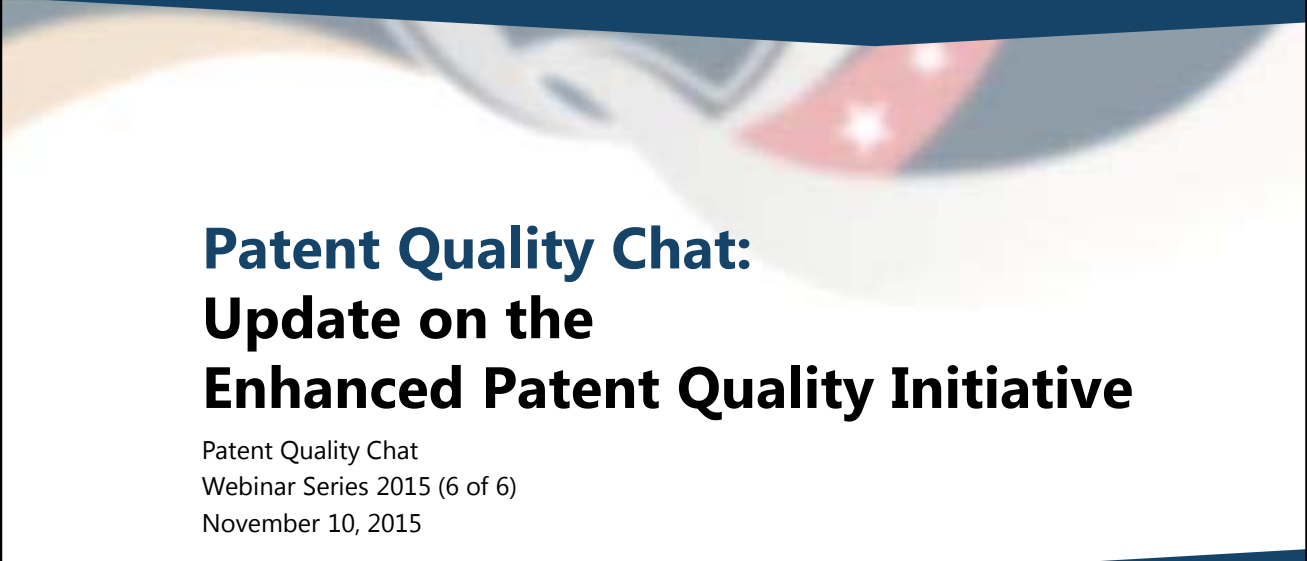


UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

A blurred background image showing a close-up of a person's face, focusing on the eyes and mouth. The person appears to be wearing glasses. The image is out of focus, creating a soft, abstract effect.

Patent Quality Chat: Update on the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Patent Quality Chat
Webinar Series 2015 (6 of 6)
November 10, 2015



To send in questions or comments during the webinar, please email:

PatentQualityEventParticipationBox@uspto.gov



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A screenshot of the USPTO website homepage. The header includes the USPTO logo, navigation links for "About Us", "Careers", and "Contact Us", and a search bar. The main navigation menu has "Patents", "Trademarks", and "Learning and Resources". A large blue banner features the text "First time here? Let us help you find your bearings." and a "Get Going" button. Below the banner, there are sections for "Learn About the Process" with sub-sections for "Patents" and "Trademarks". A red circle highlights the "Patents & Trademarks Initiatives" section, which includes the "Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative" link. The USPTO logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the page.

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Patents Trademarks Learning and Resources Quick Links

First time here? Let us help you find your bearings.

Has your invention already been patented at the USPTO?

New to Trademarks?

First time here? Let us help you find your bearings.

Learn how patents, trademarks, and copyrights differ and other basic information to get started.

Get Going

Learn About the Process

Patents

General Information Concerning Patents

Trademarks

Trademark Basics

Learn about trademarks and find out

Patents & Trademarks Initiatives

Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Learn about USPTO efforts to increase patent quality.

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Home / Patents / Initiatives / Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

More Patents

Forms

Fees & payment information

Initiatives

- Accelerated Examination
- Executive Actions
- Glossary Initiative
- Patent Application Initiatives
- Patent Examiner Technical Training Program
- Patents for Humanity
- Third-Party Preissuance Submissions
- Site Experience Education (SEE) Program

Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Leading in Quality Excellence – Every Interaction Counts

Intellectual property (IP) intensive industries support at least 40 million jobs in the U.S. and contribute more than \$5 trillion - or nearly 35 percent - to our gross domestic product. Our new quality initiative comes as there is increased recognition and appreciation around the world of the importance of IP.

The dedicated efforts of our employees over the last few years have significantly reduced our patent application backlog and pendency. We want to continue to build on those efforts, and recent America Invents Act (AIA) legislation passed by Congress supports doing just that.

The AIA allows us to set our fees and retain fees collected above our appropriated level. This means our financial health is more stable than in the past, giving us a unique opportunity to further expand our quality efforts throughout the entire process.

Patent Quality Chat
 The USPTO will present a monthly, lunchtime Patent Quality Webinar Series hosted by patent specialists on quality-related topics.

Building an Enhanced Patent Quality System

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Patent Quality Chat: Update on the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Valencia Martin Wallace
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

Cassandra Spyrou
Senior Advisor to the
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

Patent Quality Chat
Webinar Series 2015 (6 of 6)
November 10, 2015

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World-Class Patent Quality System at the USPTO

The Right Time for a Greater Focus on Quality

- America Invents Act (AIA) provides a stable budget to pursue quality initiatives
- USPTO continues to reduce patent application inventory and pendency
- IT and other resource improvement initiatives support our employees
- Enhancing patent quality has always been a priority



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World-Class Patent Quality System for our Stakeholders

The Right Time for a Greater Focus on Quality

- With AIA Post-Grant Reviews by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), issued patents can be under greater scrutiny
- Non-practicing entities continue to be a concern to the public; frivolous lawsuits hurt the IP system as well as the economy
- With clarity of patent rights comes certainty in patent rights making IP-intensive industries stronger
- USPTO has always made patent quality a priority



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Agenda

- Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI)
 - Background
 - Summary of Comments
- EPQI Moving Forward



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Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Enhanced Patent Quality is built around three pillars:

1. Excellence in Work Products
2. Excellence in Measuring Patent Quality
3. Excellence in Customer Service



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Proposed Federal Register Initiatives

- I. Excellence in work products
 1. Applicant requests prosecution review of selected applications
 2. Automated pre-examination search
 3. Clarity of the record
- II. Excellence in measuring patent quality
 4. Review/improvements to quality metrics
- III. Excellence in customer service
 5. Review of current compact prosecution model and effect on quality
 6. In-person interview capability with all examiners



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EPQI Comment Sources

- Examiner Forums/Feedback
- Patent Quality Summit
- World Class Patent Quality Mailbox (WCPQ)
 - Internal
 - External (Official FR Notice Responses)
- Roadshows/Roundtables

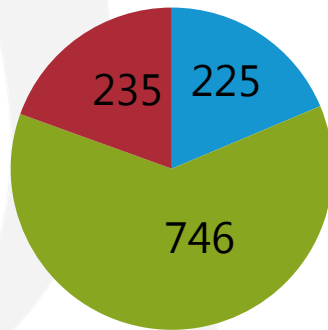


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EPQI Comment Summary

1206 Comments



- Internal
Includes Examiner Forums and WCPQ Internal
- Patent Quality Summit
- WCPQ - External

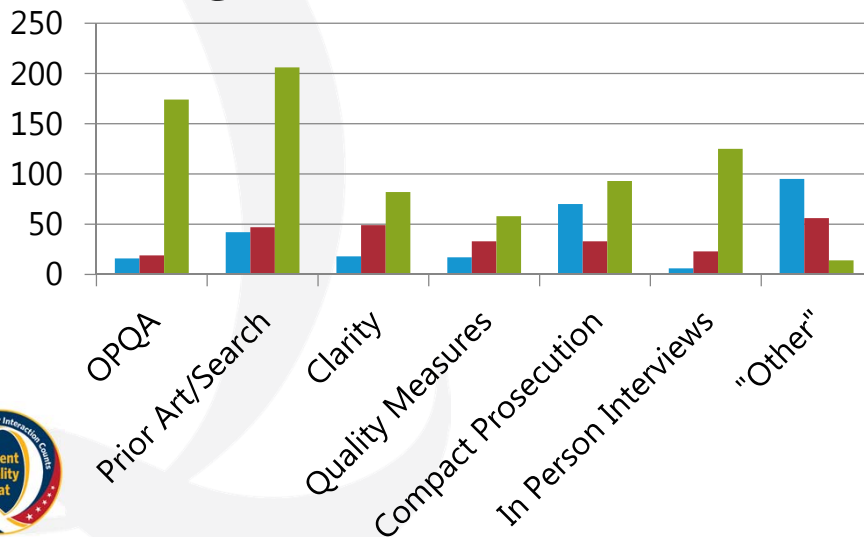
* Responses/emails were broken into Comments based on proposal categories. Each email/response, therefore, may map to more than one submission.



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EPQI Comment Distribution



- Internal*
- WCPQ External
- Quality Summit

* Includes Examiner Forum/Feedback and WCPQ Internal



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Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Evolving Programs

Focusing on three implementation areas:

Data Analysis

- Topic Submission for Case Studies (*Pillar 1*)
- Clarity and Correctness Data Capture (Master Review Form or MRF) (*Pillar 2*)
- Quality Metrics (*Pillar 2*)

Examiners' Resources, Tools & Training

- Automated Pre-Examination Search Pilot (*Pillar 1*)
- STIC Awareness Campaign (*Pillar 1*)
- Clarity of the Record Training (*Pillar 1*)
- Post Grant Outcomes (*Pillar 1*)
- Interview Specialist (*Pillar 3*)

Changes to Process/Product

- Clarity of the Record Pilot (*Pillar 1*)
- Re-evaluate AFCP, Pre-Appeal, and QPPIDS (*Pillar 3*)
- Design Patent Publication Quality (*Pillar 3*)



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The screenshot shows the USPTO website interface. At the top, the USPTO logo and "UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" are visible. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for "Patents", "Trademarks", and "Learning and Resources". A search bar is present with the text "Search uspto.gov".

The main content area features a blue banner with the text "First time here? Let us help you find your bearings." and a "Get Going" button. Below this, there are sections for "Learn About the Process" with sub-sections for "Patents" and "Trademarks".

A red circle highlights the "Patents & Trademarks Initiatives" section, which includes the "Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative" link. The text below this link reads: "Learn about USPTO efforts to increase patent quality."

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the USPTO logo and the text "UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE".

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Patents Trademarks IP Policy Learning and Resources Quick Links

Home / Patents / Initiatives / Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

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Building an Enhanced Patent Quality System

The goal of our Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative (EPQI) is to:

- Build more confidence in our patent system by enhancing patent quality;
- Make the system understandable and usable by all inventors; and
- Ensure each of our customers is treated fairly and professionally throughout the patent application process.

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Patent Quality Pillars

Our Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative is focused in three areas, termed the "patent quality pillars."

Pillar 1 – Excellence in Work Products.
Provide the best work products and services at every stage of the patent process

Pillar 2 – Excellent in Measuring Patent Quality
Provide excellence in measuring patent quality ensuring appropriate quality metrics target examination issues required attention

Pillar 3 – Excellence in Customer Service
Improve the customer experience with emphasis on excellent customer service

These pillars were selected to enable the Office to target its efforts in enhancing patent quality in specific ways. Additionally, they help to frame and facilitate the conversation about enhanced patent quality.


Evolving Programs of the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

In response to various requests for feedback on the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative from both internal and external stakeholders, we received many substantive suggestions. Responsive to these suggestions, we are considering several programs – these programs are divided into three sub-groups: 1) data analysis; 2) examiners' resources, tools and training; and 3) changes to examination processes and products. The programs being considered are:

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Events about the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative


- Patent Quality Discussion Series in Michigan and North Carolina (November 2015)
 - [Agenda Topics](#)
 - [Short Biographies of Speakers](#)
 - [Details - Michigan](#)
 - [Presentation](#)
 - [Details - North Carolina](#)
- Patent Quality Roundtable at the USPTO Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, CO (October 21, 2015)
 - [Presentation](#)
- Enhancing Patent Quality – AIPLA/USPTO Roadshow in Santa Clara, Dallas, and Alexandria (August, 2015)
 - [Presentation](#)
 - [AIPLA link](#)
- Patent Quality Overview hosted by NYIPLA and Fordham IP Institute (July 29, 2015)
 - [Presentation](#)
 - [NYIPLA link](#)
- Patent Quality Summit [Archive](#) (March, 2015)



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Presentations about the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative


- At the joint meeting of Partnering in Patents XXII & Software Partnership hosted by AIPLA (October, 2015)
 - [Presentation](#)



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Resources from the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative


- [Patent Quality Chat](#) – a monthly webinar discussing various aspects of the patent quality
- [Interview Practice](#) – Free access to video conferencing with USPTO examiners
- Enhancing Clarity of the Record
 - [35 USC 112\(f\) Resource Page](#)
- [Subject Matter Eligibility Resources](#)
 - July 2015 Update: [Interim Eligibility Guidance Quick Reference Sheet \(.pdf\)](#)
- Measuring Patent Quality
 - [Patent Quality Composite Video 1 YouTube](#) | [USPTO hosted video](#)
 - [Patent Quality Composite Video 2 YouTube](#) | [USPTO hosted video](#)
 - [Quality Index Reporting \(QIR\) Variables for Patent Quality Composite.pdf](#)
 - [Patent Quality - Quality Index Reporting Variables with FY11-FY13 volumes_v3.pdf](#)
- [Ombudsman](#) – Assisting in getting the application back on track



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Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

- [Biography](#)
- Announced in Director's Forum: A Blog from USPTO's Leadership - [USPTO Launches Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative](#) (February 4, 2015)



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Let's Chat about the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative

Valencia Martin Wallace
Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality

Cassandra Spyrou
Senior Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality



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Thank you for joining us today!

Patent Quality Chat
Webinar Series 2015 (6 of 6)
November 10, 2015



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**Patent Quality Chat:
Watch for an announcement for the
2016 Series soon**



**To send in questions or comments related to the
USPTO's Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative,
please email :**

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