## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



# Patent Trial and Appeal Board Boardside Chat: Patent Trial and Appeal Case Tracking System (P-TACTS)

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November 10, 2022



### **Question/comment submission**

- To send in questions or comments during the webinar, please email:
  - PTABBoardsideChat@uspto.gov



### **Agenda**

- 1. P-TACTS and MyUSPTO overview
- 2. User role: staff
- 3. Petition submission
- 4. My docket screen
- 5. Case Viewer screen
- 6. Take-aways
- 7. Questions



# 1. P-TACTS and MyUSPTO

### What is P-TACTS?

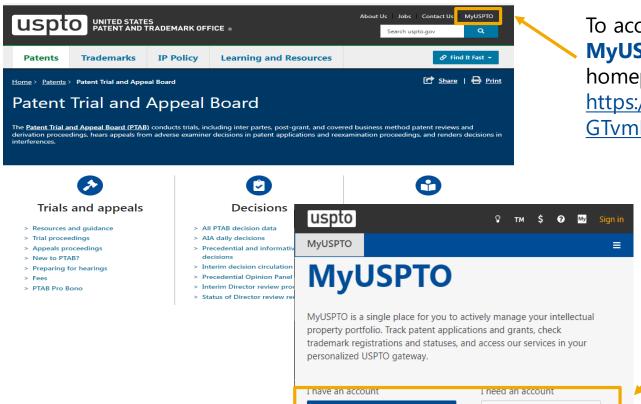
- On October 11, PTAB E2E was replaced by the new AIA Trials portal in the Patent Trial and Appeal Case Tracking System (P-TACTS).
- For AIA parties, P-TACTS is a more straightforward user interface to file papers and conduct AIA Trial business with PTAB.
- Example improvements available in P-TACTS:
  - Pre-populating paper types with the most relevant choices
  - New user role



## What is MyUSPTO?

- MyUSPTO serves as a hub or portal to access all USPTO public applications/systems.
- MyUSPTO portal provides enhanced cybersecurity measures that protects both your information and our systems.
- Creation of a MyUSPTO account is required to access P-TACTS.

### **How to access MyUSPTO?**



Log in with your USPTO.gov account

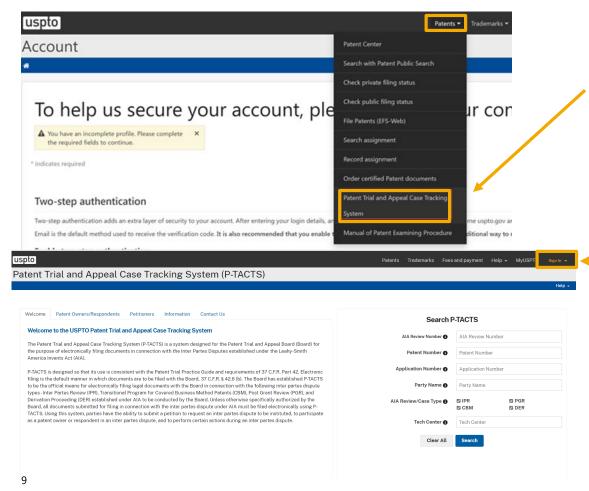
Create a USPTO.gov account

To access MyUSPTO, click on **MyUSPTO** link from the PTAB homepage or click here: <a href="https://my.uspto.gov/?2r315j7PrGTvmL9uQLg4spC2DPLgZ0p6">https://my.uspto.gov/?2r315j7PrGTvmL9uQLg4spC2DPLgZ0p6</a>.

Once you click on **MyUSPTO**, you will see the log in screen. Log in with your USPTO account information or create a new account.



### **How to access P-TACTS?**



After successfully logging into MyUSPTO, navigate to the **Patents** link at the top on the page and select the **Patent Trial and Appeal Case Tracking System** link.

You will be taken to the P-TACTS landing page. From here, click on the **Sign In** link and you will see your docket without entering your credentials again.

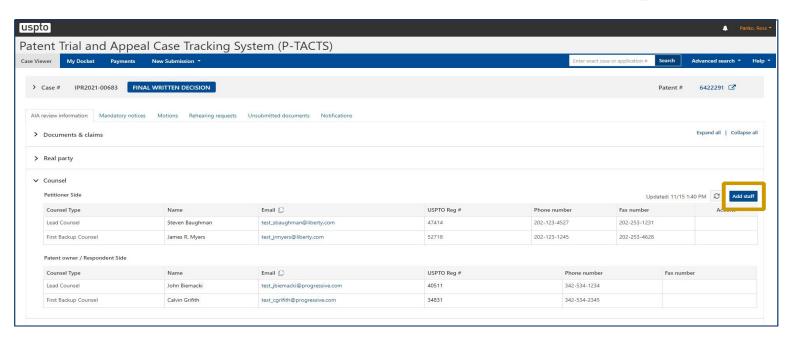
# 2. User role: staff

### **P-TACTS** user roles

- Created a new user role for staff.
- Staff can be added by Lead Counsel only.
- Parties cannot see the staff of the opposing party, only their own.
- Going forward, there are now four possible user roles:
  - (1) Submitter; (2) Lead Counsel; (3) Backup Counsel; and
  - (4) Staff.
    - All Backup Counsel can now view and submit documents.



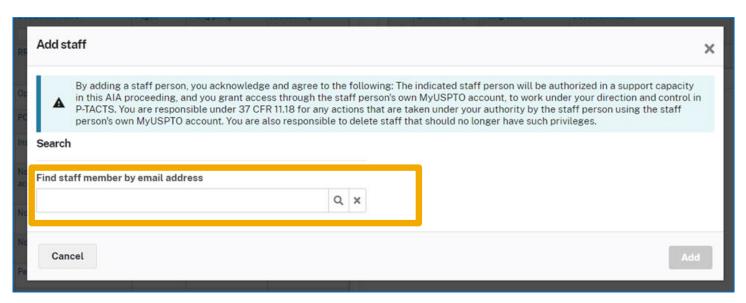
## How to add staff to a case: step 1



 Lead Counsel can add staff from the Case Viewer by clicking on the Add staff button in the Counsel section.



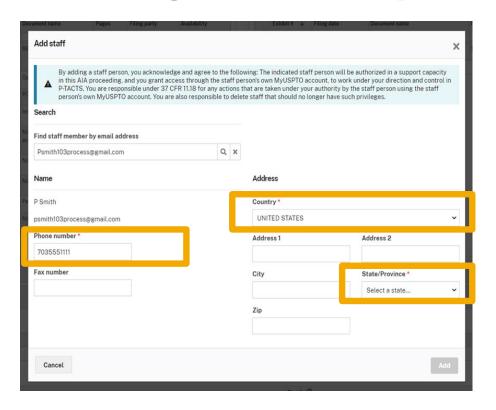
## Adding staff: step 2



 Lead Counsel enters the email address of the P-TACTS user to be added as staff and clicks the **Search** button.



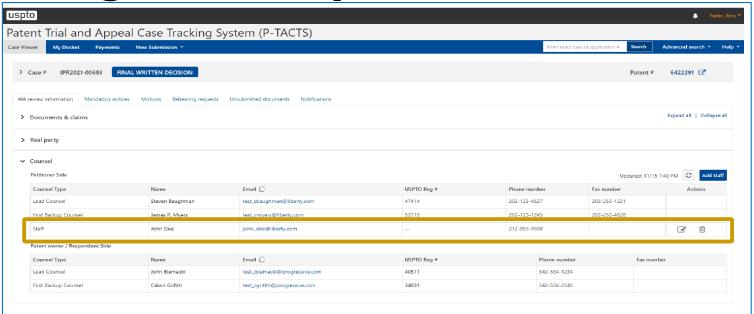
## Adding staff: step 3



- Once the entered user is found, the user information is automatically retrieved. Lead Counsel can make updates to user information.
- Certain information is required (denoted by an \*), and the Add button is activated only when this information is supplied.
- Once all required fields are completed, the Add button will become active.



### Adding staff: step 4

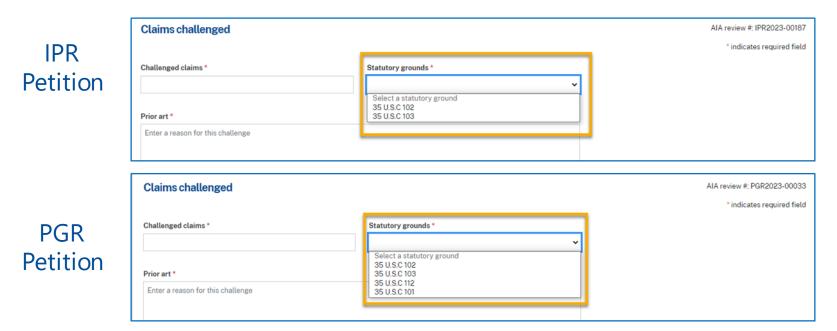


- Once added, the new staff will appear on staff's Case Viewer and My docket screens.
- Lead Counsel can add up to 3 staff users for each case.
- The parties cannot view each other's staff.



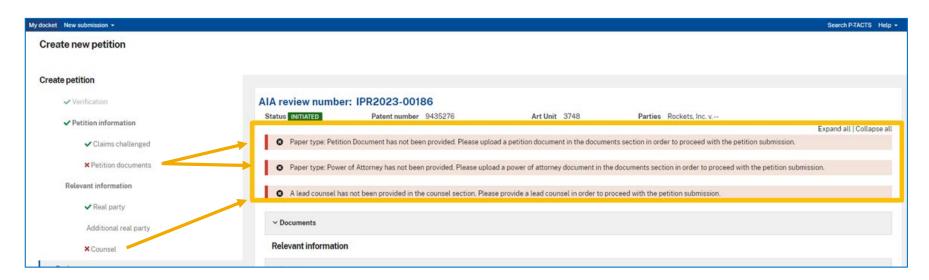
## 3. Petition submission

#### Petition submission: customized claims section



• Claims challenged section is customized for each proceeding type to show the available statutory grounds that can be raised in that proceeding (compare statutory grounds for IPR versus PGR).

### Petition submission: detailed error messages



 Review page identifies any errors that prevent the petition from being filed (example include missing papers such as Power of Attorney, Petition Document, Lead Counsel).



### Question/comment submission

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### **Recent Requests for Comments**

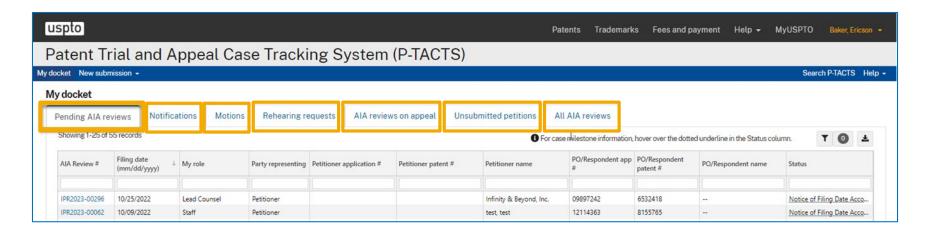
#### Requests for Comments on



- Expanding Admission Criteria for Registration to Practice in Patent Cases Before the USPTO
- Expanding Opportunities To Appear Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board
- Published on October 18, 2022
- Comments will be accepted through January 17, 2023
- Federal Register:
  - https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/10/18/2022-22572/expandingopportunities-to-appear-before-the-patent-trial-and-appeal-board
  - https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/10/18/2022-22569/expanding-admissioncriteria-for-registration-to-practice-in-patent-cases-before-the-united-states

# 4. My docket

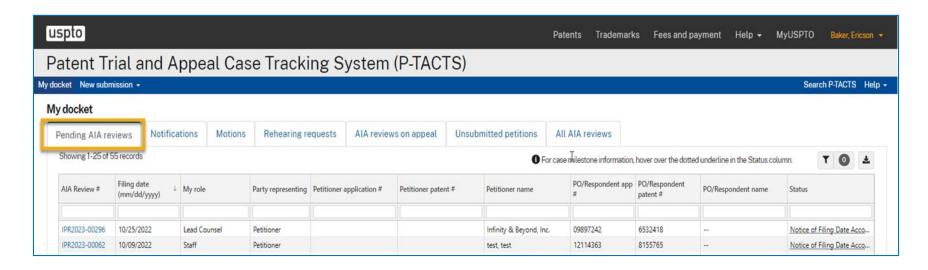
## My docket



 My docket screen offers various tabs to help a P-TACTS user manage their docket.



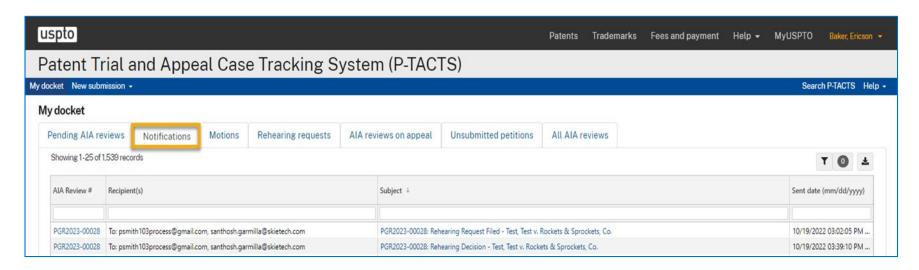
## My docket: pending AIA reviews



- Once logged in, My docket screen will default to view the Pending AIA reviews tab.
- Pending AIA reviews tab displays all cases that are still awaiting an action by the parties or Board.



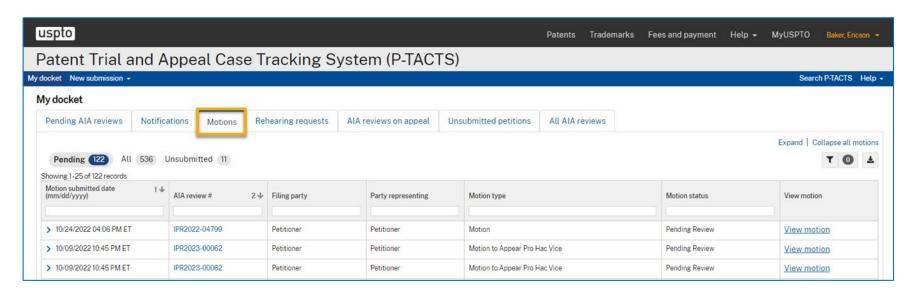
### My docket: notifications



- Notifications tab displays all notifications sent from P-TACTS.
- Notifications are emails sent by P-TACTS when a paper is filed, entered, or certain action is taken on a case.

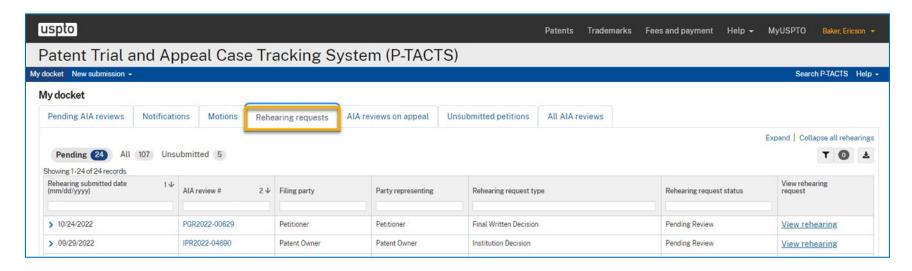


## My docket: motions



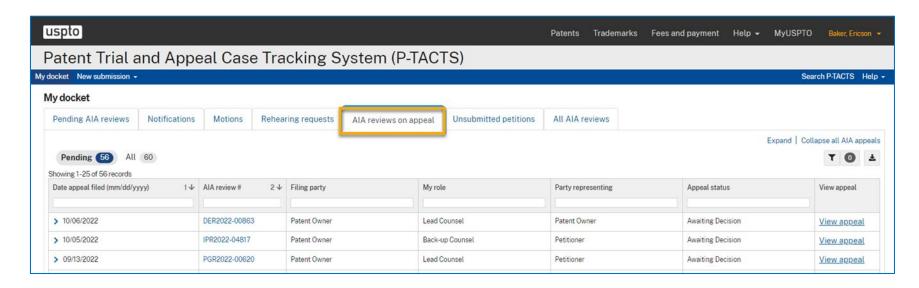
- Motions tab displays all the motions created for all AIA review cases.
- Motions table includes motions pending a decision from the Board, decided motions, and unsubmitted motions that were saved but not submitted by the party.

## My docket: rehearing requests



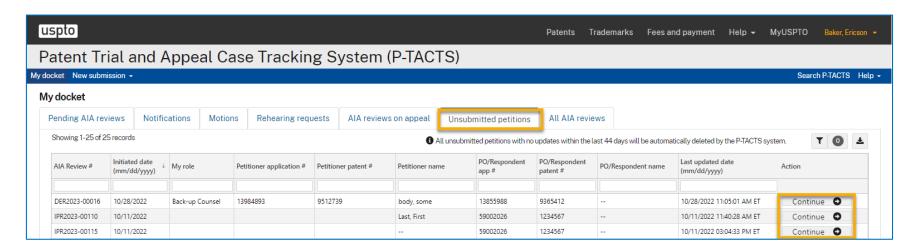
- Rehearing requests tab displays all rehearing requests created for AIA review cases on the P-TACTS user's docket.
- Rehearing requests table includes requests pending a decision from the Board, decided requests, and unsubmitted requests that were saved but not submitted by the party.

## My docket: AIA reviews on appeal



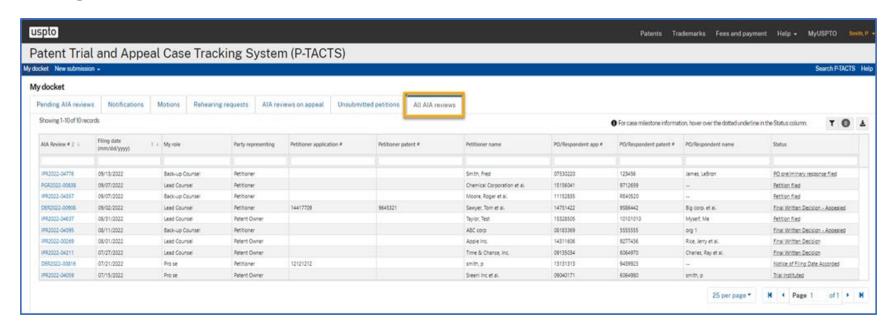
- AIA reviews on appeal tab displays all notice of appeals submitted for AIA cases.
- AIA reviews on appeal table includes appeals pending a decision from the CAFC and decided appeals.

## My docket: unsubmitted petitions



- User may stage petitions for later filing and upload documents related to the petition for later submission.
- Unsubmitted petitions tab shows staged documents.
- Clicking the Continue button resumes the petition filing process and user is able to add, edit, or delete information and documents associated with the petition.

### My docket: all AIA reviews

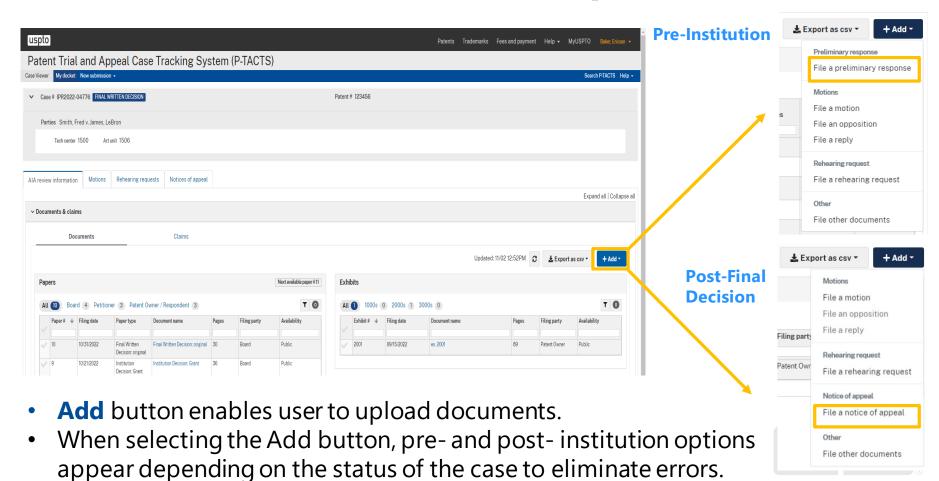


 All AlA reviews tab will display all cases that are pending or decided on the P-TACTS user's docket.

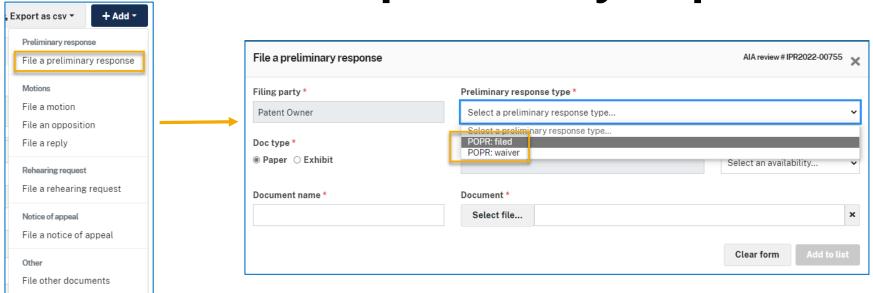


## 5. Case Viewer

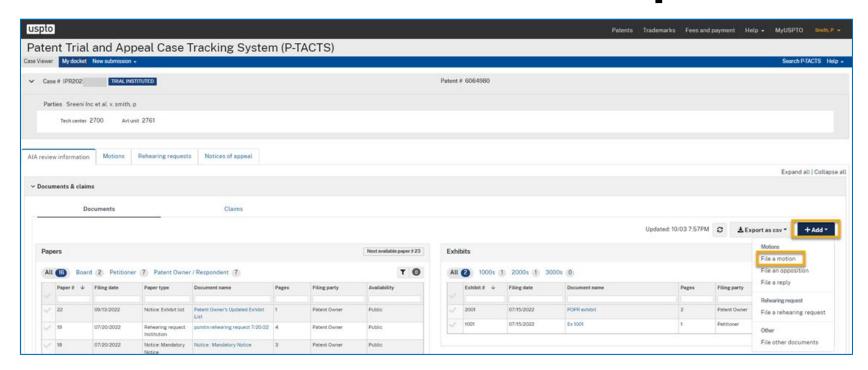
### Case Viewer: add button drop-down menu



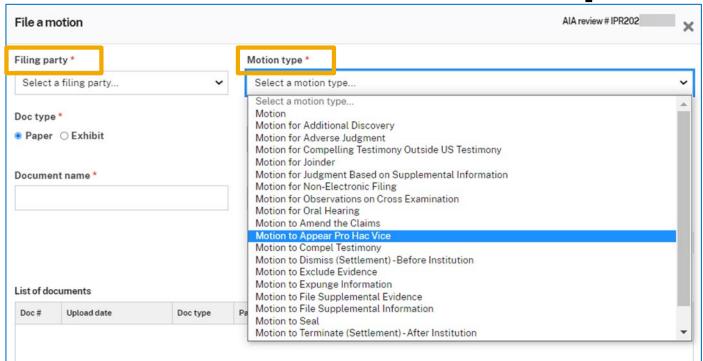
### Case Viewer: file a preliminary response



- From the Add button, user can select File a preliminary response.
- File a Preliminary Response option is only available to the patent owner after a filing date has been accorded.
- There are two options for the preliminary response: (1) **filed** or (2) **waiver**.
- Preliminary response paper and any exhibits can be uploaded.

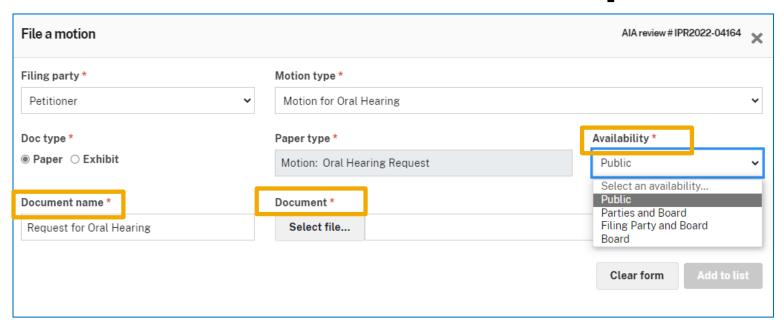


 Click the Add button and then select the File a motion option in the dropdown menu.

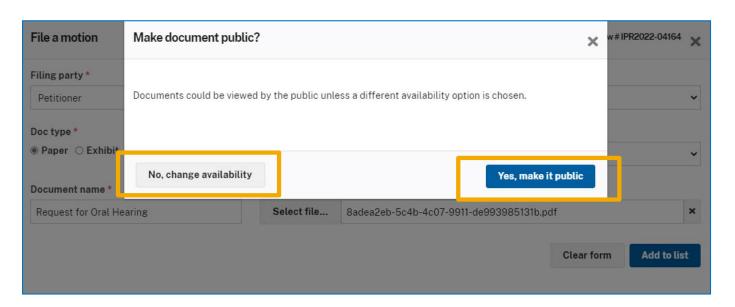


- Select the Filing party box.
- Select the most appropriate **Motion type** box.



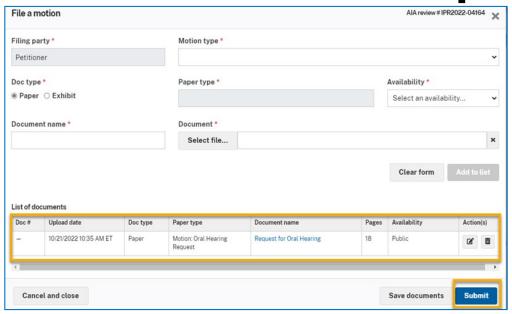


- Select Availability box.
- Select **Document name** box and enter the document name.
- Select the **Document** box and click **Select file...** button to select document.
- Once all required fields are completed, Add to list button will become active.



- After all documents have been uploaded in P-TACTS, if Public is selected for Availability, a Confirmation box will appear.
- Clicking No, change availability will allow the user to make a new selection for availability.
- Clicking Yes, make it public will continue the upload process and save data.

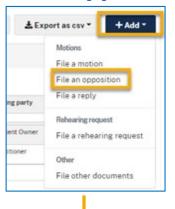
#### Case Viewer: file a motion, step 5



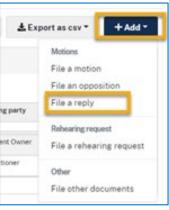
- The motion is uploaded and displayed in the **List of documents** table.
- User can now enter any exhibits related to the motion.
- The **Save documents** button allows the user to stage motions by saving all uploaded documents and data for later submission.
- User will be able to return to this modal for this motion from the Motions tab to edit, delete, or add any documents associated with this motion.
- Click the Submit button to file the motion and any exhibits.

### Case Viewer: file an opposition or reply

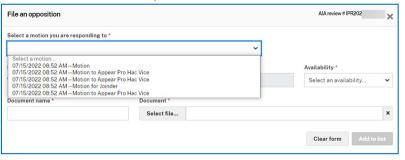
#### File an opposition

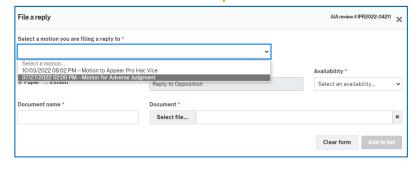


#### File a reply

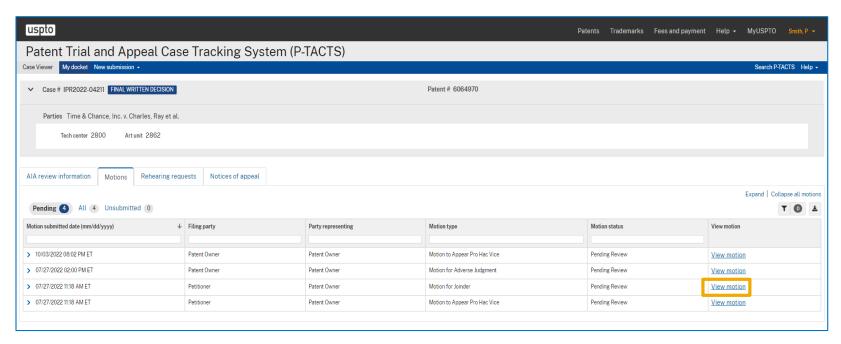


Select the motion that pertains to the opposition or reply being filed



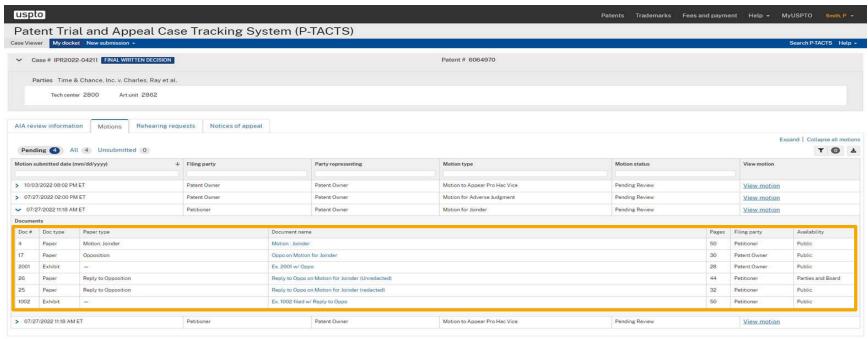


## Case Viewer: linking motion documents



 When a user files a motion document, a motion record is created in the Motions tabs which is available in My docket screen and in Case Viewer screen (displayed above).

## Case Viewer: linking motion documents

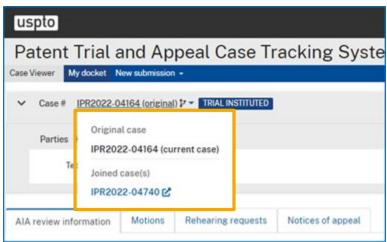


 From the motion record, user can see any motion, opposition, reply, and associated exhibits in one location.



### **Case Viewer: joinder**

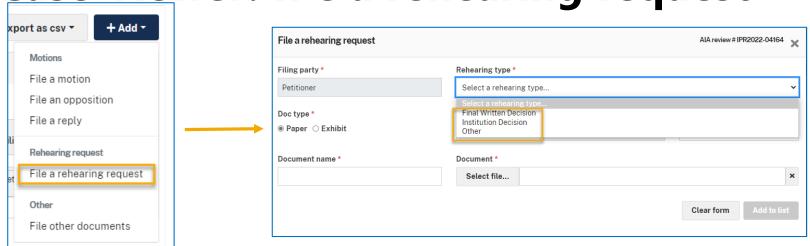




 Case Viewer tab contains an icon to show all cases joined together and includes links for moving between joined cases more easily.

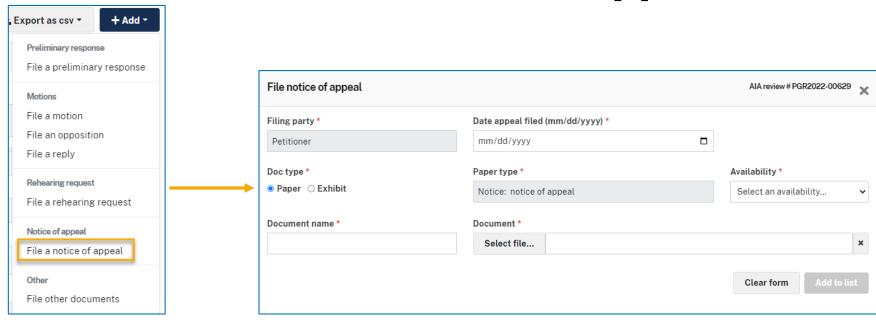


Case Viewer: file a rehearing request



- From the Add button, user can select File a rehearing request.
- Rehearing type menu has been simplified to only 3 options based upon the decision for which rehearing is sought: (1) Final Written Decision;
   (2) Institution Decision; and (3) Other.
- User has the option to save the rehearing request without submitting.
   User can make changes and submit at a later session.

### Case Viewer: file a notice of appeal



- From the Add button, user can select File a notice of appeal.
- File a notice of appeal option is only available until after a final written decision has been entered.



### Question/comment submission

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  - PTABBoardsideChat@uspto.gov



#### **USPTO YouTube Channel**



USPTO has a YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/user/USPTOvideo/

- View dozens of videos on:
  - USPTO's Invention-Con featuring
  - Tips for registering a trademark
  - Science of Innovation series for kids and teachers
  - Careers at USPTO
  - And a lot more



# 6. Take-aways

# **MyUSPTO and P-TACTS**

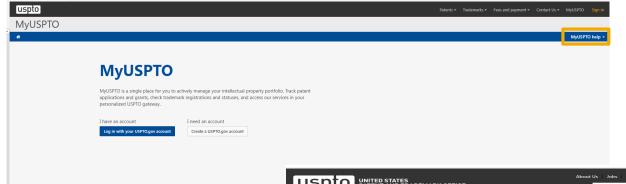
- Creation of a MyUSPTO account is required to access P-TACTS
- If you are experiencing issues with your new P-TACTS account, please contact P-TACTS Admin at:
  - PTABP-TACTSAdmin@uspto.gov or
  - 571-272-8850
- For any unexpected closures or outages, check USPTO or PTAB website for updates

# **New & improved features in P-TACTS**

- New user role for staff created to allow them to file all document types
- Petition submission process enhanced to reduce common errors
- My docket navigation features enhanced to provide multiple ways to get information for a case, including a new notifications tab
- Case Viewer offers enhanced functionality:
  - Linking motion, opposition, reply, and any associated exhibits together for easy access
  - Linking of joined cases in the Case Viewer for easy access
  - Pre-populating paper types with the most relevant choices



# Where to find training resources?

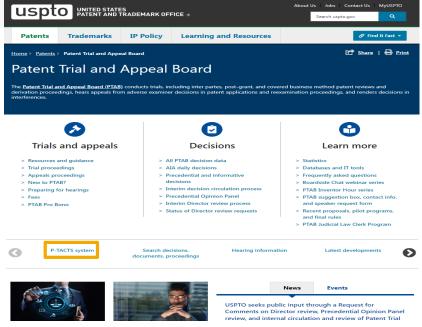


#### **MyUSPTO**

For information and support regarding MyUSPTO account, you can access the help page on the main USPTO webpage: <a href="https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/account-fags">https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/account-fags</a>

#### **P-TACTS training**

P-TACTS resources (including tutorials, user guides, FAQs and system capabilities), access the P-TACTS training portal: P-TACTS External User Training Resources USPTO





#### How to contact us

#### Technical or P-TACTS system related questions

 Contact P-TACTS admin at <u>PTABP-TACTSAdmin@uspto.gov</u> or contact the PTAB at 571-272-8850

#### PTAB business or process related questions

 Contact Trials admin at <u>Trials@uspto.gov</u> or contact the PTAB at 571-272-7822





# 7. Questions

#### **Next Boardside Chat**



- November 17, 2022, at 12-1 pm ET
- Topic: Presenting technology in AIA proceedings
  - Practice tips on how to address technology in your briefs and at the oral hearing, along with examples showing effective use of visuals
  - Hear from administrative patent judges and practitioners
  - Panel discussion and Q&A session
- Register for and learn about upcoming Boardside Chats, and access past Boardside Chats at:

https://www.uspto.gov/patents/ptab/ptab-boardside-chats



