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Subject: Post grant review

1. PTAB post grant review hearings should be open to the public. Presumably, the documents will be available on PAIR when they are filed with the PTO. In general all information related to these proceedings will be public, thus there should be no expectation of confidentiality.

Likewise, hearing dates should be announced publicly (e.g. made available on PAIR) so that interested members of the public may attend. An additional benefit will be for training purposes: attendance by registered practitioners will provide an ongoing development path for practitioners that have not had experience with the post grant process.

2. The Rules regarding practice before the Office should be amended to include reference to representation of parties before the PTAB, especially in post grant procedures. Those not registered before the Office will have a difficult time understanding the intricacies of patent laws and rules, with limited exceptions. This would not be a change from current Office practice of requiring all representatives to be registered practitioners, with limited exceptions.

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