

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

uspto

Patent Public Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

FY18 Training Plan

Gary Jones

Director, Office of Patent Training

Don Hajec

Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations

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Training

- The USPTO continues to develop training for both Examiners and External Stakeholders, based on
 - Data from MRF reviews
 - Feedback from internal and external stakeholders
 - Customer perception surveys

Examiner Training

- Examiner training is provided for both newly hired and experienced examiners
- Training may be delivered Corps-wide or to specific disciplines
- Refresher legal training is developed and delivered via various styles
 - Lecture style
 - Interactive Computer Based Training (CBT)
 - Workshops
 - Combinations thereof

Examiner Training (cont.)

- Completed this fiscal year
 - 35 U.S.C. §101 CBT Subject Matter Eligibility on Abstract Ideas
 - 35 U.S.C. §112(f) CBT introduction of new form paragraphs
- In-Progress
 - 35 U.S.C. §112(f) Workshop
 - Follow-up to the completed §112(f) CBT training earlier in the year
 - Driven by technology specific examples including instructions on how to use the new form paragraphs to establish claim interpretation

Examiner Training (cont.)

- Under development for delivery later this fiscal year
 - 35 U.S.C. §102
 - 35 U.S.C. §103, Modification of References and Reasons/Motivation for Obviousness
 - 35 U.S.C. §112(a) Written Description - The emphasis will be on new matter
 - Legal Analysis and Writing, 103 - Responding to Arguments and Persuasive Writing
 - Unity of Invention
 - Examiner's Answer
 - Double Patenting (Statutory and Non-statutory)

Examiner Patent Quality Chats

- Topics in this program provide information on procedural and legal topics relating to patent examination
- Webinar chats
- Brief presentation and Question & Answer
- Past Quality Chats have covered
 - Double Patenting: Tools for Identifying Conflicting Claims & Statutory Double Patenting
 - Evaluating Unexpected Results in 37 C.F.R. 1.132 Affidavits
 - AIA-FITF: 102(a)(2) and Exceptions

External Stakeholder Opportunities

- Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP)
- External Patent Quality Chat series
- Patent Examiner Technical Training Program (PETTP)
- Site Experience Education (SEE)

Stakeholder Training on Examination Practice and Procedure (STEPP)

- 3-Day training on examination practice and procedure for external stakeholders
 - Agent/Attorney course
 - Inventor course
- Provide external stakeholders with a better understanding of how and why an examiner makes decisions while examining a patent application
- Aid in compact prosecution by disclosing to external stakeholders how examiners are taught to use the MPEP to interpret an applicant's disclosure

STEPP Course Descriptions

- The training is broken into three separate modules
 - Day 1
 - Role of an examiner and the steps an examiner would take when reading an application for the first time
 - Claim interpretation and 35 USC 101 and 112 are emphasized
 - Day 2
 - Use of information gathered during Day 1 to plan a search and conduct a search
 - Mapping of prior art to claims using 35 USC 102 and 103.
 - Day 3
 - Writing of an office action
 - Discussion of restriction practices,
 - Post-examination options such as the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) and the Central Reexamination Unit (CRU)

More About STEPP

- New for FY18 is a virtual instructor-led training (VILT) Hops courses
 - One or more topics related to examination practice and procedure
 - Upcoming topics include
 - Claim Interpretation - Product by Process
 - Functional Language Workshop - Claim interpretation and Definiteness Under 35 U.S.C. §112(b)
 - Inherency, 35 U.S.C. §102/103 Rejections, and Official Notice
- Additional information on STEPP 3-Day training and Hop classes
 - Course schedules and sign up information can be found at the [Patent Quality site](#)*

Patent Quality Chat Series

- Provide information on patent quality topics and gather your input on a regular basis
- Monthly webinar which will focus on a particular quality topic
- Quality Chats held so far this year
 - Unlocking Open Data for our Patent Customers
- More information on the 2018 Chat Series and past events can be found at the Patent Quality [Chat page](#)*

*<https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/patent-quality-chat>

Patent Examiner Technical Training Program (PETTP)

- Opportunity for technologists, scientists, engineers, and other experts from industry and academia to voluntarily provide technical training and expertise to patent examiners in-person or virtually from their location.
- In-person presentations can be made at our Alexandria, Virginia headquarters or at one of our satellite offices
 - Detroit, Michigan
 - Denver, Colorado
 - San Jose, California
 - Dallas, Texas
- To learn more, visit the [PETTP page](https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/patent-examiner-technical-training-program-pettp-0)*

* <https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/patent-examiner-technical-training-program-pettp-0>

Site Experience Education (SEE)

- Opportunity for commercial, industrial, and academic institutions, within the continental U.S., to voluntarily host patent examiner technical site visits
- The USPTO funds all SEE travel costs for patent examiner visits to host organizations
- To learn more, visit the [SEE page](#)*

*<https://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/site-experience-education-see-program>

Questions and Comments

Gary Jones

Director, Office of Patent Training

(571) 272-7400

Gary.Jones@USPTO.GOV

Don Hajec

Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations

571-272-5100

don.hajec@uspto.gov

