

**UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



# Legislative/Governmental Affairs update

Kim Alton and Tammy Foley

May 6, 2021

Patent Public Advisory Committee quarterly meeting

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# Legislative Activity

## 117th Congress

- IDEA Act (S. 632/H.R. 1728)
  - *Inventor Diversity for Economic Advancement Act (IDEA) of 2021*
  - Requires the USPTO to provide for the collection of voluntary demographic information of patent applicants
  - Introduced in the Senate and the House on March 9, 2021 (S. 632/H.R. 1728)
  - Similar versions introduced in the 115<sup>th</sup> and 116<sup>th</sup> Congress
  - Reported favorably out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 29, 2021 (15-7)

# Legislative Activity

## 117th Congress

- Endless Frontier Act
  - Designate and support regional technology hubs in key areas that will spread innovation throughout the U.S.
  - Hearing held in the Senate Commerce Committee on April 14, 2021
  - Bill markup expected in May
- Drug pricing bills

# Congressional Activity

## 117th Congress

- Nomination hearing for Mr. Don Graves to be Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce
  - Hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held on March 10, 2021
  - Reported favorably out of committee on April 28, 2021 (25-3)
- Nomination hearing for Ms. Leslie Kiernan to be General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Commerce
  - Hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held on April 21, 2021

# Congressional Activity

## 117th Congress

- Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property Hearing: Improving Access and Inclusivity in the Patent System: Unleashing America's Economic Engine (April 21, 2021)
- Letters from Senators
  - Patent Subject Matter Eligibility Study
  - Pilot program for sequenced examination of patent applications
  - Closing the gender gap in the patent bar



# Thank you!

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