

## United States Patent and Trademark Office

# Become a Design Patent Practitioner

As of January 2, 2024, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is accepting applications from individuals interested in practicing before the USPTO in design patent matters. Those who become design patent practitioners can represent clients in preparing, filing and prosecuting their design patent application!

Purpose of the design patent practitioner bar: To allow qualified individuals with design backgrounds to practice before the USPTO in design patent matters.

### Qualifications

- You don't need to be a lawyer (no law degree/juris doctorate required.)
- Applicants must take and pass a computer-delivered registration examination on patent legal process and procedure.
- Applicants must meet the following criteria to be admitted to take the registration examination:
  - Have a bachelor's, master's, or doctorate of philosophy degree in any of the following areas (or its equivalent) from an accredited college or university:
    - › Industrial design, product design, architecture, applied arts, graphic design, fine/studio arts, or art teacher education.
  - Fill out, sign and submit an application, along with the required fees.
- After passing the registration examination, applicants would then have to pass a moral character evaluation.

### After Admission

- Once admitted, you would get a registration number and be authorized to prepare, file and prosecute design patent applications before the USPTO.

### Join now

Applications to become a design patent practitioner are accepted on a rolling basis.

### To apply

Applicants can apply through the [Applicant Portal](#). (Please note that a [USPTO.gov account](#) is required). Instructions for filling out the application are available in the [General Requirements Bulletin](#).

### Learn more

Questions regarding the bar, requirements, or application may be directed to the USPTO's Office of Enrollment and Discipline:

**Phone:** 571-272-4097

**E-mail:** [OED@uspto.gov](mailto:OED@uspto.gov)

**Web:** [Becoming a patent practitioner](#)



UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®