

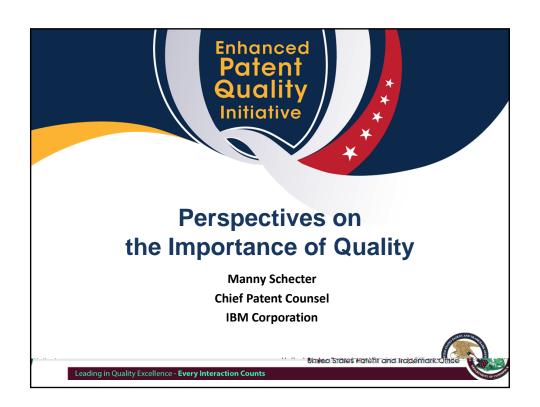


Introduction of Speakers

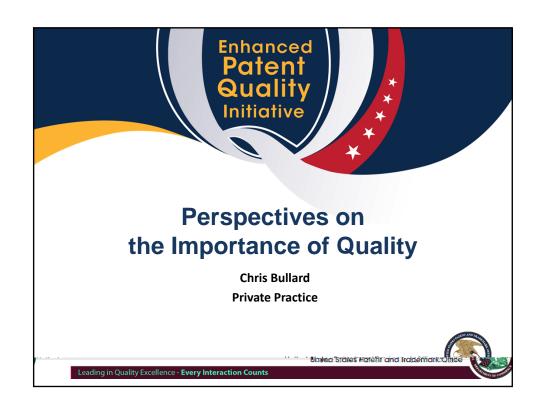
- Manny Schecter, IBM Corporation
- · Dennis Crouch, University of Missouri, School of Law
- Chris Bullard, Private Practice
- Robert Budens, Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)
- Hilda Galvan, Jones Day
- Roy Waldron, Pfizer Inc.
- Honorable Paul R. Michel, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (retired)

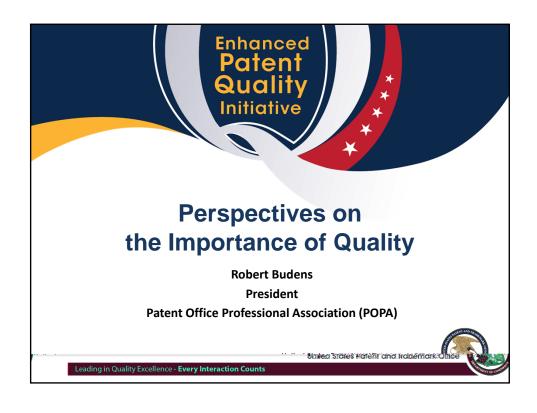
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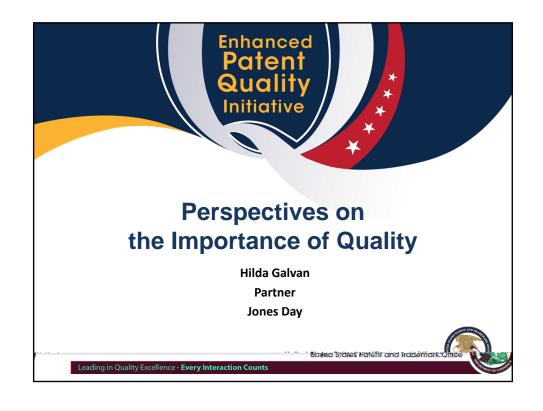


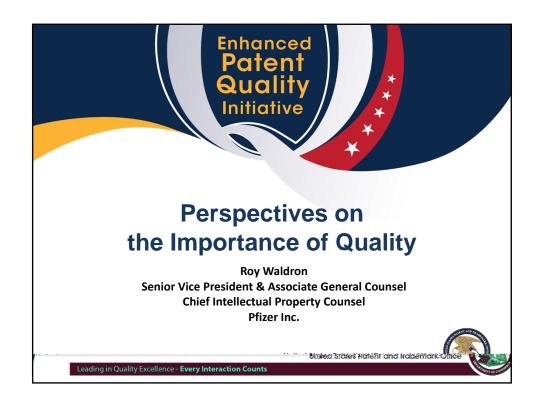


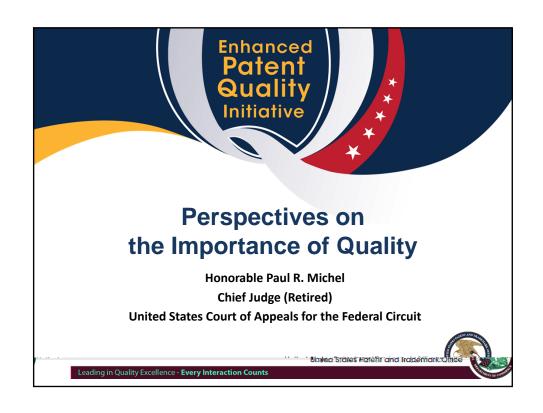






















Glossary Pilot

- Allows applicants in certain fields of art to use glossaries in patent specifications to define claim limitations
- In exchange, applicants receive expedited examination through a first office action
- Pilot extended to June 2, 2015 or when the USPTO receives 200 grantable petitions for participation in the pilot, whichever occurs first

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Crowdsourcing

- Patent Application Alert System released in February 2015 through a partnership with Reed Technology and Information Services
- Public may receive a customized email alert when a patent application of interest publishes
- Public then poised to potentially submit prior art into the application via a preissuance submission

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Examiner Technical Training

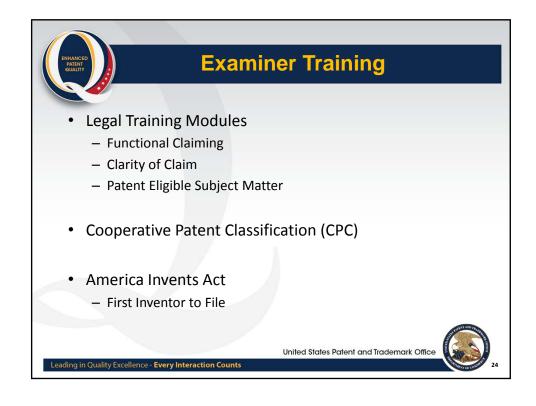
- Scientists and engineers volunteer to educate examiners on state-of-the-art technological advancements
- Technology Fairs to be held in summer 2015;
 volunteers wanted in all scientific disciplines

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Global Dossier

- One-stop access for examiners and public to related applications for IP5 countries
 - Make cross-filings;
 - Manage cross-filed applications; and
 - Eliminate need to file duplicate documents in multiple offices (e.g., priority documents, prior art citations, etc.)





Common Citation Document

- Provides signal point access to up-to-date citation data relating to the patent application of the IP5 Offices
- · Consolidates prior art cited by all participating offices for the family member of a patent application
- Search results for all applications with a patent family are viewable on single page

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Patent Prosecution Highway

- When an applicant receives a final ruling from a first patent office that at least one claim is allowed, the applicant can request fast track examination of corresponding claim(s) in the corresponding application pending in a second patent office
- USPTO will decide requests for participation typically in two months, provided that U.S. substantive examination has not started yet
- No fee; 27 countries currently participating with U.S.
 - PPH participating country list: http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp.

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Proposal 1: Background

- Office of Patent Quality Assurance (OPQA) reviews ~9,000 office actions each year
 - Review findings, identify trends and inform improvement initiatives
 - Sample is not always sufficient to permit root cause analysis or detect subtle trends
 - Supplemental sampling may be needed to study issues of interest

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Proposal 1: What it Does

- Allows applicants to identify applications containing issues that should be studied by OPQA
 - Examining best practices or potential concerns
- Aligns USPTO with what public perceives are key quality issues
- Assists USPTO in identifying applications that contain issues to be studied
- Provides information needed to identify trends and training needs

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Proposal 1: What it Does Not Do

- Does not replace random sampling necessary to provide representative unbiased metrics of patent examination quality
 - Results from purposive sampling can't be extrapolated to the entire population of applications
 - · Representativeness not guaranteed
 - Sample may reflect some inherent bias
- Does not alter the prosecution of a specific application

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Proposal 1: Breakout Session Topics

- Usage
 - What types of issues would prompt you to use such a program?
 - What attributes would the program need in order to make it useful?
- Inputs
 - What parameters, if any, should be imposed on submitted requests?

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Proposal 1: Breakout Session Topics

- Process
 - What "best practices" would you recommend for the OPQA selection and review of submitted cases (i.e., sampling, reviewer blind to issues raised, scope of review, etc.)?
- Outcomes
 - What type of result/outcome would practitioners expect if they were to use this program?

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PROPOSAL 2 Automated Pre-Examination Search

Thomas A. Beach
Senior Advisor
Office of the Undersecretary and Director, USPTO

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Proposal 2: Objective

To explore leveraging modern technologies into an automated pre-examination search tool to advance from one that is antiquated and not scalable.

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Proposal 2: Background

- Performing a prior art search is a critical and time-intensive aspect of the USPTO patent examination process
 - Vital to patent quality
 - Body of prior art continuously expanding
- Current Linguistic Tool (PLUS)
 - Used prior to examination at the Examiner's discretion
 - Generates list of references based upon key words
 - Opportunities for improvement exist in algorithm and architecture

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Proposal 2: Background

- Computerized searching algorithms and databases have advanced significantly in recent years
- USPTO is seeking input on new tools that might be available to conduct a pre-examination search utilizing features such as:
 - Keyword, stemming, concept-semantic searching
 - Relational word searching
 - Natural language queries
- Results would be used to supplement examiner's search of prior art, which is based upon applicant's specification and specific claim language

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Proposal 2: Breakout Session Topics

- Value
 - Do Applicants find value in conducting a search prior to filing?
- Legal implications
 - What are the legal implications of creating and communicating the results of a preexamination search?

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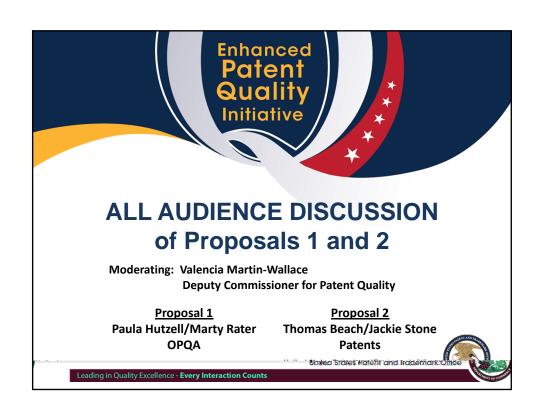


Proposal 2: Breakout Session Topics

- Timing
 - Relative to application filing, when should results be communicated?
- Content of the search results
 - What information should be provided in the results?
 - How should the results be presented?

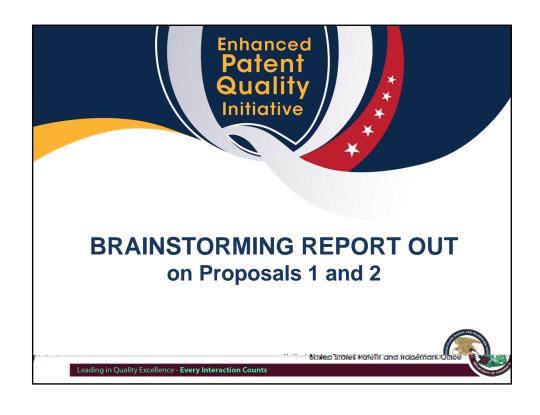
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Proposal 3: Background

- Better communication between examiner and applicant throughout prosecution
- Give inventors and investors the confidence to take the necessary risks to launch products and start businesses
- Provide the public with the benefit of knowing the precise boundaries of an exclusionary right
- Avoid costly and needless litigation down the road

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Proposal 3: Breakout Session Topics

- General
 - What have you seen in Office actions that have helped clarify the Official record and should these be considered routine practice?
 - What downstream (e.g., litigation/enforcement) issues should the USPTO consider when proposing additional requirements (e.g., statement of claim construction) for the purpose of clarifying the Official record?

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Proposal 3: Breakout Session Topics

- Claim Construction
 - Should the USPTO create a more detailed prosecution record that defines the scope of a patent through explicit claim construction?
- Memorializing the Oral Record
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of making the substance of interviews more extensive on the record?
 - Would it be helpful for the USPTO to provide an explanation on the record concerning the decision made in a pre-appeal conference or appeal conference not to re-open prosecution?

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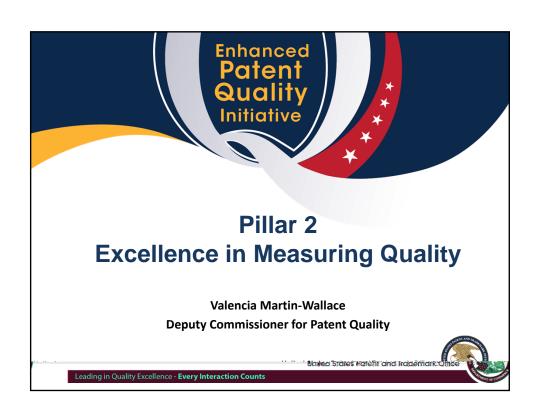


Proposal 3: Breakout Session Topics

- Reasons for Allowability
 - When should an examiner provide reasons for why a claim is allowable, and what should such reasons for allowability include to aid in determining the scope of a patent?

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Background

- Collaborative effort with Patent Public Advisory Committee (PPAC) that started in 2009
- Goal was to identify, measure, and track meaningful indicia of patent examination quality

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Background

- 3 key themes emerged in exploration phase:
 - Measure quality throughout the examination process rather than solely at the endpoint of prosecution;
 - Provide a balanced measure to address errors of both allowance and rejection; and
 - Place emphasis on compliance with procedures early in the prosecution of applications, such as search and restriction practice

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Implementation

- Identified five new quality metrics to be used in conjunction with two historic measures of patent examination quality
 - Final Disposition Compliance Rate (historic measure)
 - In-Process Compliance Rate (historic measure)
 - Quality Index Reporting
 - First Action On the Merits (FAOM) Search Review
 - Complete FAOM Review
 - External Quality Survey
 - Internal Quality Survey
- Implemented Patent Quality Composite in 2010

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Why a Composite?

- Lack of a widely-accepted single definition of "patent examination quality"
- · Multiple metrics can lead to information overload
- Provides a balanced perspective
 - Consistently communicates both improvements and declines for all items
 - Eliminates trap of wanting to advertise only those items that support a particular position
- Sensitive to detecting unintended consequences of driving improvement in limited areas
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PROPOSAL 4 Review of and Improvements to Quality Metrics

Richard Seidel
Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations



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Proposal 4: Background

- USPTO proposes to re-assess the effectiveness of the Quality Composite Metric to:
 - increase the effectiveness, clarity, and simplicity of USPTO review;
 - employ a system that measures errors by commission and omission; and
 - obtain examination metrics that are specifically tied to procedures for improving performance based on identified trends
- USPTO also proposes to re-evaluate its current ways of measuring the impact of training provided to examiners to enhance effectiveness

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Proposal 4: Breakout Session Topics

- Overall Value of the Quality Composite
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a single composite measure versus using the multiple components of the composite to define quality for public and system users? Is one more useful than the other?
 - How should the complex nature of a robust quality metric be balanced with a need to simplify its understanding?

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Proposal 4: Breakout Session Topics

- · Perception and Definition of Patent Quality
 - How can we capture perceptions of downstream users of the patent system, e.g., investors and technologists, in our evaluation of Patent Quality?
 - How could we capture the quality of the application "as filed" and its impact on overall Patent Quality?

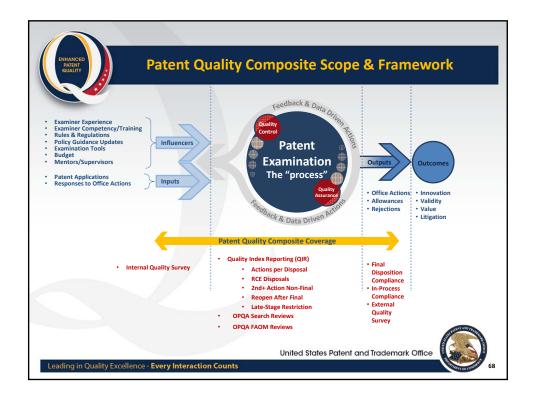
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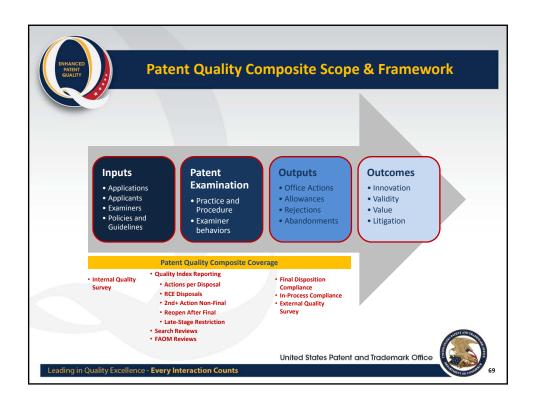


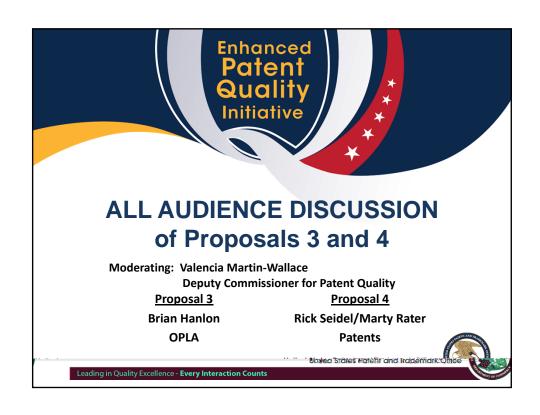
Proposal 4: Breakout Session Topics

- Effectiveness of the Quality Composite as an accurate depiction of Patent Quality
 - What metrics, if any, should be added, substituted, or removed?
 - Besides our Internal Quality Survey, are there other ways to incorporate the effectiveness of the USPTO training programs in defining the quality of work product?

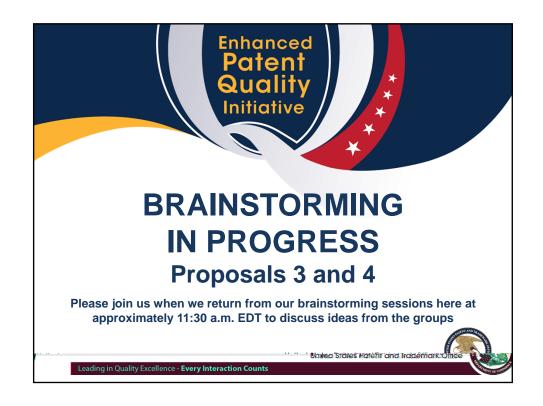
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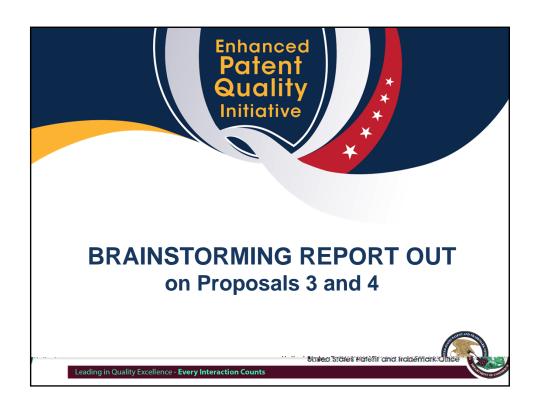




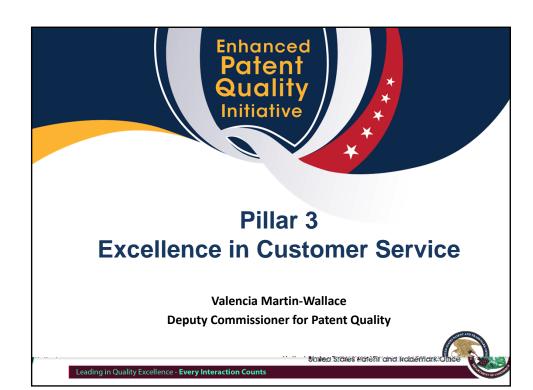














Assignment Search

- Released new Assignment Database in January 2015
 - Modernized user interface
 - Increased number of searchable fields
- Recording of ownership information in database is voluntary; records are available from 1980 to present and updated weekly

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Quick Path Information Disclosure Statement

- Authorizes time for examiners to consider compliant Information Disclosure Statements filed after allowance
- Provides a mechanism for consideration of Information
 Disclosure Statement filed after the issue fee has been paid
 where applications will only result in an RCE if the information
 necessitates reopening prosecution
- Part of the USPTO's on-going efforts toward compact prosecution

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After Final Consideration Pilot

- Authorizes additional time for examiners to search and/or consider responses after final rejection
- If an after final response does not place application in condition for allowance, examiners will conduct an interview to discuss the results of their search and/or consideration
- Supports USPTO's on going efforts towards compact prosecution and increased collaboration between examiners and stakeholders

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First Action Interview Pilot

- Participants are permitted to conduct an interview with the examiner after reviewing a Pre-Interview Communication providing the result of a prior art search conducted by the examiner
- Participants experience many benefit including:
 - Ability to advance prosecution of an application;
 - Enhanced interaction between applicant and examiner;
 - Opportunity to resolve patentability issues one-on-one with the examiner at the beginning of the prosecution process; and
 - Opportunity to facilitate possible allowance

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Patents Ombudsman

- Assists applicants and their representatives when there is a break down in the normal application process
- Designed not to circumvent normal communication between applicants and their representatives or supervisory examiner
- Facilitates resolutions and can assist in getting the application back on track

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Pro Se Assistance Program

- Comprehensive assistance program established to aid inventors who file patent applications without the assistance of a registered patent attorney or agent (also known as "pro se" filing)
- Examiners available to answer questions from pro se applicants and develop targeted resources to help pro se applicants file and prosecute patent applications
- Examination pilot also started for examiners to specifically examine pro se filed applications

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Pro Bono Program

- Volunteer attorneys provide free legal assistance to under-resourced inventors and small businesses to file and prosecute patent applications
- Current coverage in 45 states; expanding to 50 states in 2015

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Call Center Assistance

- USPTO provides various call center support:
 - Application Assistance Unit
 - Electronic Business Center
 - Inventor's Assistance Center
 - Office of Petitions
 - Patent Cooperation Treaty
 - Ombudsman
 - Office of Patent Legal Administration

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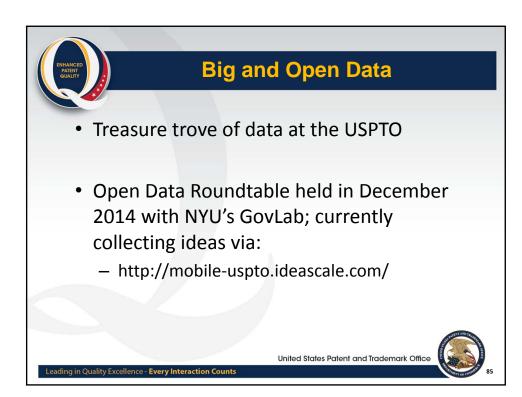


Outreach

- Partnering in Patents
- Software Partnership
- Medical Device Technology Partnership
- Biotechnology/Chemical/Pharmaceutical Customer Partnership

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Proposal 5: Background

- "Compact prosecution" historically has been defined as the achievement of a final disposition in the fewest number of Office actions
- Final disposition includes allowance, appeal or abandonment
- Time from filing to disposition is not factored in the current model

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Proposal 5: Background

- · Compact prosecution entails:
 - First action on the merits (FAOM) to develop all issues
 - Reply entered as a matter of right which addresses the rejections and objections presented in the FAOM
 - Second action which typically closes prosecution
 - Limited after final submission rights

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Proposal 5: Background

- Compact prosecution has certain limitations:
 - May generate a FAOM on claims which are more exploratory in nature than the claims applicant truly wishes to pursue
 - First "interaction" is completed after the FAOM is sent and responded to—potentially many months after the examiner first looks at the application
 - Provides for/encourages interview practice, but the opportunity for interactive discussion is limited

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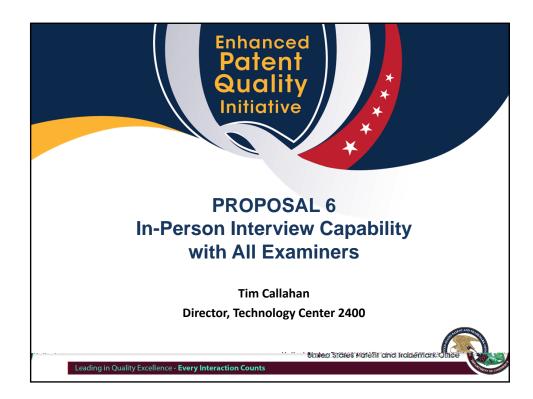


Proposal 5: Breakout Session Topics

- Current Compact Prosecution Model Assessment
 - What works? What does not?
 - What factors should go into determining the compactness of prosecution?
- Modest Modifications of the Model
 - When should additional second non-final actions be available?
- More Extensive Modifications of the Model
 - When should final actions be abolished while still avoiding protracted prosecution?

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Proposal 6: Background

- Interviews are widely used to advance prosecution
- Examiners used over 220,000 hours in fiscal year 2014 conducting interviews via telephone, in-person meetings, and video conferencing
- Internal reviews have shown that applications with at least one interview have a higher compliance rate with quality metrics

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Proposal 6: Background

- Under current Practice, all in-person interviews must be held on USPTO premises
- Remote workforce can present a challenge for arranging in-person meetings

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Proposal 6: Concept

- Develop a program to enable an in-person interview for any application, regardless of the examiner's duty station
- Explore the cost implications for an in-person interview program and identify methods to defray the costs
- Define metrics to measure success of an in-person interview program

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Proposal 6: Breakout Session Topics

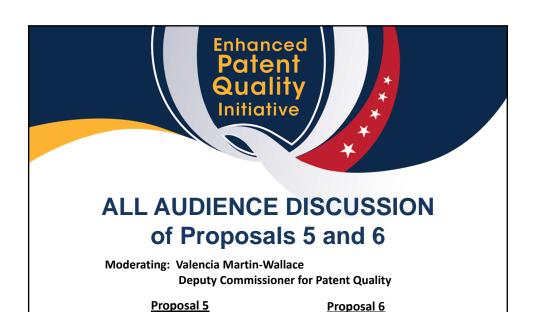
- What are the benefits of in-person interviews versus video conference interviews?
- What are the obstacles to having in-person interviews at remote locations?
- What equipment or resources are needed for an effective interview?
- What costs are associated with an in-person interview program and how might the agency recover these costs?

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Tim Callahan

Director, TC 2400

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Remy Yucel

Director, CRU



