

LEAP

LEGAL EXPERIENCE AND ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

LEAP encourages the professional development of patent attorneys and agents through oral advocacy opportunities, helping them gain experience in proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

uspto

Do you aim to become a highly-skilled practitioner in the IP Law community?

The USPTO is invested in the success of America's IP lawyers. LEAP helps less experienced practitioners from every demographic gain court access, training, and experience.

Eligibility

To qualify as a LEAP practitioner, a patent agent or attorney must have three or fewer substantive oral arguments in any federal tribunal including PTAB, excluding pro bono arguments.

Participation

- Available for ex parte appeals and AIA trials.
- Once PTAB has assigned an oral hearing date for the case, submit a [LEAP Practitioner Request and Verification Form](#) to PTABHearings@uspto.gov at least 5 days prior to the hearing.

At the oral hearing

- A LEAP practitioner can conduct the entire oral argument or share time with other counsel as long as the LEAP practitioner is offered a meaningful and substantive opportunity to argue.
- PTAB will permit more experienced counsel to assist a LEAP practitioner to clarify, if needed.
- Typically, 15 extra minutes of argument time available for the parties that participate in LEAP



Mock arguments

PTAB offers a free mock argument practicum through which practitioners can argue before a panel of actual PTAB judges and receive individual feedback on strengths and ways to improve.

Free learning opportunities

- Webinar training on oral advocacy including how to prepare for an argument, use of demonstratives, hearing time management, and courtroom decorum.
- LEAP to Chamber visits where practitioners receive a behind-the-scenes tour of a PTAB hearing room guided by a PTAB judge.
- LEAP to Law School programs where law students are introduced to the PTAB, ex parte appeals, and AIA trials by a PTAB judge.

Check out the LEAP webpage for more information about the program.

www.uspto.gov/leap

Have a question about LEAP?

Telephone: 571-272-9797

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