

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Inclusive innovation updates at the USPTO

Valencia Martin Wallace
Deputy Commissioner for Patents

August 9, 2022

Patent Public Advisory Committee public meeting

UNITED STATES
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Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI²)



Director's blog



From left: USPTO staff worked with second graders on their science and engineering projects at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science, and Technology in Alexandria, VA on April 26, 2022; Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and USPTO Director Kathi Vidal met with Urban Alliance interns at the USPTO on July 11, 2022; Legal Experience and Advancement Program proceedings at the USPTO; inventor Lonnie Johnson at a ceremony at the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) on May 4, 2022. (Photos by the USPTO and courtesy of the National Inventors Hall of Fame)



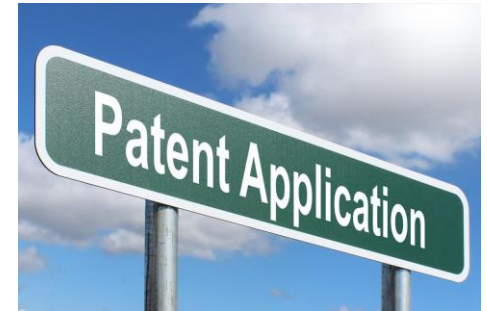
Innovation internship program

- Target the gap and inequalities associated with students from under resourced communities.
- Establish paid internships to provide real world experience to community college and university students.
- Emphasis on underrepresented and under resourced individuals to pursue careers in the IP/Innovation fields.



First-time filer expedited examination petition pilot

- Intended for first-time filers with micro-entity status.
- Noncontinuing, nonprovisional utility applications are eligible for pilot.
- Applicants must complete a patent basic training program.



Expansion of free legal services

- Expanding access to free or pro bono legal services
 - The USPTO's [Law School Clinic Certification Program](#) includes over 60 participating law school clinics.
 - The USPTO also supports 21 pro bono regions across the country as part of the USPTO's [Patent Pro Bono Program](#).



Community outreach campaign

- USPTO employees delivering community based awareness and educational programs
 - The IP system
 - Importance of IP and innovation



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Innovation events and resources at the USPTO

USPTO innovation & DEI resources

- [Inventor and entrepreneur resources](#)
 - Learn about IP protection
 - Find resources and expert help
 - Learn how to apply for a patent or trademark
 - Learn how to avoid scams and protect your IP
- [Inclusive Innovation webpage](#)



Today: Youth Day for student innovators, creators, and aspiring entrepreneurs

- Inspiring students to code
 - Learn about Congressional App Challenge
- Participate in an interactive workshop
 - Playtest EquiP HQ
 - Inventor trading card IQ test
- Young inventor roundtable with Deputy Director Derrick Brent
 - August 9, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Invention-Con 2022

- August 10 - August 12
- Inspiring and redefining the innovative mindset
- Over **1,700** registered
- Over **80** diverse speakers and moderators
- **24** panels and break-out sessions to educate innovators and storytelling to demonstrate how IP protection can be a key to success
- **23** virtual resource booths to connect attendees with services and programs that can assist innovators

To register and view the full agenda visit uspto.gov/inventioncon

Questions? inventioncon@uspto.gov



USPTO Symposium

- August 26, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET
- The symposium will:
 - Provide an overview of current approaches from leading scholars in the field
 - Build knowledge
 - Identify a community of practitioners
 - Facilitate the application of common approaches



To register and learn more, visit the [events page](#) of the USPTO website.

Closing the Gender Gap in Patenting: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial

- Women are underrepresented as inventors on patents (see [Progress and Potential 2019](#), [2020 reports](#)).
 - The percentage of inventors that are women was less than 5% in 1976, rising to 13% in 2020.
- New women inventors are entering the patent system differently than men.
 - By 2019, nearly 50% of all new women inventors are filing as independent inventors or small entities.
 - This is 5% greater than for new men inventors.

Gender gap study (cont.)

- The new study analyzes the first randomized control trial at the USPTO that looked at Pro Se applicants (those without legal representatives).
 - These applicants do not have the same legal support and expertise
- In 2014 and 2015, the Pro Se pilot program set up a new examination Art Unit to provide more assistance and information about patent examination processes.
- The study finds that both men and women inventor-applicants benefited from the program, but women much more.
 - The chances of successfully receiving a patent increased by 5-6% for everyone
 - Women had an additional 11 percentage points increase relative to men
- Suggests the gender gap is partly related to access to institutional support in patent prosecution.

Resource links

The Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI2)	www.uspto.gov/expandinginnovation
Director's blog	www.uspto.gov/blog/director
Law School Clinic Certification Program	www.uspto.gov/lawschoolclinic
Patent Pro Bono Program	www.uspto.gov/PatentProBono
USPTO's Inclusive Innovation	www.uspto.gov/inclusiveinnovation
Inventor and entrepreneur resources	www.uspto.gov/ces
USPTO Events page	www.uspto.gov/about-us/events
Progress and Potential: 2020 update	www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/OCE-DH-Progress-Potential-2020.pdf



Thank you!

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