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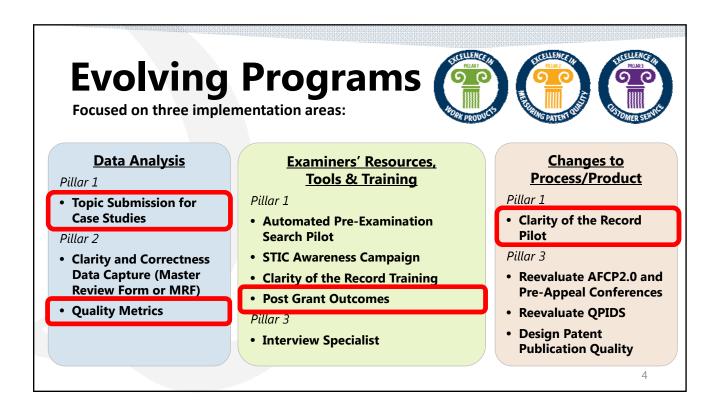


Valencia Martin Wallace Deputy Commissioner for Patent Quality



Topics for Discussion

- EPQI Updates
 - Clarity of the Record Pilot
 - Topic Submission for Case Studies
 - Post Grant Outcomes
 - Quality Metrics (PCT Operations agenda item)



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Patent Quality Pillars



Pillar 1 – Excellence in Work Products

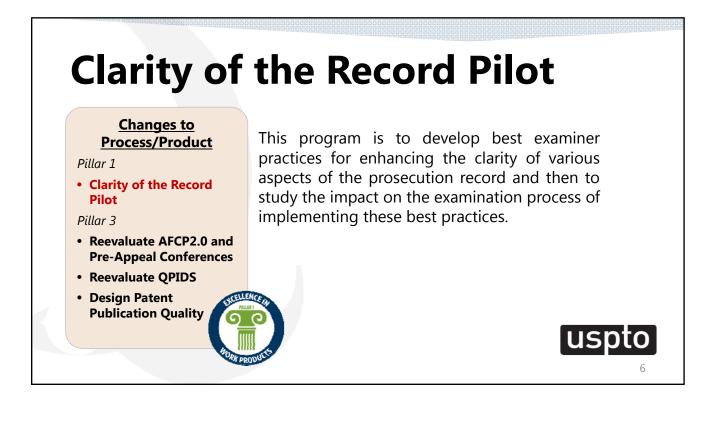


Pillar 2 – Excellent in Measuring Patent Quality



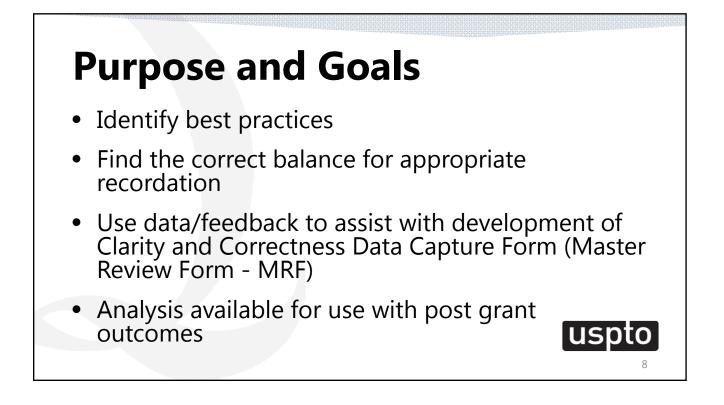
Pillar 3 – Excellence in Customer Service

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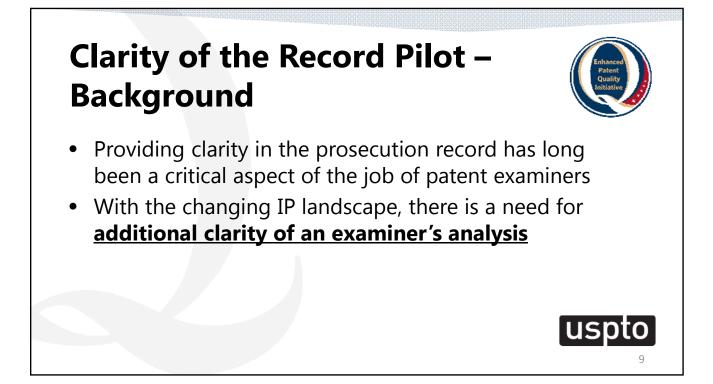


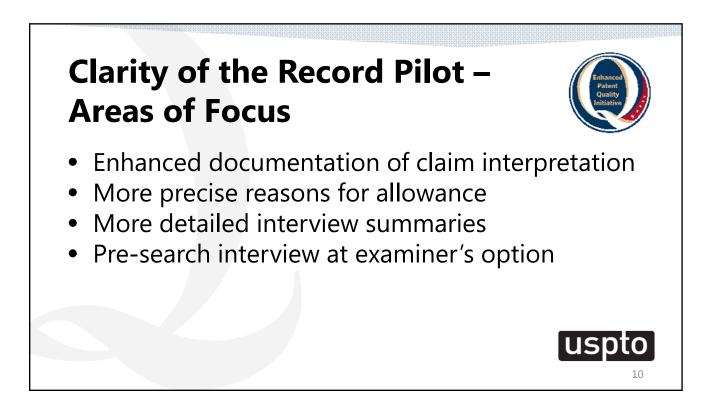
Purpose and Goals

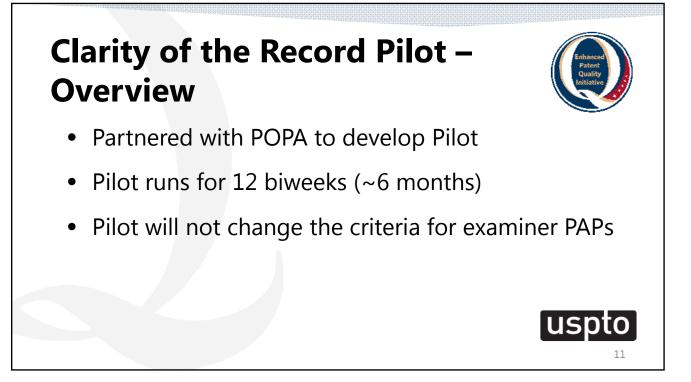
- Enhance the clarity of the record
- Provide deeper understanding of the Office's positions
 - During prosecution
 - Leading to compact prosecution
- Greater certainty
 - Reasons of allowance
 - Scope of protection afforded at the time of patenting

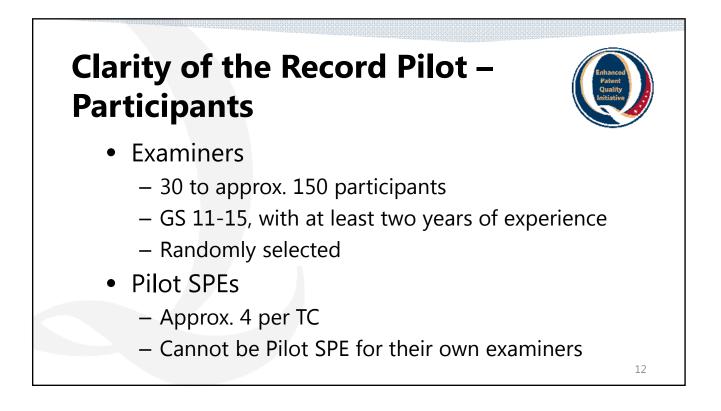


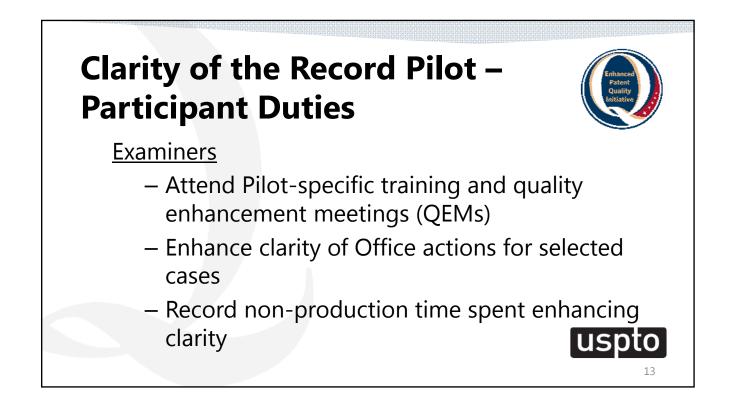
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Clarity of the Record Pilot – Participant Duties

Pilot SPEs

- Manage Pilot-specific QEMs and group training
- Review cases using a modified Clarity and Correctness Data Capture (CCDC/MRF) subset
- Provide individual feedback and assistance

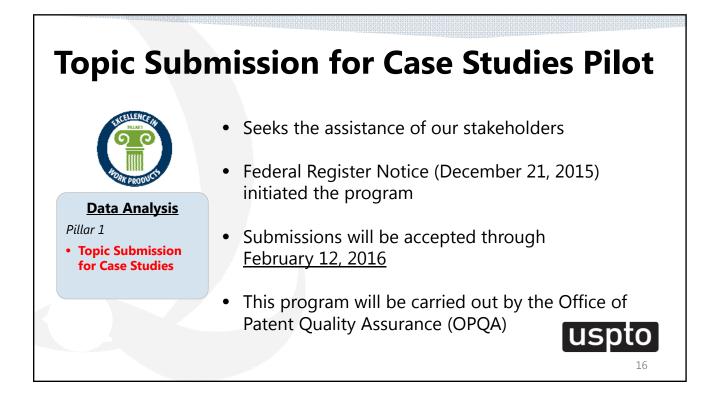


Clarity of the Record Pilot – Evaluation



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- Statistical data gathered from:
 - Reviews of Pilot and control cases using the modified CCDC/MRF subset
 - Times for enhanced recordation claimed by examiners
 - Surveys of Pilot examiners and managers
- Feedback received during QEMs and group-training sessions



Program Overview

- Invites stakeholders to submit patent quality-related topics they believe should be the subject of a case study
- Allows the USPTO to broaden the scope of topics that it considers for study by leveraging stakeholder experience
- The USPTO will perform a case study on a selected topic as a pilot

Description of the second se

What is a Case Study?

- Review of a single quality-related issue
- Distinct from standard OPQA reviews
- Tailored to the selected issue

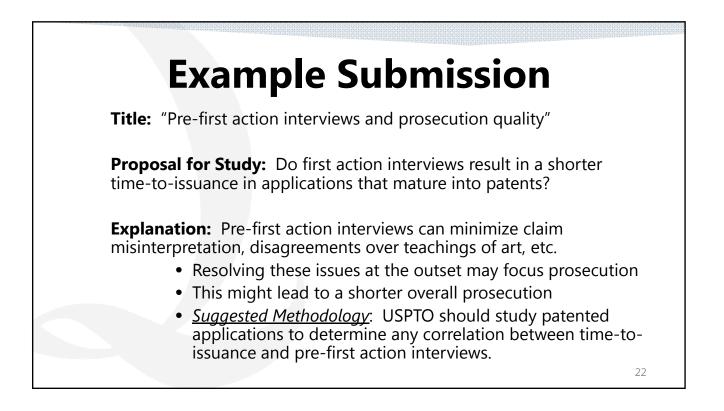
Submissions

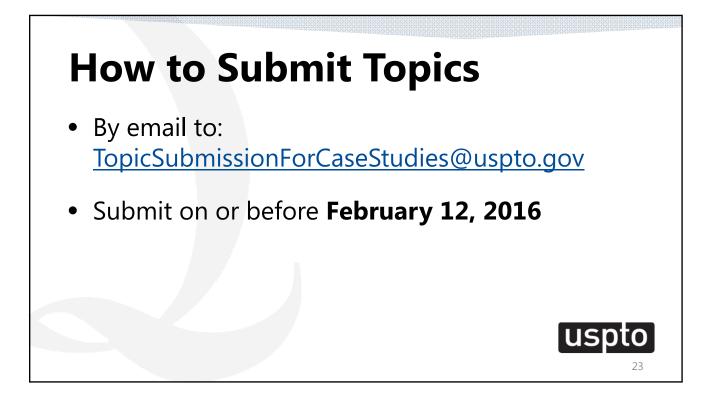
- Can be any topic affecting the USPTO's ability to issue high-quality patents
- Should be more than a mere statement of an issue or problem
- Should propose a specific correlation or trend for study
 - If possible, suggest a methodology for its investigation
 - Explain how the results of the case study could be used to improve patent quality

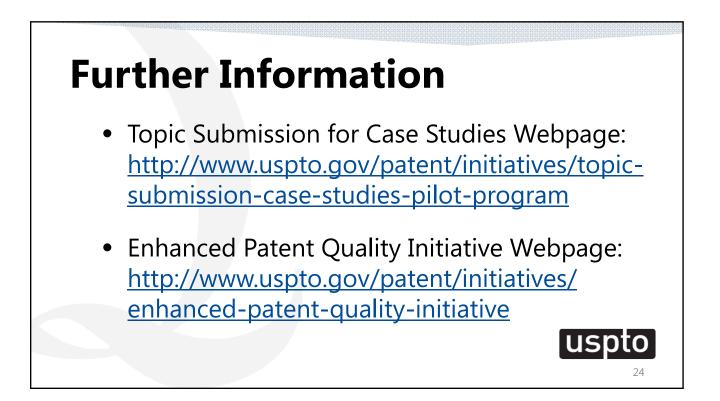
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Submission Format

- Title
- Proposal for Study
 - Identify potential trends or correlations
 - If possible, suggest methodology for investigation
- Explanation
 - Need
 - Impact on USPTO and patent system







Post Grant Outcomes

Examiners' Resources, Tools & Training

Pillar 1

- Automated Pre-Examination Search Pilot
- STIC Awareness Campaign
- Clarity of the Record Training
- Post Grant Outcomes

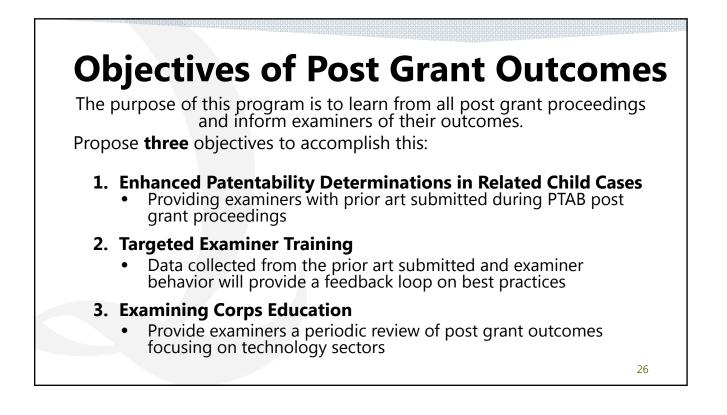
Pillar 3

• Interview Specialist



This program is to develop a process for providing post-grant outcomes from sources, such as the Federal Circuit, District Courts, Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), and Central Reexamination Unit (CRU), to the examiner of record and the examiners of related applications.





Objective 1 - Enhanced Patentability Determinations in Related Child Cases

- Identify those patents being challenged at the PTAB under the AIA Trials that have pending related applications in the Patent Corps
- Provide the examiners of those pending related applications access to the prior art submitted with the IPR petition

Objective 2 – Targeted Examiner Training

- Data collected from the prior art submitted and resulting examiner behavior will provide a feedback loop on best practices
- Educate examiners
 - Prior art search techniques
 - Sources of prior art beyond what is currently available
 - Claim interpretation



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