

UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



# Patent Trial and Appeal Board Inventor Hour: Episode 17

**Cynthia M. Hardman**, Administrative Patent Judge

**Lynne H. Browne**, Administrative Patent Judge

**Brandon J. Warner**, Administrative Patent Judge

**John E. Schneider**, Administrative Patent Judge

**Amee A. Shah**, Administrative Patent Judge

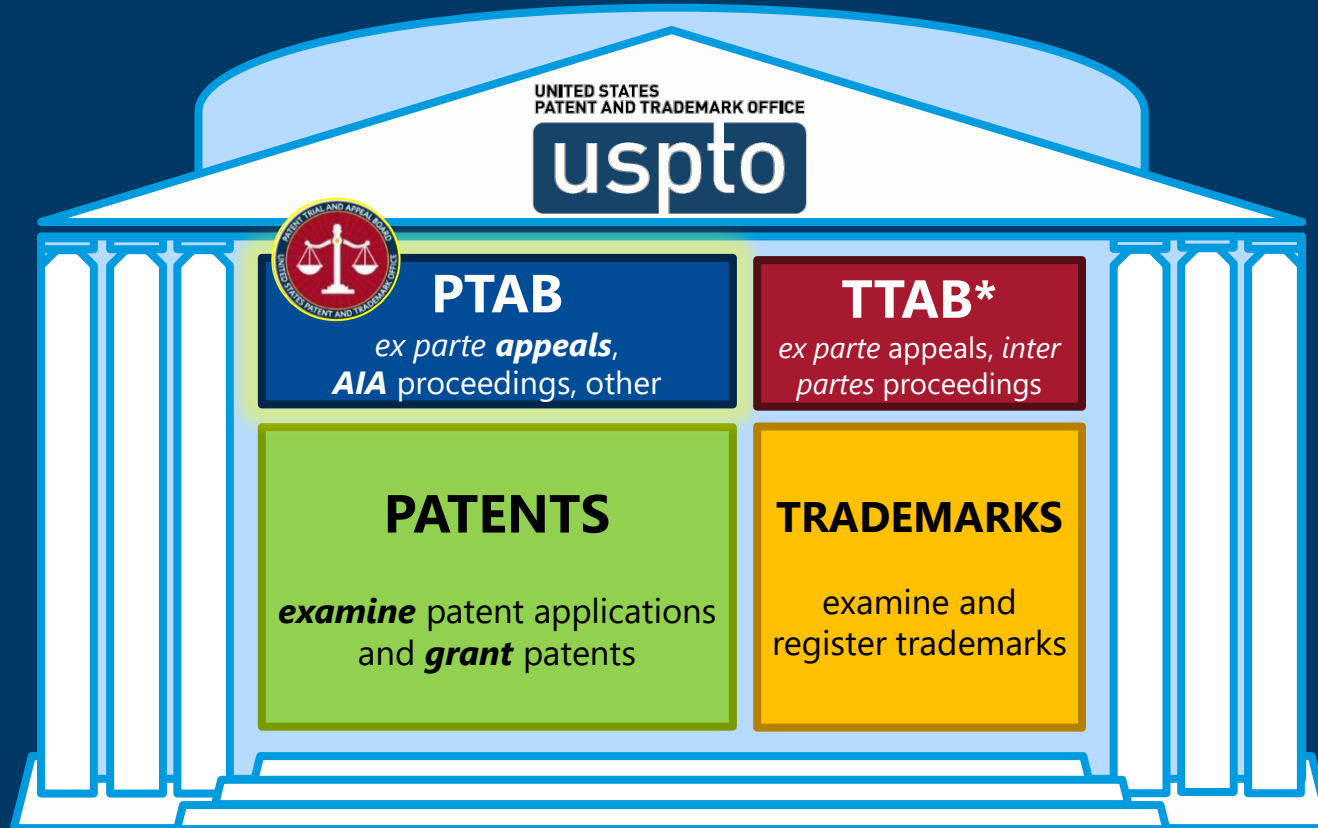
and special guest **Elizabeth Dougherty**,  
Eastern Regional Outreach Director, USPTO

April 27, 2023

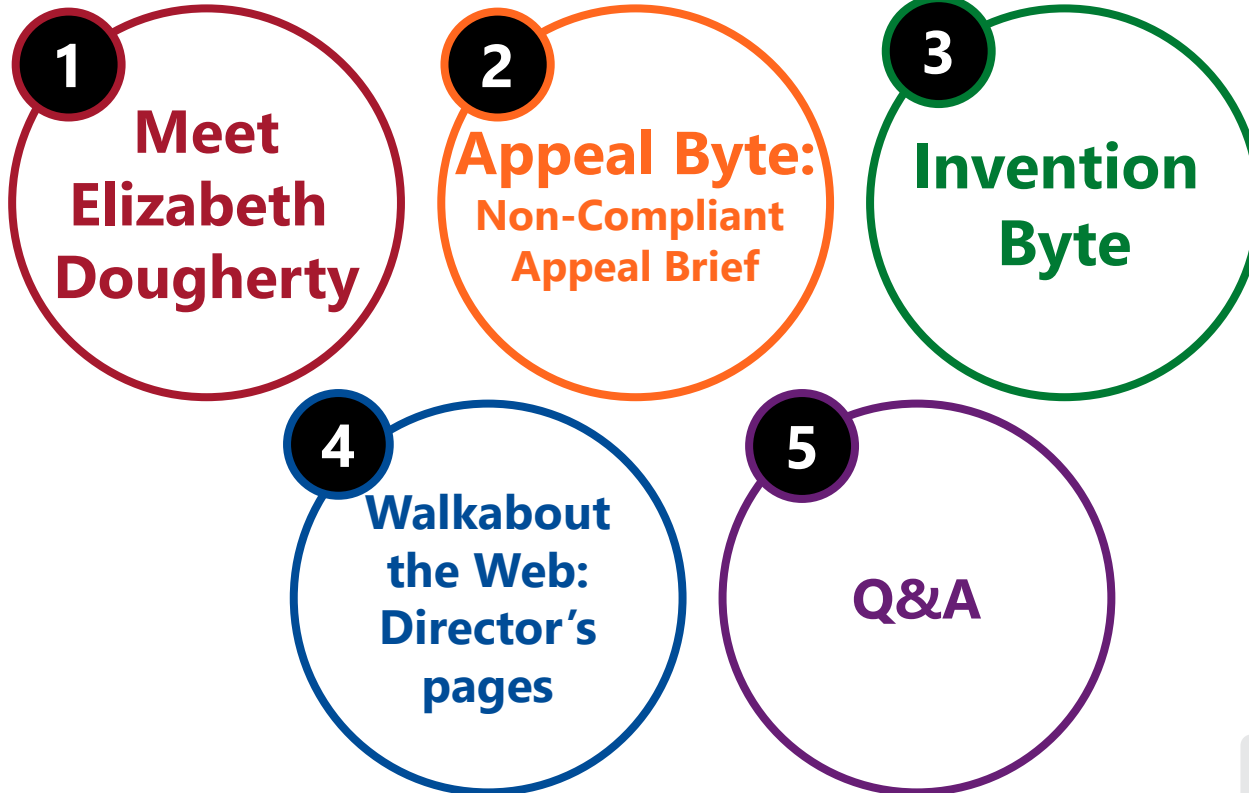


UNITED STATES  
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# What is the Patent Trial and Appeal Board?



# Today's agenda



# Question/comment submission

To send in questions or comments about the presentation, please email:

– [PTABInventorHour@uspto.gov](mailto:PTABInventorHour@uspto.gov)



Lynne H. Browne, Administrative Patent Judge



# Meet a USPTO Professional

**Elizabeth Dougherty**

Eastern Regional Outreach Director



**Elizabeth Dougherty**  
Eastern Regional Outreach Director



# Question/comment submission

To send in questions or comments about the presentation, please email:

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# Patent Pro Bono Program: Opportunities to provide feedback

USPTO is requesting **comments** from the public to improve patent pro bono programs.

- <https://www.regulations.gov/document/PTO-C-2023-0009-0001>
- Written comments will be accepted until July 11, 2023

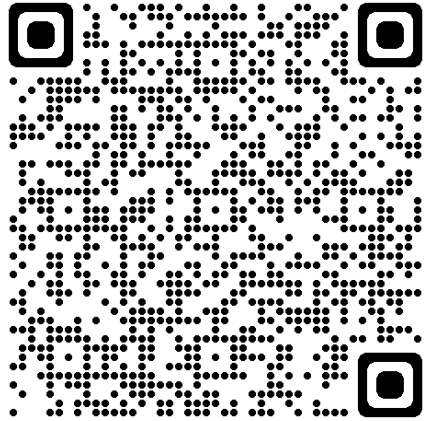
USPTO is hosting two “**Listening Sessions**” on patent pro bono programs:

- June 5th from 5:30 – 8:30 PM (Inventors)
  - <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/inventor-listening-session-patent-pro-bono-programs>
- June 7th from 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Practitioners)
  - <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/patent-practitioner-listening-session-patent-pro-bono-programs>

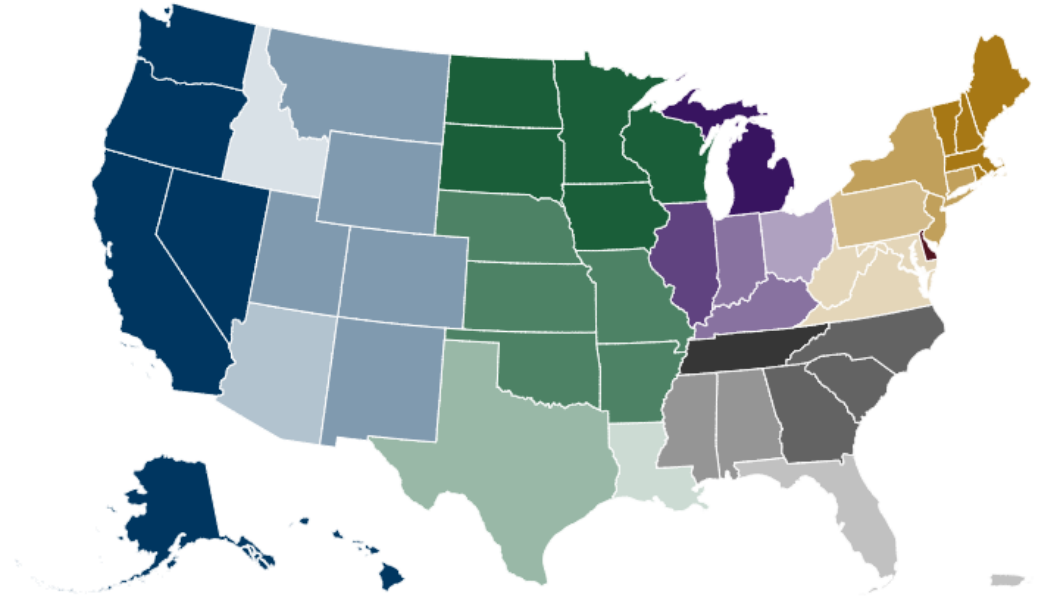
Email [probono@uspto.gov](mailto:probono@uspto.gov) if you have any questions.



# USPTO Patent Pro Bono Program



[www.uspto.gov/probonopatents](http://www.uspto.gov/probonopatents)



- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <span style="color: #004a80;">■</span> St. Louis U. Pro Bono Patent Program       | <span style="color: #c47a3b;">■</span> New England Program                         | <span style="color: #d9e1f2;">■</span> Idaho Patent Pro Bono                   |
| <span style="color: #76923c;">■</span> Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts | <span style="color: #c47a3b;">■</span> New York Tri State Program                  | <span style="color: #004a80;">■</span> California Inventors Assistance Program |
| <span style="color: #76923c;">■</span> Louisiana Invents                          | <span style="color: #800000;">■</span> Delaware Program                            | <span style="color: #5b9bd5;">■</span> ProBoPat                                |
| <span style="color: #6f42c1;">■</span> Chicago-Kent Patent Hub                    | <span style="color: #f1c232;">■</span> Federal Circuit Bar Assn.                   | <span style="color: #a6c9ec;">■</span> Arizona Public Patent Program           |
| <span style="color: #6f42c1;">■</span> PatentConnect                              | <span style="color: #c47a3b;">■</span> Penn State Law Intellectual Property Clinic | <span style="color: #2e8b57;">■</span> LegalCORPS                              |
| <span style="color: #95a5a6;">■</span> Ohio Invents                               | <span style="color: #333333;">■</span> Tennessee PATENTS                           | <span style="color: #555555;">■</span> Georgia PATENTS                         |
| <span style="color: #4b0082;">■</span> Pro Bono Patent Project                    | <span style="color: #808080;">■</span> BBVLP Patent Program                        | <span style="color: #cccccc;">■</span> Patent Pro Bono FL                      |

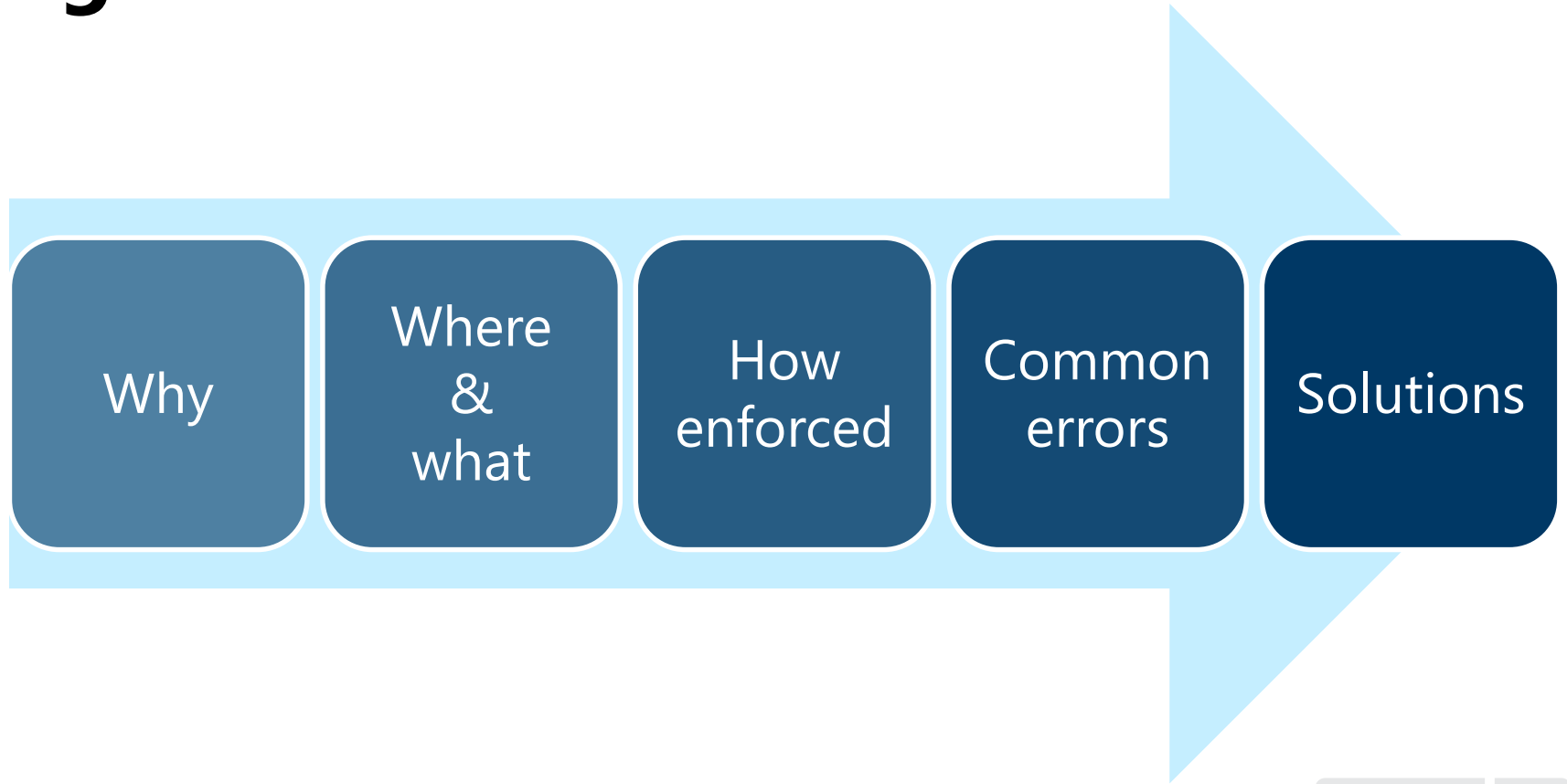
Brandon J. Warner, Administrative Patent Judge



# Appeal Byte:

## Non-Compliant *Ex Parte* Appeal Brief (And How to Fix It)

# Agenda



# *Ex parte* appeal brief rules – why



Efficiency



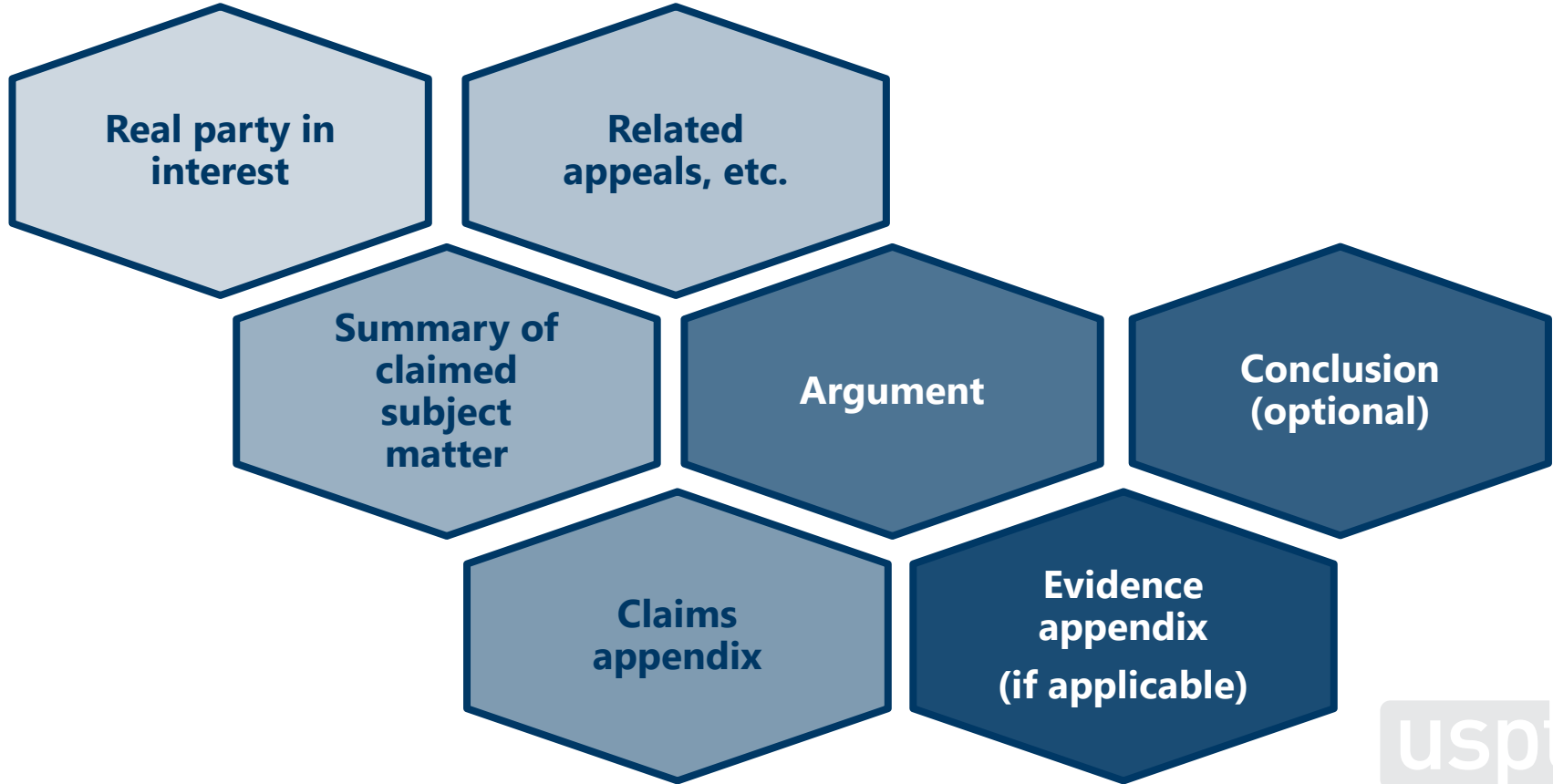
Complete record



Fair play

# Appeal brief rules – where & what

37 CFR § 41.37(c); MPEP § 1205.02



# Appeal brief rules – where & what

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: [Inventor Name(s)]	Group Art Unit: [####]
Application No. [#####,###]	Examiner: [Name]
Filed: [Application Filing Date]	Confirmation No. [#####]
Title: [APPLICATION TITLE]	

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## APPEAL BRIEF

Appellant submits this Appeal Brief in response to the final Office action mailed [Date], and further to the Notice of Appeal filed [Date]. Appellant requests consideration of this appeal by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

Application [Application #]

- I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST  
Add
- II. RELATED APPEALS, INTERFERENCES, AND TRIALS  
Add
- III. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER  
Add
- IV. ARGUMENTS  
Add
  - a. *Rejection 1 – The Rejection of Claims . . . Based on . . .*
    - i. *Independent Claim 1*  
Add
    - ii. *Independent Claim [#]*  
Add
  - b. *Rejection 2 – The Rejection of Claims . . . Based on . . .*
    - a. *Independent Claim 1*  
Add
    - b. *Independent Claim [#]*  
Add
- V. CONCLUSION  
Add

Date: [Date]

[Signature Block]

2

Application [Application #]

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. [Add].

i

# Appeal brief rules – how enforced

MPEP § 1205.03





# Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (PTOL-462)

<b>Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 CFR 41.37)</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	Examiner	Art Unit	

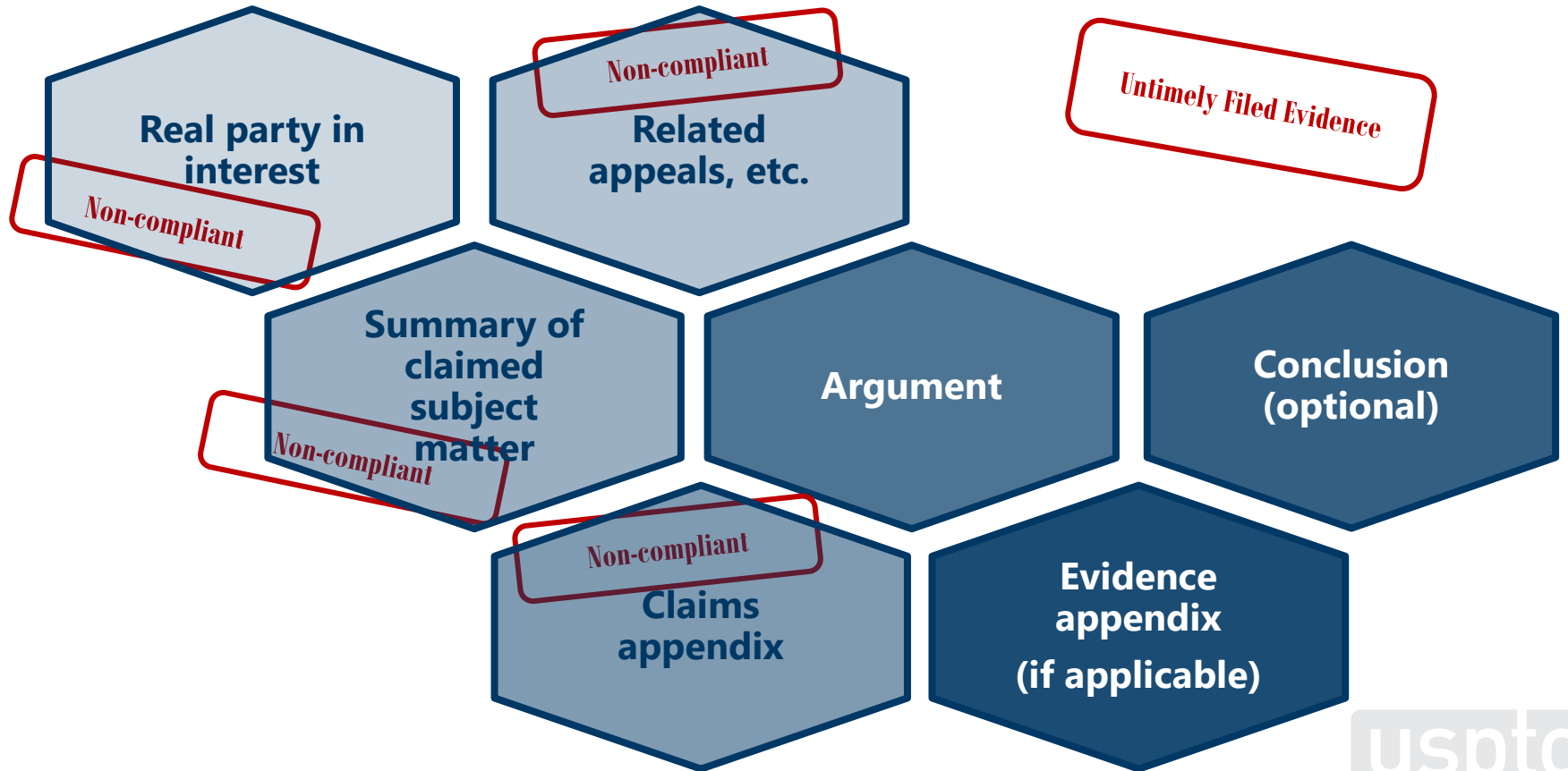
*The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

The Appeal Brief filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is defective for failure to comply with one or more provisions of 37 CFR 41.37(c).

To avoid dismissal of the appeal, applicant must file an amended brief or other appropriate correction (see MPEP 1205.03) within **ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS** from the mailing date of this Notification, whichever is longer.  
**EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136.**

- The brief does not contain the items required under 37 CFR 41.37(c), or the items are not under the proper heading or in the proper order.
- (a) The brief does not contain a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the rejected independent claims, referring to the specification in the Record by page and line number or by paragraph number and to the drawings, if any, by reference characters; and/or (b) the brief fails to identify, for each rejected independent claim and for each dependent claim argued separately that contains a means plus function or step plus function recitation under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as corresponding to each claimed function with reference to the specification in the Record by page and line number or paragraph number, and to the drawings, if any, by reference characters (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(iii)).
- The brief does not contain a correct copy of the appealed claims as an appendix thereto (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v)).
- Other (including any explanation in support of the above items):  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Common errors



# Real party in interest

37 CFR §§ 41.37(c)(1)(i) and 41.8(a)



**Name**



Real party in interest

- Inventor(s)?
- Assignee(s)?
- Parent corporation(s)?



Obligation to **update**

# Related cases

37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ii)



Identify by **number**



**Prior** and **pending**



Appellant/assignee **owns**



**Known** to appellant, counsel, assignee



May be **related** to, directly **affect**,  
be directly **affected by**, have a **bearing**

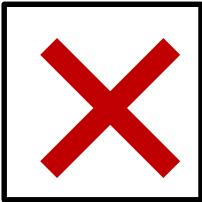
# Summary of claimed subject matter

37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(iii)

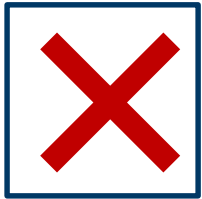
- ✓ Concise explanation
- ✓ **Each rejected** independent claim
- ✓ Specification **as filed**
  - Not pre-grant publication
- ✓ **Page/line** numbers & drawings
- ✓ Structure for means + function

# Summary of claimed subject matter

## Common errors



Not citing to specification **as filed**



Not addressing **each** independent claim



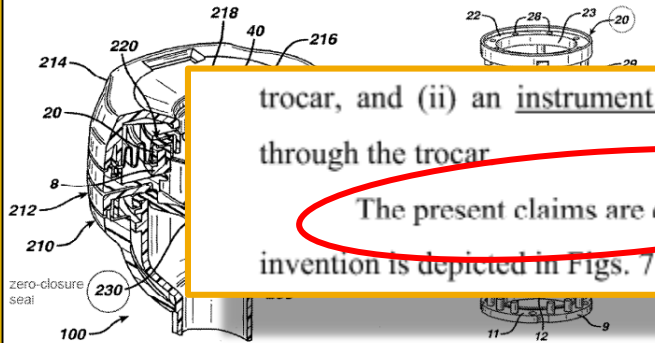
Referring only to **drawings** (& not specification)

# Common mistakes: example 1

## (V) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Trocars are used during minimally invasive endoscopic surgery. Surgical instruments with long shafts are inserted through the trocars to perform various surgical tasks. Trocars typically have two distinct types of seals to prevent the escape of fluid or gas during the surgical procedure: (i) a zero-closure seal intended seal the trocar when there is no instrument in the trocar, and (ii) an instrument seal intended to seal the trocar while instruments are inserted through the trocar.

The present claims are directed a novel instrument seal. One embodiment of the claimed invention is depicted in Figs. 7 and 2, portions of which are reproduced below with notations:



As shown in this embodiment, the instrument seal (2) is positioned proximal of the zero-closure seal (230). The instrument seal (2) shown in the exploded view comprises a first substantially rigid ring (8) and a second substantially rigid ring (20). A plurality of separate semicircular seal segments (4a-4d) are compressed between the rings (8, 20). Each seal segment (4a-4d) has a circumference greater than 180 degrees.

trocar, and (ii) an instrument seal intended to seal the trocar while instruments are inserted through the trocar

The present claims are directed a novel instrument seal. One embodiment of the claimed invention is depicted in Figs. 7 and 2, portions of which are reproduced below with notations:

# Common mistakes: example 1

<b>Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 CFR 41.37)</b>		<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
		10/815,356	Zeiner et al	
		<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
		Yabut, Diane	3734	

*--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

The Appeal Brief filed on June 11, 2012 is defective for failure to comply with one or more provisions of 37 CFR 41.37(c).

To avoid dismissal of the appeal, applicant must file a compliant appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(iii) within **ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS** of the mailing date of this communication. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY NOT BE GRANTED.**

1.  The brief does not contain the items listed in the heading or in the proper order.

2.  (a) The brief does not contain a correct independent claims, referring to the number and to the drawings, if any, independent claim and for each dependent claim plus function recitation under 35 U.S.C. 112(b) specification as corresponding to each independent claim and line number or paragraph number of the specification. (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(iii)).

3.  The brief does not contain a correct independent claim.

4.  Other (including any explanation in support of the above items):

Section V Summary of Claimed Subject Matter must identify and map all independent claims separately on appeal to the Specification by page and line number or paragraph number and/ or drawings if any by reference characters. (Claims 1, 9 and 17 were not mapped).

Section V Summary of Claimed Subject Matter must identify and map all independent claims separately on appeal to the Specification by page and line number or paragraph number and/ or drawings if any by reference characters. (Claims 1, 9 and 17 were not mapped).



# Common mistakes: example 2

## V. Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter

The claimed subject matter under examination is directed generally to antibiotic products. Claims 1, 37, and 39 are the only independent claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a once-a-day, oral antibiotic product comprising three dosage forms, where the first and second dosage forms are delayed release dosage forms and the third dosage form is a delayed sustained release dosage form (i.e., a DR-DR-DSR release profile) and where the antibiotic product does not contain any immediate release dosage forms. Each of the dosage forms comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an effective amount of an antibiotic. The first dosage form initiates release of the antibiotic after the first dosage form initiates release of the antibiotic and the once-a-day, oral antibiotic product does not contain any immediate release dosage forms. The second dosage form initiates release of the antibiotic after the first dosage form initiates release of the antibiotic and the once-a-day, oral antibiotic product does not contain any immediate release dosage forms. The third dosage form initiates release of the antibiotic after the second dosage form initiates release of the antibiotic and the once-a-day, oral antibiotic product does not contain any immediate release dosage forms. Each of the dosage forms comprises amoxicillin and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The third dosage form initiates release of amoxicillin after the second dosage form initiates release of amoxicillin, and the second dosage form initiates release of amoxicillin after the first dosage form initiates release

twenty-four hour period. Support for claim 1 can be found throughout the specification, including, for example, at paragraphs [0013], [0015], [0021], [0022], [0032], [0033], and [0064] and in original claims 1, 3, and 6.

Claim 37 is similar to claim 1 except the antibiotic is amoxicillin. Thus, claim 37 is directed to a once-a-day, oral amoxicillin product comprising three dosage forms, where the first and second dosage forms are delayed release dosage forms and the third dosage form is a delayed sustained release dosage form (i.e., a DR-DR-DSR release profile) and where the antibiotic product does not contain any immediate release dosage forms. Each of the dosage forms comprises amoxicillin and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The third dosage form initiates release of amoxicillin after the second dosage form initiates release of amoxicillin, and the second dosage form initiates release of amoxicillin after the first dosage form initiates release

-7-

# Common mistakes: example 2

<b>Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 CFR 41.37)</b>		<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
		10/940,265	Burnside, et. al.	
		<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
		Zarek, Paul E.	1628	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

The Appeal Brief filed on December 18, 2012 is defective for failure to comply with one or more provisions of 37 CFR 41.37(c).

To avoid dismissal under 37 CFR 41.37(c), the appellant must file an appeal brief with the following extension:

**EXTENSION:**

- The brief is defective for failure to comply with 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1).
- (a) The brief is defective for failure to comply with 37 CFR 41.37(c)(2).  
Section V Summary of Claimed Subject Matter does not refer to the Specification as originally filed with respect to independent claims 1 and 37, i.e. refers to paragraph numbers but the Specification as originally filed does not include paragraph numbers. The Summary must identify and map all independent claims separately on appeal to the Specification by page and line number or paragraph number (if used in the original specification) and drawings if any by reference characters  
  
Another appeal brief is not required; just the corrected section can be submitted.
- The brief is defective for failure to comply with 37 CFR 41.37(c)(3).
- Other (including any explanation in support of the above items):  
Section V Summary of Claimed Subject Matter does not refer to the Specification as originally filed with respect to independent claims 1 and 37, i.e. refers to paragraph numbers but the Specification as originally filed does not include paragraph numbers. The Summary must identify and map all independent claims separately on appeal to the Specification by page and line number or paragraph number (if used in the original specification) and drawings if any by reference characters  
  
Another appeal brief is not required; just the corrected section can be submitted.

# Common mistakes: example 3

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/430,594  
Appeal Brief dated July 20, 2012  
Page 8

## V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The claimed invention relates to motor-driven vehicle lubricating oil compositions, and method of using the same, designed to lubricate the crankcase of motor-driven vehicle internal combustion engines. (see, e.g., ¶¶ 0001-0003<sup>2</sup>). In particular, the claimed invention relates to motor-driven vehicle crankcase lubricating oil compositions having low sulfated ash content, low phosphorus content, and low sulfur content (see, e.g., ¶ 0001). Claims 1 and 16 are the independent claims.

### A. Claimed Subject Matter of Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a motor-driven vehicle lubricating oil composition, comprising: a) a major amount of a base oil having a sulfur content of 0.01 to 0.3 wt.% (see, e.g., ¶ 0038); b) an ashless dispersant comprising an succinimide or a derivative thereof in an amount of 0.01 to 0.3 wt.% (see, e.g., ¶ 0042); c) a metal-containing detergent comprising a metal-containing detergent acid metal salt, having a TBN of 10 to 350 mg KOH/g, and a sulfur content of 0.1 to 1 wt.% in terms of a sulfated ash content (see, e.g., ¶ 0046); d) a zinc dialkyldithiophosphate in an amount of 0.002 to 0.015 wt.% in terms of the phosphorus content (see, e.g., ¶ 0054); e) a zinc dialkyldithiophosphate in an amount of 0.002 to 0.015 wt.% in terms of the phosphorus content (see, e.g., ¶ 0058), wherein: i) the ratio of the phosphorus content of the zinc dialkyldithiophosphate to the phosphorus content of the zinc dialkyldithiophosphate in the motor-driven vehicle lubricating oil composition is in the range of 10:1 to 2:1 (see, e.g., ¶ 0025); and ii) the motor-driven vehicle lubricating oil composition has a sulfur content of 0.01 to 0.5 wt.%, a phosphorus content of 0.01 to 0.1 wt.%, and a sulfated ash in the range of 0.1 to 1 wt.% (see, e.g., ¶ 0018).

<sup>2</sup> All references to the instant patent application herein are to the Patent Publication No. US 2003/0216200 (i.e., the publication of Patent Application No. US 10/430,594).

<sup>2</sup> All references to the instant patent application herein are to the Patent Publication No. US 2003/0216200 (i.e., the publication of Patent Application No. US 10/430,594).

# Common mistakes: example 3

<b>Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief (37 CFR 41.37)</b>	Application No. 10/430,594	Applicant(s) Hirano, S., et. al.	
	Examiner McAvoy, Ellen M.	Art Unit 1771	

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

The Appeal Brief filed on July 20, 2012 is defective for failure to comply with one or more provisions of 37 CFR 41.37(c).

To avoid dismissal of the appeal, applicant must file an amended brief or other appropriate correction (see MPEP 1205.03) within **ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS** from the mailing date of this communication. **EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED ONLY BY THE COMMISSIONER.**

1.  The brief does not contain the items required by 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1) in the proper order.
2.  (a) The brief does not contain a concise explanation of independent claims, referring to the specific claim number and to the drawings, if any, by reference characters for each independent claim and for each dependent claim plus function recitation under 35 U.S.C. 112, specification as corresponding to each claim number and line number or paragraph number, and 37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(iii).
3.  The brief does not contain a correct copy of the appeal brief.
4.  Other (including any explanation in support of the above items):

#### 4. Other (including any explanation in support of the above items):

Section III (or Section V), the Summary of Claimed Subject Matter, must identify and map all independent claims separately on appeal to the Specification by page and line number or paragraph number and/ or drawings if any by reference characters. The mappings are to the printed publication.

Mappings to any printed publications are not part of the official record and, thusly, cannot be accepted.

Another appeal brief in its entirety is not required; just the deleted section can be submitted.

Section III (or Section V), the Summary of Claimed Subject Matter, must identify and map all independent claims separately on appeal to the Specification by page and line number or paragraph number and/ or drawings if any by reference characters. The mappings are to the printed publication.

Mappings to any printed publications are not part of the official record and, thusly, cannot be accepted.

Another appeal brief in its entirety is not required; just the deleted section can be submitted.

# Claims appendix

37 CFR §§ 41.37(c)(1)(v) and 41.37(c)(2)



## **Current** claims on appeal

- No new amendments
- No amendments not previously entered
- No cancelled claims

# Claims appendix

## Common errors

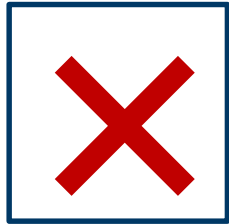


**New** or **non-admitted** amendment



**Markings** in the claims  
(e.g., brackets or underling)

# Other common errors



- **New** or not previously admitted **amendment** or **evidence**
  - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(2)

# How to fix errors



## Not the end of the world!

- Receive **Notice** with identified error
- Timely **respond**
- Fix and **re-submit** (often not whole brief)



# How to Avoid Common Errors



- Review **rules**
  - 37 CFR § 41.37(c)
  - MPEP § 1205.02
- Appeal Brief **template ([link](#))**

# Question/comment submission

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– [PTABInventorHour@uspto.gov](mailto:PTABInventorHour@uspto.gov)



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USPTO's Inventors Conference

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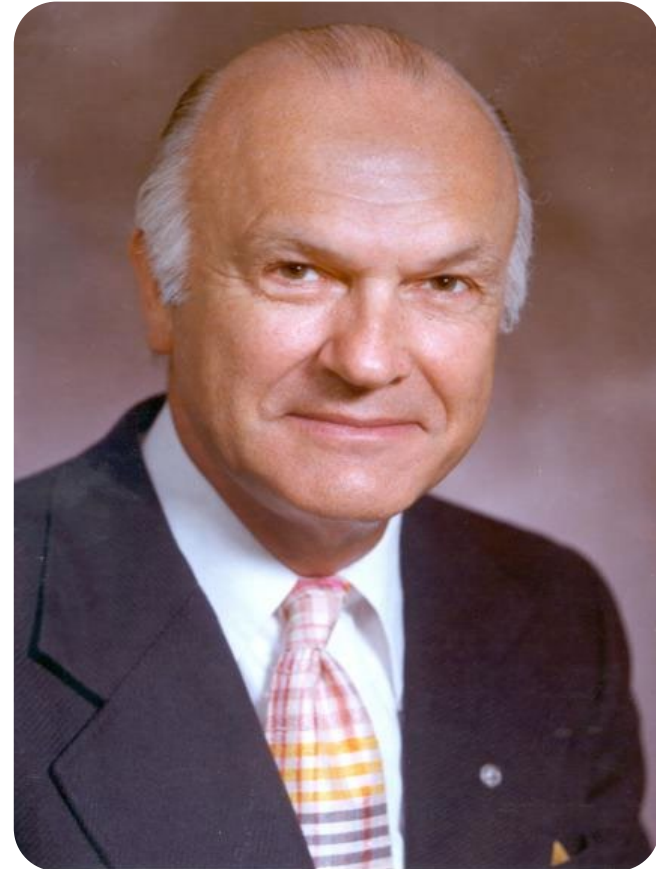
John E. Schneider, Administrative Patent Judge



# **Invention Byte And the Invention Is . . .**

# Inventor of the month – Harry W. Coover

- ♠ His work initially focused on developing an **optically clear plastic** – *it didn't work*
- ♠ The product was used to seal wounds during the Vietnam War.
- ♠ Still used in surgeries
- ♠ What is it?



# What was the invention?

A – Silly Putty™

B – Super Glue™

C – Teflon™

D – None of the above

# Super Glue™



**US Patent 2,768,109** -  
October 23, 1956

Cyanoacrylates, a class of chemicals with powerful adhesive properties, opened the door to a wide range of industrial, consumer, and medical applications



# 2023



**Easter –  
April 9, 2023**



# Poll: What was patented in 1890?

A – An Easter Egg

B – An Easter Basket

C – An Easter Bonnet

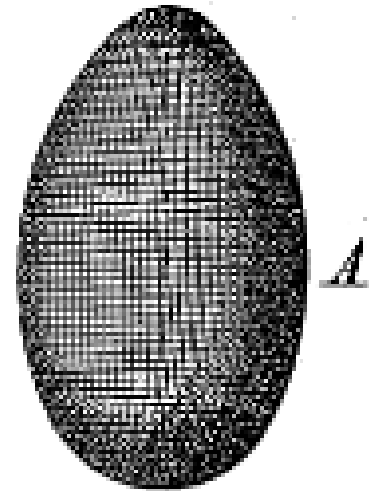
D – None of the above

# U.S. Patent 419,391

## Easter Egg

an Easter-egg which is formed of a block of Wood turned into the Shape of an egg and thread or yarn Wound thereon, the same being preferably spun silk

*Fig. 1.*



# 2023



**Earth Day –  
April 22, 2023**

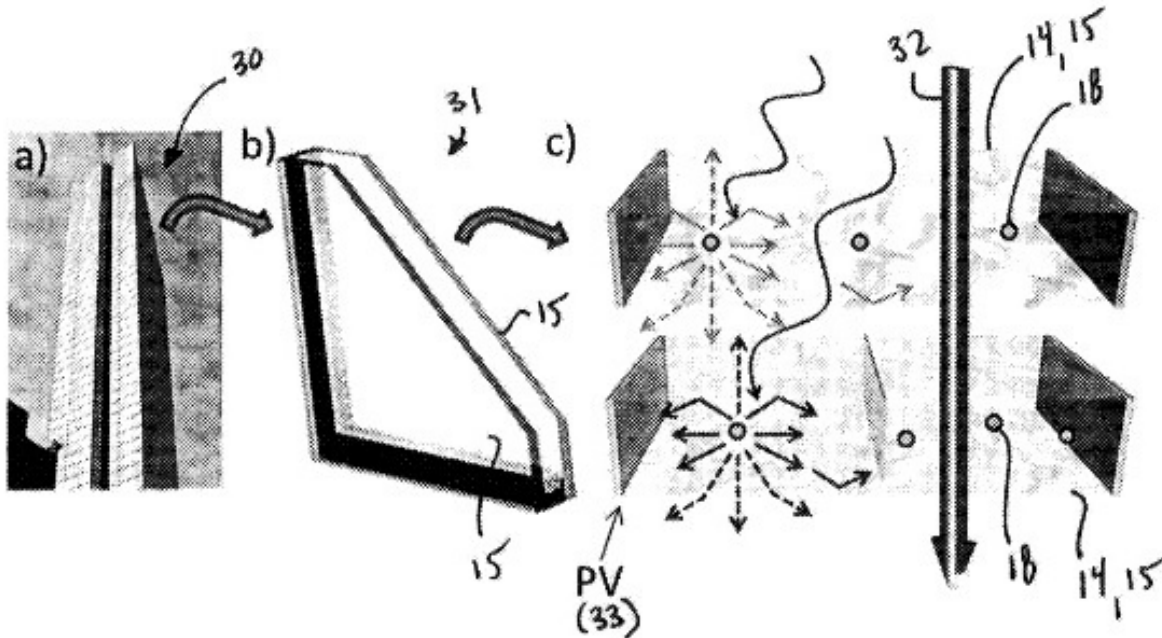


# **Poll: How did Richard Lunt and Yimu Zhao improve solar panels with their invention?**

- A – They made them lighter weight
- B – They made them from recycled materials
- C – They made them transparent
- D – None of the above

# U.S. Patent 10,439,090

For Transparent Luminescent Solar Concentrators  
for Integrated **Solar Windows**



# Question/comment submission

To send in questions or comments about the presentation, please email:

– [PTABInventorHour@uspto.gov](mailto:PTABInventorHour@uspto.gov)



# Successful Inventing Series: Licensing Process



- Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. PT
- Topics include:
  - What do companies expect to see from the inventor?
  - Which companies to approach and why?
  - What are the licensing odds for success?
- Register at <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/successful-inventing-product-development>
- The **Successful Inventing Series** are monthly presentations that cover various aspects of the invention process, presented by the USPTO and the Silicon Valley Chapter of the Licensing Executive Society



Amee A. Shah, Administrative Patent Judge



# Walkabout the Web:

## Director's Webpages



United States Patent and Trademark Office

https://www.uspto.gov

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Patents Trademarks IP Policy Learning and Resources Find It Fast

### GARBAGE LOT<sup>tm</sup> By Damian Earley

**From inspired to inspiring: Damian Earley**  
Young inventor hopes to inspire others to be environmentally friendly [FULL STORY](#)>

#### New to IP?

- Patent basics
- Trademark basics
- Identify what kind of IP you have
- Inventor & entrepreneur resources
- Access our free services
- Training and education events
- USPTO in your region

#### Latest news

##### Remarks

**Record number of law firms boost participation in innovation economy among under-resourced inventors and small businesses**  
USPTO celebrates 2022 Patent Pro Bono Achievement Certificate recipients; calls for more participation among practitioners

**USPTO announces Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for potential PTAB reforms**  
Seeking public input regarding proposed changes to

“ [T]here is a crucial need for a new era of innovation, and for all of us to unite in helping every potential innovator in our country bring their innovation to impact. We can help

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**The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)** is the federal agency for granting U.S. patents and registering trademarks. In doing this, the USPTO fulfills the mandate of Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, of the Constitution that the legislative branch "promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." The USPTO registers trademarks based on the commerce clause of the Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3). Under this system of protection, American industry has flourished. New products have been invented, new uses for old ones discovered, and employment opportunities created for millions of Americans. The strength and vitality of the U.S. economy depends directly on effective mechanisms that protect new ideas and investments in innovation and creativity. The continued demand for patents and trademarks underscores the ingenuity of American inventors and entrepreneurs. The USPTO is at the cutting edge of the nation's technological progress and achievement.

The USPTO advises the president of the United States, the secretary of commerce, and U.S. government agencies on intellectual property (IP) policy, protection, and enforcement; and promotes the stronger and more effective IP protection around the world. The USPTO furthers effective IP protection for U.S. innovators and entrepreneurs worldwide by working with other agencies to secure strong IP provisions in free trade and other international agreements. It also provides training, education, and capacity building programs designed to foster respect for IP and encourage the development of strong IP enforcement regimes by U.S. trading partners.

**Executive committee**

Learn more about the men and women who lead the USPTO.

**Regional office director biographies**

Learn more about the directors of our regional offices.

**Organizational offices**

The various offices within the USPTO serve specific functions, both to the general public and the organization itself.

**USPTO locations**

The USPTO has multiple offices located throughout the United States. Our headquarters is in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Past leaders of the USPTO**

Discover the rich history of the USPTO through the biographies of the people who have led the agency since 1802.

**Engage with the Director**

The Office of the Under Secretary (OUS) promotes the mission and strategic goals of the agency.

**Careers**

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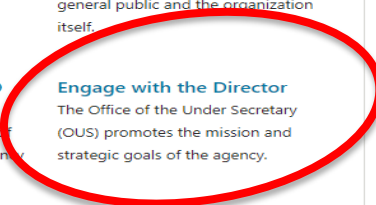
**USPTO Main Campus**

The USPTO headquarters occupies five interconnected buildings located at 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia. The office employs more than 10,000 people -- including engineers, scientists, attorneys, analysts, computer specialists -- all dedicated to protecting U.S. intellectual property rights.

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## Engage with the Director

Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), is the principal intellectual property advisor to the President and the Administration, through the Secretary of Commerce, and is focused on incentivizing and protecting U.S. innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity. This page shares information on ways to connect with Director Vidal and opportunities to learn about the USPTO's regional offices, outreach efforts, and other important initiatives.

The **Office of the Under Secretary and Director** (OUS) supports the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. The OUS oversees all the USPTO's business units, the Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Committees, and four regional offices throughout the United States.



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APR 26, 2023  
Trademark Public Advisory Committee executive session

APR 27, 2023  
Trademark Public Advisory Committee executive session

APR 28, 2023  
Trademark Public Advisory Committee executive session

APR 28, 2023 - VIRTUAL AND ALEXANDRIA, VA  
Trademark Public Advisory Committee quarterly meeting

MAY 16, 2023  
Trademark Public Advisory Committee executive session

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Monday Jun 06, 2022

## Incentivizing and protecting innovation in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies

***AI and Emerging Technologies Partnership: Join upcoming discussions on maximizing innovation's widespread impact***

*Blog by Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO*



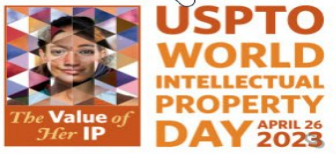
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# Patent Public Advisory Committee (PPAC)

## Breaking News - PPAC Fee Setting Hearing

The PPAC reviews the policies, goals, performance, budget, and user fees of patent operations and advises the director on these matters.

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### PPAC Meeting Transcripts

- [November 16, 2022 Public Meeting \[PDF\]](#)
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- [August 9, 2022 Public Meeting \[PDF\]](#)
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- [March 10, 2022 Public Meeting \[PDF\]](#)
- [November 18, 2021 Public Meeting \[PDF\]](#)
- [August 5, 2021 Public Meeting \[PDF\]](#)

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# Future programs



## **Inventor Hour, Episode 18**

Thursday, May 25, noon (ET)

## **Inventor Hour, Episode 19**

Thursday, June 22, noon (ET)



