



United States Patent and Trademark Office

Vision and Outlook

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Transparency and Collaboration

- Culture shift to two-way communications with external stakeholders;
- Create opportunities for dialogue;
- Include applicant needs as part of strategic decision-making.



Pendency

- High-level mandate for 10 month First Office Action on the Merits.
- New initiatives:
 - Compact prosecution training;
 - Interview training;
 - First Action Interview program and
 - Abandonment incentive program.



Quality

- Shifting “second-pair-of-eyes” to front of quality program;
- Patent Quality Task Force and
- Overhaul of quality review process.



Funding

- Current financial model is not stable. And without adequate funding, we will not be able to begin to improve the USPTO;
- USPTO needs Fee setting authority;
- Ending diversion is a top priority and
- Interim measures – fee surcharge.



Patent Reform

The proposed legislation would:

- Deter unnecessary litigation;
- Move USPTO to a harmonized “first inventor to file” priority system;
- Improve patent quality by providing an effective post-grant review process and
- Provide a vehicle for the USPTO to recover costs of services through fee-setting authority.

