USPTO and the Texas Regional Office
USPTO Offices

Detroit
- Operational since July 2012

Denver
- Byron G. Rogers Federal Building
- Operational since July 2014

Silicon Valley
- San Jose City Hall Building
- Operational since October 2015

Dallas
- Terminal Annex Federal Building
- Operational since November 2015
Employees Hired:
- 101 Patent Examiners
- 18 Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) judges
- 25 Management/Staff

Office Hours: 8:30-5 PM

Services
- Public Search Facility
  - Available from 9:00-4:30 PM
- Examiner Interview Room
- Hearing Room
- Public Meeting Space
TXRO Outreach Services Include:

- Walk-in services to obtain information about the USPTO
- Workstations for searching patents and trademarks
- A regional focus for workshops, conferences and roundtables
- A hearing room to host Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) proceedings and remote access to hearings taking place at any USPTO location
- Interview room to connect applicants to patent examiners across the country
- Patent Examiner Technical Training Program (PETTP) from local experts to participate as guest lectures
Resources for Small Business Owners, Entrepreneurs, and Independent Inventors
Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs)
Young, high-growth, startup businesses continue to be recognized as outsized engines of job creation, economic growth, and unparalleled innovation in the United States.

As the innovation landscape continues to shift, these startups face unique intellectual property challenges.

Through the Startup Partnership, we are helping to address these challenges by tying in closely with the startup community to deliver the best resources possible, including:

- Nationwide and regional platforms for enhanced startup engagement on intellectual property.
- **Webpage** that serves as a one stop shop for startups.
- Social media campaigns and targeted communication efforts/services to drive greater awareness of our programs and resources.
Trademark Assistance Center

- Provides general information about the registration process
- Responds to status inquiries
- 8:30am-8:00pm EST, Monday through Friday

Phone:
(571) 272-9250 or (800) 786-9199

Email:
TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov
Inventors Assistance Center

- Provides general information about the patent examination policy and procedure
- Assists with identifying necessary forms and completion
- 8:30am-8:00pm EST, Monday through Friday

Phone:
(571) 272-1000 or (800) 877-8339
Patent Pro Bono Program

- Matches financially under-resourced inventors and small businesses with registered patent practitioners to file and prosecute patent applications.
  - 23 regional programs across the country provide the matching services.

- Benefits
  - Helps ensure that no deserving invention lacks patent protection because of a lack of money for IP counsel.
  - Educates inventors.
  - Creates a path for inventors to become job creators.
  - Patent practitioners can volunteer in their area of expertise.
Pro Bono Program Organizations

- Washington Pro Bono Patent Network
- Idaho Patent Pro Bono
- CIAP
- ProBoPat
- Arizona Public Patent Program
- Upper Midwest Program
- LegalCorps (MN)
- Pro Bono Patent Project (MI)
- Gateway Venture Mentoring Service
- TALA
- Chicago-Kent Patent Hub
- Patent Connect for Hoosiers
- IP Venture Clinic (OH KY)
- LAVPA (TN)
- BBVLP Patent Program (MS AL)
- New England Program
- New York Tri State Program
- Delaware Program
- FCBA (Mid-Atlantic)
- PA Patent
- NC Leap
- Georgia Patents
- Patent Pro Bono FL
State Specific Pro Bono Programs

- LAVPA serves Tennessee inventors!
- BBVLP serves Alabama and Mississippi inventors!
- Patent Pro Bono serves Arkansas inventors!
- TALA serves Louisiana inventors!
- For general information:
  - Visit www.uspto.gov/probonopatents.
  - Email probono@uspto.gov.
Micro Entity Status

• 75% off most patent fees
• Low cost submission to establish filing date
  – Provisional Application Filing Fees
    • $130 small entity
    • $65 micro entity
  – Micro entity certifies that he/she:
    – Qualifies as a small entity (less than 500 employees);
    – Has not been named as an inventor on more than 4 previously filed patent applications;
    – Did not, in calendar year preceding the calendar year in which the applicable fee is paid, have a gross income exceeding 3 times median household income; and
    – Has not assigned, granted, or conveyed (and is not under obligation to do so) a license or other ownership interest in the application concerned to an entity that, in calendar year preceding the calendar year in which applicable fee is paid, had a gross income exceeding 3 times the median household income.
Need Patent Protection Fast?

Need to FAST track your patent? Use Track One!
Move your ideas quickly with USPTO's Track One

http://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/usptos-prioritized-patent-examination-program
“This program brings a voice to the inventor that he normally would not have ... THANK-YOU!!!!!!!”

- Process designed for issues that arise during patent application prosecution; used to get an application “back on track”
- Use on-line ombudsman form at http://www.uspto.gov/patents/ombudsman.jsp
Types of Intellectual Property
# Types of Intellectual Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s Protected?</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Protection Lasts for:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utility Patent</td>
<td>Inventions</td>
<td>iPod, chemical fertilizer, process of manipulating genetic traits in mice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Patent</td>
<td>Ornamental (non functional) designs</td>
<td>Unique shape of electric guitar, design for a lamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td>Books, photos, music, fine art, graphic images, videos, films, architecture, computer programs</td>
<td>Michael Jackson’s Thriller (music, artwork and video), Windows operating system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Secret</td>
<td>Formulas, methods, devices or compilations of information which is confidential and gives a business an advantage</td>
<td>Coca-Cola formula, survey methods used by a pollster, new invention for which patent application has not been filed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trademark</td>
<td>Words, symbols, logos, designs, or slogans that identify and distinguish products or services</td>
<td>Coca-Cola name and distinctive logo, Pillsbury doughboy character</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IP Awareness Assessment Tool

http://www.uspto.gov/inventors/assessment