

UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



# **Professional responsibility and practice before the USPTO**

Office of Enrollment and Discipline

United States Patent and Trademark Office



# Register of patent practitioners

[oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI/](http://oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI/)

## Office of Enrollment and Discipline

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### Persons Recognized to Practice in Patent Matters

I want to...

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## Patent Practitioner Home Page

The listings contain contact information for attorneys and agents with licenses to practice before the US Patent and Trademark Office.

### PATENT PRACTITIONER SEARCH:

Currently, there are **12558 active agents** and **35680 active attorneys**. All searches reflect current information available to OED. Information concerning a practitioners status as an attorney is based on records provided to the Office of Enrollment and Discipline and might not reflect the practitioners status in a State Bar. Individuals interested in a practitioners status in a State Bar should contact that State Bar for specific information.

### REGISTERED PRACTITIONER PORTAL:

Self-service portal for registered patent attorneys and agents that enables users to update their contact information such as mailing address, e-mail address, phone numbers, security question and answer, and change their password. They may also submit requests to OED and pay fees online. Please refer to our [Document Processing](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) pages for more information.

### EXAM APPLICANT PORTAL:

Applicants may apply or reapply for Admission to the Examination for Registration, upload pertinent documentation, and pay the application and examination fees online using the Applicant Portal. Applications for Waiver of the Examination 37 CFR § 11.7(d), Reciprocal Recognition 37 CFR § 11.6 (c), and Reciprocal Recognition for Trademarks 37 CFR § 11.14(c) are not currently available through the online portal. Please refer to our [Document Processing](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) pages for more information.

Q Patent Practitioner Search

Registered Practitioner Portal

Exam Applicant Portal



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## OED Diversion Pilot Program

- In 2016, the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs and the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation published a study of about 13,000 currently practicing attorneys and found the following:
  - About 21% qualify as problem drinkers
  - 28% struggle with some level of depression
  - 19% struggle with anxiety
  - 23% struggle with stress
- Other difficulties include social alienation, work addiction, sleep deprivation, job dissatisfaction, and complaints of work-life conflict.
- In 2017, the USPTO launched the Diversion Pilot Program.



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# OED Diversion Pilot Program–criteria

- Willingness and ability to participate in the program
- No public discipline by the USPTO or another jurisdiction in the past three years
- Misconduct at issue must not:
  - Involve misappropriation of funds or dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation
  - Result in or be likely to result in substantial prejudice to a client or other person
  - Constitute a “serious crime” (see 37 C.F.R. § 11.1)
  - Be part of a pattern of similar misconduct or be of the same nature as misconduct for which practitioner has been disciplined within the past five years



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## Pro bono programs

- USPTO Law School Clinic Certification Program:
  - Allows students in a participating law school’s clinic program to practice before the USPTO under the strict guidance of a law school faculty clinic supervisor
  - Limited recognition for participating students
  - [www.uspto.gov/lawschoolclinic](http://www.uspto.gov/lawschoolclinic)
- USPTO Patent Pro Bono Program:
  - Independent regional programs located across the nation work to match financially under-resourced inventors and small businesses with volunteer practitioners to file and prosecute patent applications.
  - Inventors and interested attorneys can navigate the USPTO website to find links to their regional program: [www.uspto.gov/probonopatents](http://www.uspto.gov/probonopatents)



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Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the [UT Law CLE eLibrary \(utcle.org/elibrary\)](http://utcle.org/elibrary)

## Title search: Professional Responsibility and Practice Before the USPTO

Also available as part of the eCourse

[eSupplement to the 26th Annual Advanced Patent Law Institute \(Austin\)](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the

16<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Patent Law Institute session

"Professional Responsibility and Practice Before the USPTO"