

Kevin Rodkey ([00:01](#)):

Welcome! Finnegan is pleased to collaborate with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on another podcast to discuss the USPTO's outreach efforts. I'm Kevin Rodkey, a partner with Finnegan. We're joined today by Damian Porcari, Director of the USPTO's Midwest Regional Office, and Steve Koziol, Acting Director of the USPTO's Silicon Valley Regional Office. The USPTO provides many intellectual property training, education, and access programs designed to foster respect for intellectual property and encourage the development of strong IP enforcement. However, many inventors, entrepreneurs, and public stakeholders may not be aware of the great programs the USPTO provides. In this podcast, we'll discuss some of the programs the USPTO offers as it relates to IP education, access to patent protection, the Patent and Trademark Resource Centers, or PTRCs, and emerging technologies. Damian and Steve, welcome to the podcast. Let's start with the discussion of IP education, where all IP starts. When an inventor or an entrepreneur has an idea, what are some of the questions that they need to ask themselves before getting started in the IP process? Damian, let's start with you.

Damian Porcari ([01:16](#)):

Well, it's obviously a complex area. You know, you've got both patent and trademark where our area, our office specializes in, as well as copyright - to make that distinction of what type of IP needs a person needs more useful, we've created this IP assessment tool. We started it years ago, but we recently revamped it and rolled it out about a month ago, where we focus a series of questions to inventors, business people, authors - to identify the type of intellectual property that they're creating and how that intellectual property would be utilized by their business. So we've got two versions of the tool running now. We've got a streamlined version, which only asks like five or six questions, and then we have a more detailed version of the tool that asks more questions.

[\(02:14\)](#):

And what the tool does is it prepares an IP assessment report that you can take to an attorney, a business advisor, a potential partner. And so that's kind of our initial start of how to sort through all the various types of intellectual property that are available and where you should focus your efforts. On top of that, we've got other resources. We've got physical resources where you can walk into a building. Our headquarters is in Alexandria. We have four regional offices in Detroit, Dallas, Denver, and San Jose. And plus, as you mentioned at the beginning of this podcast, we have 86 Patent and Trademark Resource Centers, where we train librarians to give people one-on-one consulting in terms of their intellectual property questions. On top of that, PTO has a really vast website, which we've revamped to make it more useful.

[\(03:16\)](#):

And we've added some AI tools to make the searches easier to navigate. And so those tools will give you access to all of our printed publications. On top of that, PTO produces a program virtually every day of the week, every workday, and we record many of those. Many of those are held in person, but almost all of them are also webcast, so that you can join a program that addresses your particular IP needs at almost any given time. And then we publish our schedule so that if it's part of a series, meaning if you're going to have a trademark, it will walk you through the trademark process through all of its steps, as well as the patent process. So in addition to all of that, we also have blogs that we post news feeds that you can subscribe to. And then we post almost all of our programs on Eventbrite. So those are pushed to you. On top of all that, there was a new law that was enacted in December called Unleashing American Innovators. That's going to just expand the availability of all of these services to stakeholders around the country even more in the next couple of years.

Kevin Rodkey (04:37):

Thanks. That's a lot of great resources and information. Steve, after the inventors or entrepreneurs have identified the answers to some of the questions that Damian noted, what are the next steps that they should take?

Steve Koziol (04:51):

True. And it's a great question. And kind of building on Damian's answer too, right? Some of these questions such as, you know - has my invention been done before? How do I even start protecting myself if I do think I want to form a business around this invention, around this idea, around this brand and maybe, you know, how am I going to pay for all of this? are really great questions to be thinking through. And I think the USPTO offers programming that addresses all of these questions and really so much more. So I think, you know, one of the biggest things you can do if you're in that initial phase of "I've got an idea, I think there's something here. I may want to start a business around this", or at least preserve my future optionality to be able to do something with this idea.

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whether it's an invention or a brand, I really encourage people to check out you know, www.uspto.gov/events, and that'll show you the events that Damian was talking about. Literally, just about every day of the week on average over the course of a year, we have some type of public programming. And if I can oversimplify a little bit, that public programming comes in two broad flavors - our regularly scheduled educational events: so these are the types of events that walk you through "how do I do a search to see if my brand has been in use before, or if my invention has been done by someone before", through our Path to a Patent series, which will help you through that process all the way to the point where you're you're ready to take the step of actually filing your patent application.

(06:49):

And same thing for our Trademark Boot Camp series. It walks you through the process of identifying what you have, how that may fit within the trademark registration system, and the next steps that you can take to actually register your trademark or work with an attorney to have that mark registered. So those types of regular events occur - are typically on a quarterly basis throughout the year. So if you miss this quarter's events, you're usually not more than a few months away from the next class. And the second flavor of events that we offer are more kind of seasonal or ad hoc events that are both educational and a little bit more inspirational. And so, by that I mean - I think a good example is an upcoming event.

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Every February, we do an an event called the Black Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program, where we highlight successful black entrepreneurs who have gone through the patent process, who have gone through the trademark process and share their story, share what they went through, how they navigated the IP landscape in order to be successful, and what it meant to their business as well. In March, we have a kickoff of the Women's Entrepreneurship Symposium, where we highlight female inventors who have gone through the process and are willing to share their story of what they did when they were in your shoes, when they were starting out, and when they weren't sure where to turn. And the last one that I'll mention is every summer, typically the USPTO hosts our Invention Convention, which is kind of the big tent program over the course of a week celebrating successful inventors and brand owners and really giving them the platform to share their story, to disseminate the best practices that they learned in navigating the IP system so that we can help folks that are in your position, take that next step and see what they can do to protect theirselves, and to set themselves up for success.

Kevin Rodkey ([09:15](#)):

That's great. That's a lot of steps that they can take. And Damian, this might seem like a very daunting process to new entrepreneurs and people who are new to the patent and trademark world. What are some of the resources that the USPTO offers that can help someone guide - that can help guide entrepreneurs and new innovators through this process that Steve is mentioning?

Damian Porcari ([09:39](#)):

Like I said, my first recommendation would be to take that IP assessment quiz. It gives you a very straightforward benchmark to where you are. And once you've identified which area of IP you're most interested in, whether that's a trademark or a patent or a copyright, you can then pursue more targeted programming if you want to learn more, or if you want to engage either an attorney, it gives you an expectation of what that would look like. And then if you have the time to go through one of our training programs. So let's just for a moment use the example of an inventor who says, "look, I've gone through this and I've determined that I would like to get a patent for my invention." We have a multi-step series called Path to a Patent, which walks an inventor through the entire process from searching their invention all the way through renewal fees, and perhaps even licensing.

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And so that process, that eight-step path to a patent program, gives you the complete picture of "what am I in for?" It's not for those that are in the business of filing patent applications, you don't get your patent on the day you file it. It's a fairly involved process with the average application taking several years before it's examined or issued. So going through those training programs will give inventors a realistic assessment of what it's like. And so let's say you would start with one of the first programs, which is patent searching. We include training tools on how to utilize PTO search tools. We inform people of tools that exist outside the U.S., so you could search internationally. And then we actually make available some pilot AI tools on PTO's webpage, which are quite innovative. Right now, the current demo tool is the IBM Watson Innovator tool.

([11:45](#)):

What that tool will do is not only would it help you identify prior art that would be useful on whether or not you could get a patent, it'll give you a patent landscape to say, "Do I have the freedom to operate in this area? Who are my prospective licensees? Who would be possible partners that I could team up with? Who could be suppliers and who might be potential infringers?" So it isn't just, "can I get a patent?" It's, "can I use the tools that are available to actually start a business and develop a sustainable model that utilizes intellectual property?" So in that realm, some of the most useful tools that I recommend inventors take advantage of is the file history of patent applications. I usually suggest to an inventor to say, "Hey, look, your invention is in this area.

([12:43](#)):

Why don't you find an application that didn't issue and see why it didn't issue?" See the steps that the inventor and their attorneys took to try to get it to issue and then see one that did issue. Is it reflected in a commercial product? How did that inventor that had a patent issue, what steps did they take that differed from the applicant that didn't have their application issue? This is very helpful. I view it as, you know, a roadmap to a successful prosecution. And you can learn that before you even go down it and say, alright, these are very helpful. And if they're in your area of technology, they're much more meaningful. They're not just abstract examples that you get from a book. They are real-life precursors to what you will likely be facing as you pursue a patent application.

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And the same is true on the trademark side. If you see people that are filing registrations, and you see that there's rejections for confusion and similar things like that, the entire history of all the patent applications in all of the trademark registrations, at least until the 1970's, is available online. So you can see all of the steps that applicants took and the back-and-forth between the examiner and the applicant, and how they overcame rejections and how they made amendments, and how they continued their application over the years. And so that's free, online, available within a couple of clicks. And I'd say one of the most powerful learning tools for inventors that they can get.

Kevin Rodkey ([14:24](#)):

That's great. And obviously, there are some inventors who choose not to pursue patent protection, or think about not pursuing patent protection because of things like, as you mentioned, the potential cost of legal fees. Or they may choose to delay submitting a patent application because the process might seem daunting. Aside from the obvious benefits of patent protection, how does USPTO help with access to entrepreneurs and inventors to gain patent protection for their ideas?

Steve Koziol ([14:56](#)):

Sure. There's a number of things I'll highlight and maybe kind of building off of Damian's response earlier. You know, that IP identifier tool, just to bring it home, is accessible on the USPTO.gov website. So if you, if you're able to navigate again, www.USPTO.gov, right there on the landing page, you should see a section called 'New to IP'. And then within that section, there'll be the IP Identifier tool. I believe it says something like 'identify what type of IP you have,' which is a great starting point. But in addition to that, there really are a number of opportunities for newer inventors and smaller inventors and under resourced inventors to have better access to the system.

([15:51](#)):

I think one of the most prominent is the fee discounts that USPTO offers for our small and microentity filers. So if you qualify as a small entity, you get a 60% fee discount for all USPTO fees on the patent filings across the board. And likewise, if you qualify as a microentity, the discount is even more substantial. It's an 80% fee discount across the board for patent filing fees. So don't pay more to the PTO than you have to! Check if you qualify for small or microentity status, because there's substantial discounts across the board. Additionally, Damian mentioned the PTRCs and I think he might be able to talk more about those in the future. But I'd also want to highlight our patent pro bono program.

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This is, again, for independent inventors and small businesses. And our patents pro bono program really is a nationwide network of independently operated regional programs. And what they do is they match volunteer patent professionals - these are patent attorneys, patent agents - with financially under-resourced inventors and small businesses, you know, for the purpose of preparing their patent application, filing the patent application on their behalf, and helping them prosecute that application, hopefully to get an allowance and have that issued patent. So each of these regional programs, again, provides resources for residents either by state or by region. So encourage folks to check out their local patent pro bono program if they think they've got an idea and they really want to work with an attorney to turn that idea into a patent application, but they may be worried about the funding or "where do I start?"

([17:55](#)):

Oftentimes the patent pro bono program is a great place to start. And the last thing I'll say on resources for independent inventors: If you do find yourself in the middle of the process, you'll be working with

someone on the USPTO side, whether that's a patent examiner or a trademark examining attorney. And if you are new to the process, don't be afraid to call up that patent examiner or that trademark examining attorney, especially if you get a letter from the office that you don't understand, or you've been going back and forth with this person for some time in writing. It's amazing how much can be resolved in a simple phone call or a simple half-hour video conference with your examiner or with your examining attorney.

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And don't be shy about mentioning the fact that you are new to the process or that you are an independent inventor or a small business and you're new to navigating the IP world and patents and trademarks in particular. Our examining corps on both the patent side and trademark side are trained to offer extra support to independent inventors, to those who are kind of going through the process without the support of an attorney and those that are new to the process. So reach out to your examiner. Don't hesitate to give them a call. There's a person on the other end that's available to work with you and help you understand what your options are and choose the right path for you and your business.

Kevin Rodkey [\(19:40\)](#):

Yeah, and I know from personal experience, those lines of communications to the examiners are very vital, very important, and always very useful throughout the process. And both of you have mentioned a couple of times now the Patent and Trademark Resource Centers, or PTRC's, and I think a number of people know that the USPTO is headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, you have your regional offices in Michigan and California, Texas, and Colorado. But these PTRCs may be something that entrepreneurs and inventors haven't heard of before. Can you elaborate a little bit more about the primary function of the PTRCs?

Damian Porcari [\(20:22\)](#):

Sure, I'll take that one. So the PTRCs were historically designated a place where people could find patents. You know, before you had the internet, it was somewhat difficult to get copies of patent applications. And so to fulfill the mission of - of progress of the science and useful arts, we published patents and put them in regions where people could easily get copies of their patent applications. Paper patents are no longer a key reason for having the PTRCs, but having the information available and trained librarians that can walk applicants through the process is - so I think there's 86 of them. I counted it yesterday. There's 86 PTRCs, and they have - I don't know if they're in every state or virtually every state, but they're all across the country and they're in large cities in downtowns.

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They're also located with university libraries, and they're in rural areas. There's some in Kentucky that I visit frequently. The librarians receive training from the PTO. They have access to all of our search tools, and they have access to us. So if a patron walks into the library and has a number of questions about intellectual property, they'll get a first set of answers directly from that librarian. But the librarian has a connection with all of the people within PTO so that they can funnel that stakeholder to experts that can give a more complete or specific answer to their unique questions. The PTRCs are also connected with their communities, so they'll know the SBA or the SBDC person, they'll know the local county and state business development people, and they will also have additional resources. Some of them have maker spaces, some of them are affiliated with university research laboratories.

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So depending on the resources that are available to the PTRCs, the patrons to those libraries can get even greater resources. And as we went virtual with our programming, what had been one-off in-person programs to PTRCs are now things that we can broadcast nationwide. So it's making it more accessible. It's helpful for those people that don't have access to broadcast media. And so they can walk into a PTRC and talk to someone face-to-face. They can utilize their makerspace tools and they can perhaps even use the conference rooms to meet with people. But they also have the expertise that the PTRCs will connect with PTO. So if an applicant does want to pursue a patent application without an attorney, we have a Pro Se Assistance Center. The PTRCs have that number and can connect the inventor directly with the Pro Se Assistance Center within PTO.

Kevin Rodkey (23:36):

That's great. And helping with those accessibility efforts are always important. And as you mentioned, the PTRC's role has evolved over time. Steve, can you tell us some more about the USPTO's efforts on other emerging technologies, such as AI?

Steve Koziol (23:56):

Sure, great topic, and a lot of active discussion around that intersection between intellectual property and emerging technologies, and artificial intelligence among them. And I think in recent years, the USPTO has sought to really engage with our stakeholders on this, this nexus of emerging technologies more broadly in our artificial tech, artificial intelligence with kind of - within that emerging technologies space, really to discuss the importance of intellectual property rights as an incentive to continue to foster innovation in these really critical areas. We've published a number of reports over the past few years, specifically on that role of artificial intelligence. And all throughout the process, again, we've been very focused on gathering feedback through formal requests for comments as well as hosting several events focused on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

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Just stepping back a little bit, this work aligns with and supports the mission of the National AI initiative. That's AI.gov for the consolidated whole of government approach AI. And again, this really ensures that the U.S. has that continued leadership in AI research and development and really addresses some of the recommendations around everything from national security all the way down through intellectual property that can be found at that AI.gov site. So I think that the biggest individual effort that's ongoing from the USPTO is our AI Emerging Technologies Partnership series. We had a kickoff event in 2022 at our headquarters. We had an event in our Silicon Valley regional office in the middle of 2022.

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And we're looking to take that show on the road to some of the other regional offices. Again, this creates a venue where academia, independent inventors, small businesses, industry, other government agencies, nonprofits, and kind of civil society writ large can express their perspective on the challenges that artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies provide, specifically to the intellectual property space. And I'd encourage folks to make your voice heard, right? When there is one of these public listening sessions or public sessions where you may have the opportunity to provide comments, the PTO takes that very seriously, right? We listen to every comment. We read every response that gets sent in writing to these broad requests for comment, and input on matters of evolving policy. So, bottom line, make your voice heard and keep a lookout for upcoming events through our artificial intelligence and emerging technologies partnership meeting, because there's a good chance that that roadshow will be coming to your region at, at some point in the next calendar year or so. But even

beyond that, right, there's always opportunities send us input. Again, go to uspto.gov and you'll see our Artificial Intelligence Emerging Technologies Partnership series.

Kevin Rodkey ([27:57](#)):

Thanks, Steve. That's some great information from a national perspective with the National AI Initiative. Could you also describe how the individual initiatives of the USPTO's emerging technology portfolio tie into the USPTO's overall strategic objectives?

Damian Porcari ([28:16](#)):

Thanks for that. That's a great question. The best way I can answer that is to point people to the USPTO's Strategic Plan, which was just published. It's posted on our webpage that Steve told you about at uspto.gov. And we are actually seeking feedback on that strategic plan. In it, we outlined some of the emerging technologies that PTO is developing both in-house to support, examination and externally to support our stakeholders. The deadline for feedback on our strategic plan is February 17th. So if this airs before then, hopefully people will get a chance to look at it and give us their feedback. So I also wanted to just add one comment to Steve's point about the partnership. If this podcast airs before February 8th, we actually have a podcast, a partnership meeting that you can join virtually. It's held in person in Dallas, but people that want to attend it virtually may do so,

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and it's directed to our external training programs for stakeholders as they face IP challenges with emerging technology technologies. So that's part of a series. So if you don't make the February 8th program, go back to the series and see when we have it. I think we're going to have one generally quarterly. So, internally, USPTO is adopting new technologies to improve all of our services. We have new IT systems both on the patent search front, both on the patent filing front, that have been integrating emerging technologies. This is both for efficiency as well as enhanced security. Our CIO, Jamie Holcomb, who's a West Point grad, recently was quoted in a publication saying that that they hired an AI expert to accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies throughout USPTO operational systems.

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And he described that effort as "full steam ahead." So for a West Point grad, that's an unusual statement for them to make. As I said, you can see a sample of some of these new AI tools on USPTO's websites. We partner with various developers to showcase some of the tools. These are both for internal USPTO developers and users of systems, as well as outside experts that want to see how intellectual property's going to take advantage of these AI tools. So right now, through the end of February, you can see an IBM Watson AI tool under the USPTO open data portal. There's a tab called the analytics tab where you can see all of our pilot programs. And one of them is the AI Watson tools. So that's kind of an example of an AI tool developed externally,

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but we're trying to see how it would be useful to our clients. So those are some of the ways that we've used it in the patent area. On the trademark side, we're developing similar tools that trademark examiners can utilize and that external trademark stakeholders can also utilize. There's a virtual trademark advisor to help people answer questions that was recently introduced. So you're seeing the integration of these emergent technologies, both internally to USPTO, to make us more efficient and improve our services, but also to expand the invention ecosystem, to make it more manageable, and improve the navigation of all of our tools and resources and webpages.

Kevin Rodkey (32:17):

Those sound like some great tools, and the USPTO also does a really good job of recognizing the efforts of inventors and entrepreneurs, and fosters technology development through a number of IP programs and awards. Some of those awards include the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the USPTO National Inventors Hall of Fame, the Collegiate Inventors Competition, the USPTO and National Science and Technology Medals Foundation, the USPTO National Academy of Inventors, and other collaborations and awards. Could one of you tell us more about these programs and their effect on technology development?

Steve Koziol (32:57):

Sure, and I can start on that, Kevin, and I think all of these programs that you mentioned, like The National Medal of Technology and Innovation, Collegiate Inventors Competition, these are all opportunities for us to really step back and celebrate inventors and innovation, right? And to create opportunities to highlight really some of the most groundbreaking and innovative work that will eventually translate into products that improve all of our daily lives, whether we know who the inventor is or not. And all of these - I'll start maybe with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, which is truly an exceptional award, right? It's the nation's highest honor for technological achievement, right?

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It's bestowed by the President of the United States on America's leading leading innovators, right? And it gives us an opportunity not only celebrate those who are at the forefront of these cutting-edge technologies but really to inspire future generations of Americans to prepare for and pursue these technical careers to help keep America at the forefront of global technology and economic leadership. And I think that's where the Collegiate Inventors Competition comes in as well, reaching people at a bit of a younger age. This is, again, a nationwide competition that offers opportunity, not only to have recognition for your invention, but also to gain exposure to others in the innovation ecosystem, right?

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Through networking, through marketing exposure, through mentorship opportunities and much more. So this is a partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame that's supported by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. There's an award ceremony, there's cash prizes to go along with it, but the uniting thread throughout all of these is, I think, there's a broad recognition that innovation is great. It's, what it's what enables the advancements of our, our society and our collective betterment. And this creates those opportunities to celebrate the people behind that innovation and give them the recognition that we think that they deserve, and then allows them to pay that forward by inspiring others to pursue those paths as well.

Damian Porcari (36:03):

When I was at Ford Motor Company, I had a very prolific inventor named Haran Gandhi that won that presidential innovation award. And his prestige within Ford greatly expanded his office, his resources, and his ability to develop new technologies. He won the prize for developing one of the first exhaust gas catalysts that was put in place in a production automobile. And with that, he was able to develop particulate catalysts, selective reduction catalysts, NO x traps, a whole host of follow on inventions that I doubt would've come as quickly had he not won that award and not received the recognition that that award entailed. It was really, really a significant improvement in the technology development race after the award.

Kevin Rodkey (37:00):

And those are great things, and it shows how those recognitions and the support of the USPTO is in those efforts to recognize entrepreneurs and inventors, can have real-world effects on businesses and on people's lives. As part of the patent process and the trademark process, there's the examination that I think, Damian, you've mentioned a couple times. Could you spend a little more time and just talk about some of the tools that the USPTO has incorporated into patent and trademark examination?

Damian Porcari ([37:31](#)):

Sure. Thanks for that. So, I'll start on the trademark side. By now, virtually everybody that uses PTO as a professional has created a MyUSPTO account. This is a personalized homepage for your USPTO records. It provides a secure location where you can manage your IP portfolio. It allows you to search within your portfolio. You can file either patents or trademark registrations. You can see the status, you can sign up to get an email whenever an application status change changes, and you can create multiple collections. So if you're an attorney, you can see trademark registrations by client. If you're a business, you can create different portfolios for your competitors so that you can see what your competitors have recently filed. Each of these collections can handle up to a thousand different registrations, and that's true for both the patent side and the trademark side.

([38:35](#)):

As I mentioned before, we recently launched our virtual assistant in December. what that does is it helps you navigate some of the webpages that PTO has. It's a little icon on the lower right where you can ask the virtual assistant whatever question you have in natural language, and then it will identify the most applicable PTO webpage. So that virtual assistance tool is going to be expanded to include more PTO webpages as we can roll it out. It also has a chat box where you can look to see what your serial number is and then go directly to that case to see what the status is on a particular patent application or trademark registration. So we're leveraging machine learning for that service, and we also are looking for your feedback in terms of how well it's working, what your experience is.

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If you use the virtual assistants, there's an ability to give us feedback directly in the tool where you can do a thumbs up or a thumbs down. But the expectation is the questions that we receive through the virtual assistant is going to help us refine our webpages and make navigation easier. So the more you use that, hopefully, the better our webpages get. So right now on the trademark side, it's set up for trademark basics: what is the trademark, checking the status of the application, the trademark assistance center, and contacting trademarks as well as other trademark contact information. So, internally, we have a number of emerging technology tools that are improving internal trademark examination practice. So the existing trademark management tool is a mainframe tool that's supposed to be decommissioned in September of this year. Our new replacement tool is trademark examination modernization, which will start in for pros to test in December of last year, and then implement phase two of the Trademark Modernization Act.

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And it will include all the deadlines to respond to office actions and applications. And the modern IT systems will also be used by the petition's office in post-registration. Our e-file modernization priority is going to be deployed in August of '23. And our continued Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Work Center is going to be undergoing design and development. So our last initiative is to support some of the treaty obligations PTO has for receiving audio file formats in MP3 and MP4. And as everyone knows, we're replacing the BRS and OpenTech search with X Search in September of '23. So on the CIO side, we've retired 20 patent legacy tools. We've eliminated the old East and West tools with something that we internally call Patents End-to-End Search. Our Public PAIR tool is being replaced with Patent Center,

and our public-facing search tool is replaced with Patent Public Search, and we're moving our applications to the cloud to provide greatly enhanced security with a distributed workforce. And so, on some of the other AI tools that we're developing, we're actually doing a live demo with our AI Similarity Search on the patent side. So we collected metrics starting in October. We've had 4,600 different users who've tried the system over 22,000 times. So from an AI standpoint, we're going to be integrating it into internal applications as well as externally facing tools to improve our services and to make the process simpler.

Kevin Rodkey ([43:02](#)):

That's really great to improve all the systems, and with the improvements to the systems with AI and with machine learning - Steve, this will probably be our last question since we're running out of time, so let me throw it out to you. Where are some resources that stakeholders can go to if they want to learn more about the USPTO's AI initiatives and integrations?

Steve Koziol ([43:26](#)):

Sure. And thank you for that, Kevin. And kind of as you and and Damian are hinting at, this is an ongoing process, right? Not just for government as a whole or USPTO, but I think everyone is kind of navigating how artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are going to impact their personal lives, their business lives, and everything in between. And so I think it's vital that we keep the lines of communication open between USPTO and the public. And we primarily do that again through our artificial intelligence and emerging technology partnership series. And I think the good news is that we've kind of cataloged past events that we've done, and some of them have slides available that you can browse if the topic is interesting.

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And I believe some of them have been recorded as well, if you'd like to go back and watch any of those past events. So some of the topics that we've covered in that series and around this issue just within the last six months or so - we had a series on the intersection of blockchain and intellectual property, kind of looking at that cross section of tracking patents and IP broadly across using a blockchain-implemented system and how that intersects with the open source world and the emergent legal and technological issues that flow from that. We had a series on the utilization of artificial intelligence in precision health and kind of how that affects inventorship on unlisted patents and what that means for - not only for patients, but for the legal system that supports that. Again, in addition to our ongoing discussion on the role of subject matter eligibility around these technologies that flow from artificial intelligence, machine learning and other emergent technologies.

([45:49](#)):

So it's not something that we're going to solve within a year or a short period of time. It's something that we need to make sure that we have this long-term venue to, discuss these issues. This a forum where all voices can be heard, can be considered, and rolled into the ultimate implementation of these technologies from a legal standpoint, from an administrative standpoint. Again, all with the goal of expanding the availability and accessibility of these technologies for maximum impact across across the broader public. So again, all these things and much more on USPTO.gov. We encourage folks to give it a look, and hopefully, you'll find something of interest or value. And if you don't, if you're not sure, or if you were expecting to see something that you didn't, encourage folks to reach out to myself or to Damian and share your thoughts with us about what you would like to see, what would be helpful from from your point of view. We're here to listen and we're here to support you.

Kevin Rodkey ([47:09](#)):

Steve, Damian, thank you very much. There's a lot of exciting initiatives going on, and we look forward to seeing the new initiatives as they roll out and these as they continue to progress. So I know you're both very busy. Thank you very much for your time to participate in this podcast.

Steve Koziol ([47:24](#)):

Great. Thank you, Kevin.

Damian Porcari ([47:25](#)):

Thank you so much. Thanks for inviting me.