



## Benefits/Feature: New Employee Training

Anytime you start a new career, it's important to get grounded and know how to get ahead. That's why we've developed the USPTO Patent Training Academy. Before your examining career starts, you'll become an expert in:

- All aspects of laws, rules, practice and procedures in the examination of patent applications
- The patent process, including the impact of patents on the US economy
- Automation tools, including latest searching and communication tools
- The state of the art training in technology areas in which examiners will examine
- Soft skills, including stress management, financial planning basics and time management

You'll spend about 8 months with a class of examiners – usually around 128 people per class – learning from subject matter experts, and in small learning labs of 16 people about areas of technology. You'll work on an Individual Development Plan to set your learning and career goals and benchmarks.

## Living & Working in D.C.: Take your Pick.

If someone in your family is thinking about colleges and universities, the D.C. area has an incredible selection – where you can get a great education and not stray too far from home.

**The University of Maryland, Virginia Tech and The University of Virginia** are big ACC schools that are easily accessible to the D.C. area. From liberal arts to technical degrees and graduate programs, these are some of the nation's finest schools – right in our own back yard. And having them around makes local sports all the more exciting! **George Mason University** gained national attention with its run to the Final Four a couple years ago, but it's been a destination for a strong education in Northern Virginia for

## FROM PTO

### Another Record Breaking Year

We recently released year-end numbers for FY-2008, and are pleased to announce record-breaking results. The most exciting trend is continued historical improvement in the quality of patent and trademark reviews – which means improved quality in the patents we issue and trademarks registered. That kind of progress wouldn't be possible without a team of patent examiners whose talent grows each and every year.

In 2008 USPTO's patent examiners reviewed 448,003 applications – the highest number in our history. Quality compliance was 96.3% – exceeding our targeted goal. And 18% more patent examiner decisions were upheld by the USPTO's patent appeals board than they were in 2005. Our expectations were high, and our incredible people managed to exceed them in every account.

We're continually working to make sure that you have all the tools you need to succeed as a patent examiner – like our Accelerated Examination schedule and the Peer Review option. Both tools make your job more accessible and help you make the right decisions. As you prepare to become a patent examiner, you can take pride in the fact that you're joining a team that's constantly improving – and an employer that's always looking for ways to innovate your work.

## FAST FACTS

years.

Washington, D.C. is home to some nationally renowned schools itself. **Georgetown, George Washington, American, Catholic, Howard, and Gallaudet** are just a few of the city's prestigious institutions. There are plenty of places to find a world-class education in the nation's capitol. The district is also home to the **Corcoran College of Art and Design**, a great school for the arts that's part of the famous Corcoran Gallery of Art.

There are also plenty of community and professional schools in the area. Northern Virginia Community College, Potomac College, Strayer University, Montgomery College, and Prince George's County Community College are a few of the places open to professionals looking to advance their education, or students looking for a place to start theirs.

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### Inauguration Update

To help you plan your visit, below are several online links that provide the most up-to-date details about the day's many scheduled events:

Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: <http://inaugural.senate.gov/>

Presidential Inauguration Committee: <http://www.pic209.org>

DC Tourism: [www.washington.org/visiting/experience-dc/presidential-inauguration/information](http://www.washington.org/visiting/experience-dc/presidential-inauguration/information)

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If you have questions, would like to opt-out of receiving future newsletters, or would like to change your email address for future newsletters, please contact [newsletter@uspto.gov](mailto:newsletter@uspto.gov) and reference USPTO Newsletter in the subject line.

### The PTO Society

There are a lot of benefits to working for the USPTO. One of them is access to the Patent and Trademark Office Society. Open to PTO professionals and other interested individuals, the focus of the Society is promoting growth and well-being in the field, keeping history alive and promoting the social and intellectual welfare of members.

What does that mean for you? You could be part of a group dedicated to furthering the technological development of the United States, fostering a true appreciation of intellectual property systems, and cultivating the highest standards of professional ethics among practitioners and fellow professionals.

The PTOS holds educational programs, sponsors field trips, publishes manuals and other resources along with other activities. They also address issues like compensation and look out for the welfare of people in the patent and trademark field. From work with other foundations, annual conventions and more, the PTOS is a great social networking opportunity for you. From ski trips and international travel to engineering fairs and discounted movie tickets, the PTO Society is a way to exercise your passion for your field and get some fun out of it too.

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