

USPTO Extravaganza!
A Dialogue with the Inventors Society of South Florida
June 13, 2020
Speaker List

Elizabeth Dougherty
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As the Eastern Regional Outreach Director for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Elizabeth Dougherty carries out the strategic direction of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, and is responsible for leading the USPTO's East Coast stakeholder engagement. Focusing on the region and actively engaging with the community, Ms. Dougherty ensures the USPTO's initiatives and programs are tailored to the region's unique ecosystem of industries and stakeholders.

Ms. Dougherty has more than 25 years of experience working at the USPTO. She served as the Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. In this role, she worked closely across the Agency's leadership to implement the policies and priorities for the USPTO. She began her career at the USPTO as a patent examiner after graduating from The Catholic University of America with a bachelor's degree in physics. While a patent examiner, Ms. Dougherty went on to obtain her J.D. from The Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America and served as a Senior Legal Advisor in the Office of Patent Legal Administration for a significant part of her career. Over the years, she has also served in the USPTO's Office of Petitions, the Office of Innovation Development, and the Office of Government Affairs.

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Pro Se Assistance is a current USPTO pilot program that offers customer service to applicants filing patent applications without legal representation. While an applicant may prosecute the application and file papers in their application, lack of skill in this field usually acts as a liability in affording the maximum protection for the invention disclosed. Applicants are advised to secure the services of a registered patent attorney or agent to draft and prosecute a patent application, since the value of a patent is largely dependent upon skilled preparation and prosecution. USPTO employees (including Pro Se Assistance and the examiner of record) cannot give legal advice. To assist applicants in making informed decisions, Pro Se Assistance can help applicants navigate www.uspto.gov and the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) to locate publically available educational resources.

Amy Weisberg

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Amy Weisberg joined the *pro se* assistance art unit in 2018 which is an integral component to the Office of Innovation and Development. As a member of *pro se* assistance, she examines applications in areas such as biotechnology, business methods, medical, and mechanical while providing outreach to *pro se* applicants, applicants without legal representation, both during and before examination. Amy joined the USPTO in 2010 and examined in the medical art area. Prior to joining the patent office Amy worked in laboratory based biotechnology and bio threat consulting fields. She taught biology and anatomy/physiology in Fairfax County Public Schools for 2 years and biology laboratory at the George Washington University for a year. Amy holds a BS in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Virginia, a MS in Science of Instruction from Drexel, and MS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the George Washington University.

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The Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) provides patent assistance and information to the public. The IAC is staffed by former supervisory patent examiners and primary examiners who are available to answer questions and to help you make filing a patent application simple and efficient.

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Michael Neas is the Deputy Director of the International Patent Legal Administration (formerly PCT Legal) at the United States Patent & Trademark Office. Mr. Neas' staff provides training on the filing and prosecution of PCT and U.S. national stage applications to inventors, applicants, patent practitioners and paralegals. His staff also provides training on the PCT to patent examiners and paralegals at the USPTO and provides direct assistance on PCT and U.S. national stage applications via the PCT Help Desk. Mr. Neas' duties also include resolving legal issues involving the PCT, including petitions to the Commissioner in PCT and U.S. national stage applications. Mr. Neas also participates in international meetings and projects such as PCT Reform, PCT Working Group, Meetings of International Authorities, Patent Prosecution Highway and Trilateral and IP5 Cooperation. Mr. Neas has spoken extensively on the PCT to organizations such as the AIPLA, local bar associations and foreign IP Offices. Mr. Neas came to the USPTO in 1989 as a patent examiner. He became a Special Programs Examiner in PCT Legal in 2000

and took his current position in 2006. Mr. Neas has a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from North Carolina State University.

Elizabeth Brown

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Elizabeth Brown is an eMod Project Manager at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. As an eMod Project Manager, she helps oversee the development of Patent Center, the new tool to replace EFS-Web and PAIR. She has experience working with the eCommerce tools, including EFS-Web and PAIR, in addition to her background in working with web applications and user interfaces.



Craig Morris

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Craig Morris works within the Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria, Virginia. Currently, he is the Managing Attorney for Trademark Educational Outreach, spearheading the effort for increased USPTO educational activities in the area of trademark fundamentals. For fourteen years prior, he was the Managing Attorney for the Trademark Electronic Application System, focusing on making the Trademark Operation a total e-government environment. Mr. Morris has been with the USPTO since 1983, previously serving as a Law Office Examining Attorney, Senior Attorney, and Managing Attorney.