

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Basic US Patent Practice

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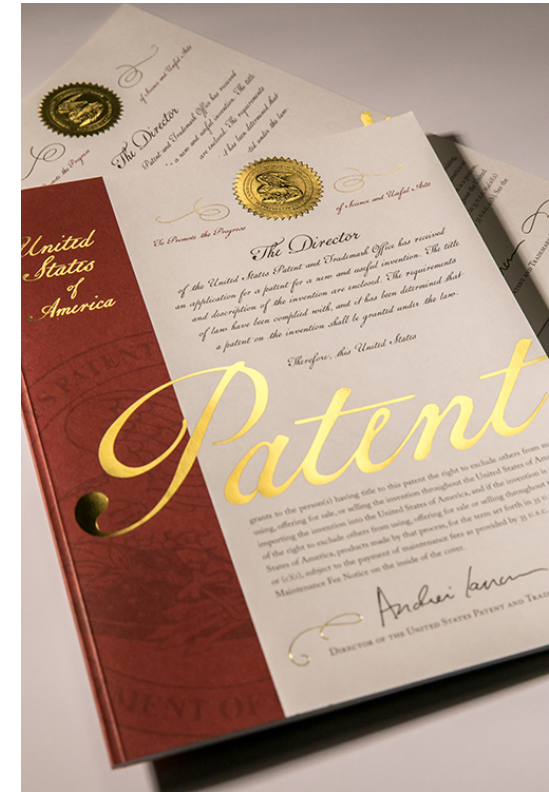
UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



What is a patent?

A U.S. patent is

- A property right granted by the United States government to an inventor
- To **exclude others** from making, using, offering for sale, or selling the invention throughout the United States or importing the invention into the United States
- For a limited time
- In exchange for public disclosure of the invention



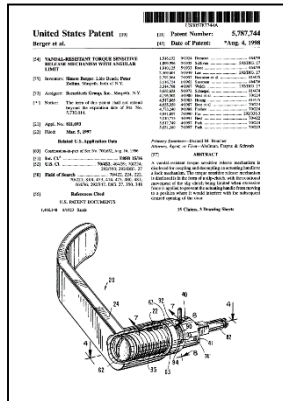
Balancing of interests

- Patents provide a right to exclude for a limited period of time.
 - Public benefit: inventors' discoveries enter public domain upon expiration of patent
 - Quid pro quo: limited period of exclusivity in exchange for public disclosure of inventions

Types of patents

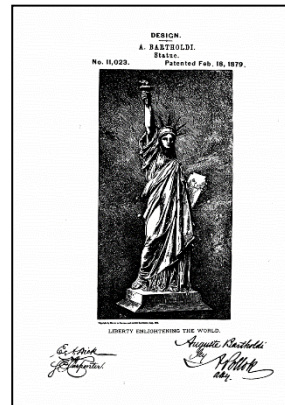
Utility

New and useful process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof



Design

Any new, original and ornamental design; protects the way an object appears



Plant

Whoever invents or discovers and asexually produces any distinct and new variety of plant



Why get a patent?

- A patent can:
 - Help to gain entry into, and deter others from entering into, a market
 - Attract investors
 - Be used as a marketing tool to promote unique aspects of a product
 - Be asserted against an infringer
 - Be used as collateral to obtain funding and increase leveraging power
 - Create revenue – sell or license like other property
- Patents are a form of property that can add value to a company's assets

Who can apply for a patent?

- Inventor(s)
- Assignees
- Obligated assignees
- A person with a sufficient proprietary interest

Pre-filing decisions

- Should I file an application?
 - Prior art search
 - Business plan – who will buy the invention?
- When should I file?
- Where should I file, i.e. electronic or USPTO office?
- What type of application(s) to file?
- Who should prepare the application(s)?

The path to a patent



New Idea?

← One year →

Provisional application
(optional)

← Twenty years →

Non-provisional application

Patent!



uspto

Provisional utility application

Provisional utility applications

- A low-cost way to establish an early effective filing date (priority date) with fewer formalities
- A provisional application does NOT issue as a patent, but a later-filed non-provisional application may issue as a patent and benefit from the provisional application filing date
- 12 month window to file corresponding utility non-provisional patent application in order to benefit from the priority date of the provisional application
- Provisional application is abandoned automatically at 12 months and is not examined

Provisional utility application

Additional benefits of a provisional application:

- Patent term measured from filing date of subsequent **non-provisional** application
 - Patent term is currently 20 years from the date of filing
 - Provides up to an additional 12 months of protection on your invention based on filing of the non-provisional.
- Term **patent pending** allowed to be applied
 - Inventors may use term during time period after patent application (Provisional, Non-Provisional, Design, or Plant) has been filed, but before patent has issued

Provisional utility application

- Simplified filing requirements
- Items required:
 - Specification - CLEAR DESCRIPTION - in compliance with 35 USC 112, Paragraph (a)
 - enablement, written description, best mode
 - Drawings
 - Always required where necessary for an understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented
 - May be required by the office where the nature of the subject matter admits of illustration
 - Filing fees
 - Cover sheet identifying provisional application



Provisional utility application

Use of USPTO cover sheet [PTO/SB/16] encouraged:

Provides a clear indication that applicant is filing a provisional application

- Inventor name(s)
- Inventor residence(s)
- Title of the invention
- Correspondence address
- Attorney information (if any)
- U.S. government interest (if any)



Where do you go from here?

Provisional applications – as basis for priority

- Domestic benefit
 - For non-provisional applications
- Foreign priority
 - Foreign national applications can claim benefit of provisional application filing date if filed within 12 months of the Provisional filing date under Paris Convention Article 4
 - Patent cooperation treaty (PCT) application can claim priority to US provisional application

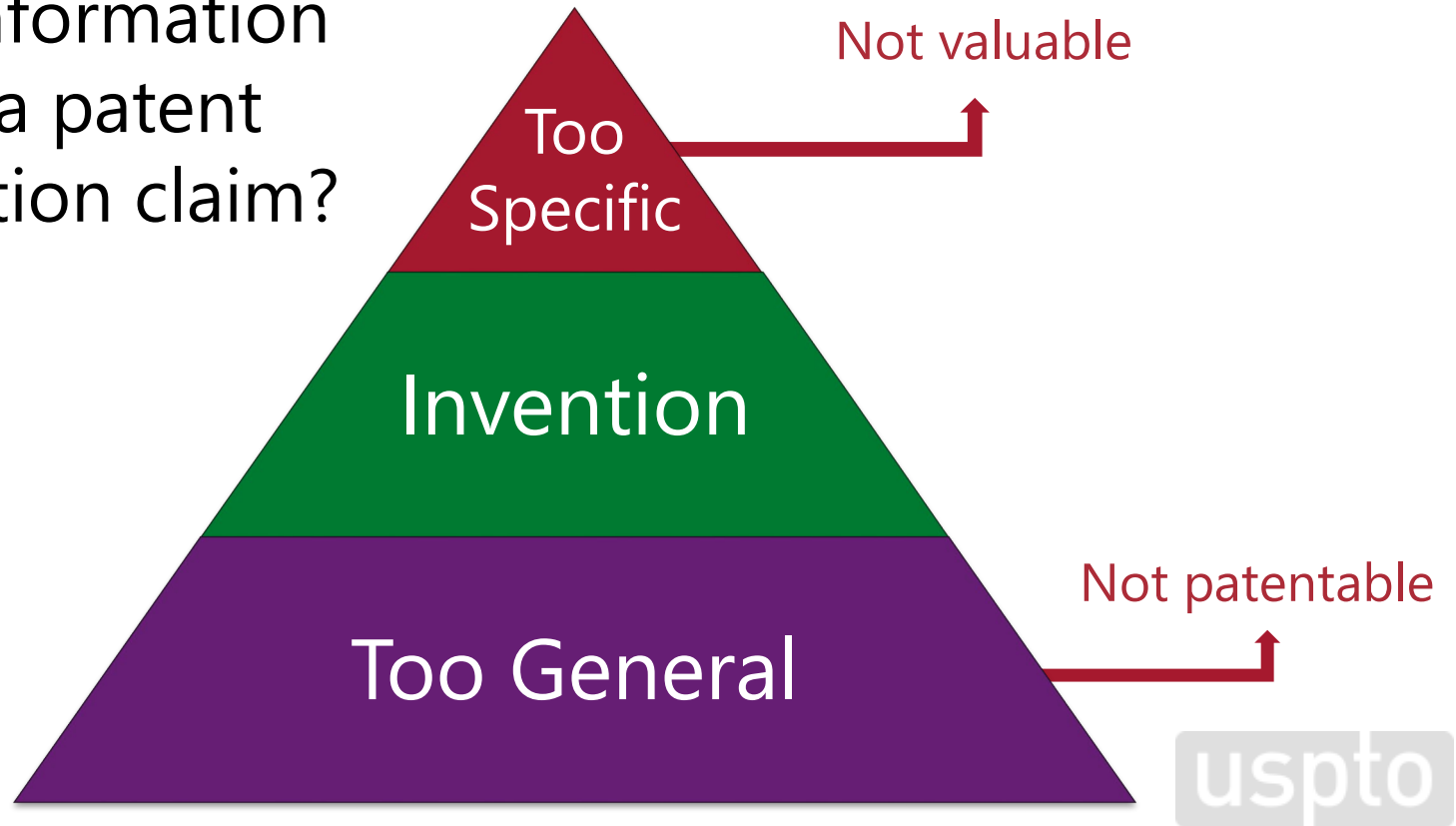
Non-provisional patent application

Nonprovisional patent application

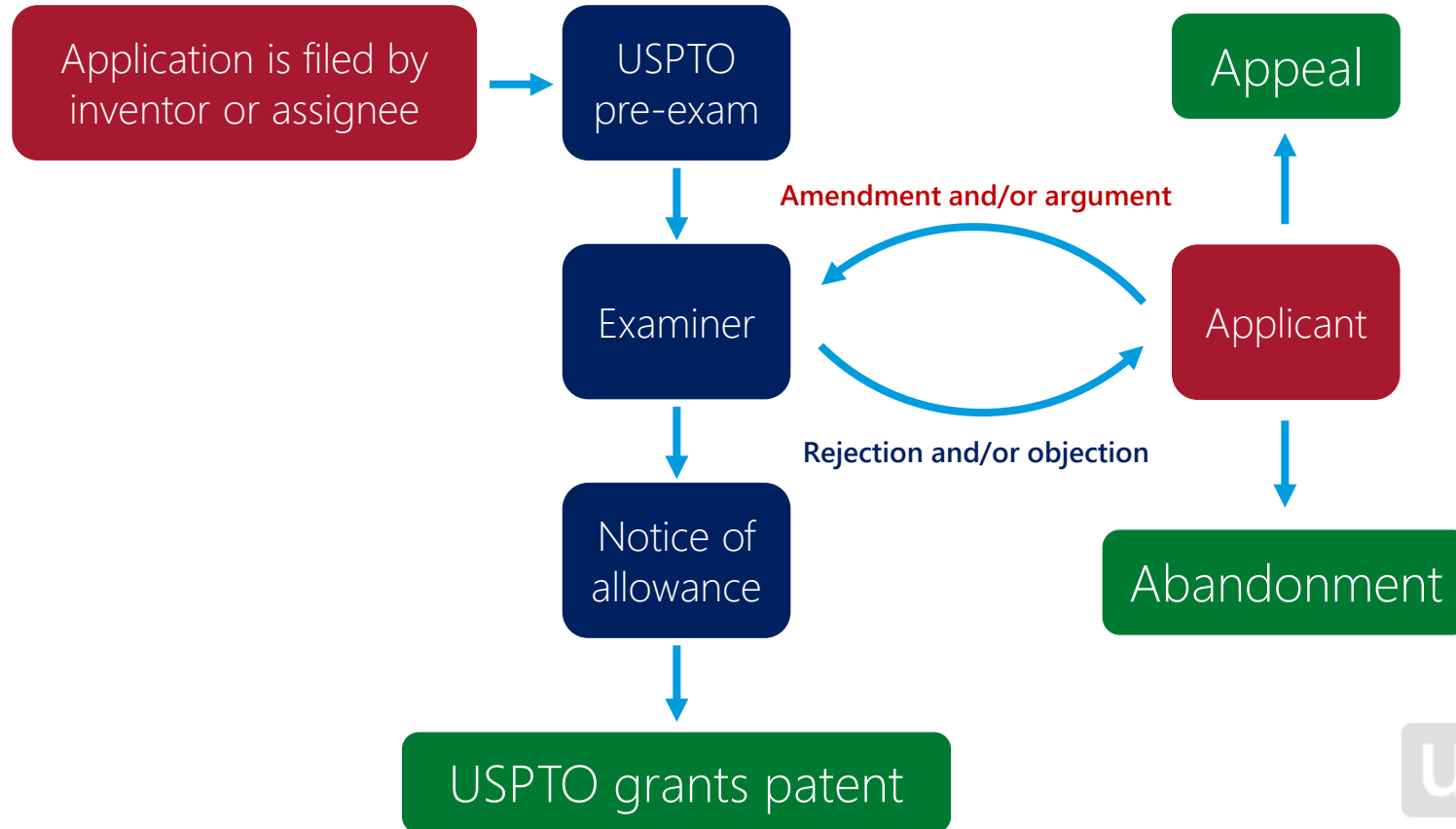
- **Filing Requirements for Examination**
- A specification, including a description and a claim or claims
- Drawings, when necessary for an understanding of the invention
- Inventor information including the legal name, residence, and mailing address of each inventor
 - Oath or declaration or an application data sheet
- The prescribed filing, search, and examination fees

Claim scope

What information should a patent application claim?



Patent examination

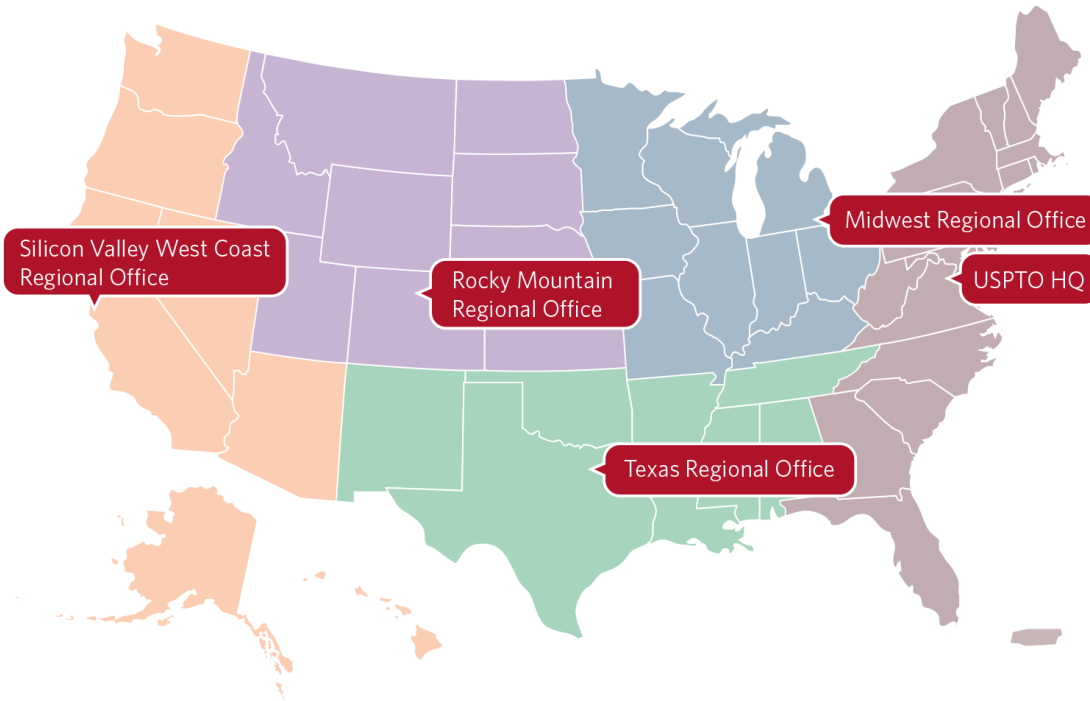


What happens after I get my patent?

- Licensing
- Enforcement
- More innovation and competition
- Etc...

USPTO resources

USPTO offices



Detroit

- Operational since July 2012

Denver

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

Silicon Valley

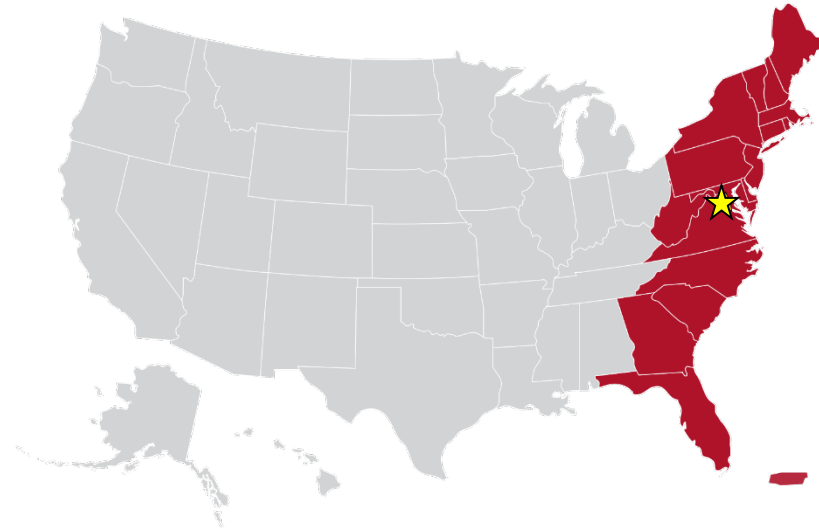
- San Jose City Hall Building
- Operational since October 2015

Dallas

- Terminal Annex Federal Building
- Operational since November 2015

Eastern Region – USPTO headquarters

600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia



Core Functions:

- Receipt and examination of patent and trademark applications
- U.S. and international IP policy development
- Oversight and management of USPTO operational functions
- Stakeholder engagement and training



- Office hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, M – F
- Services
 - Public search facility hours
8 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
 - Examiner interview rooms
 - PTAB and TTAB hearing rooms
 - Public meeting space
 - National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum,
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Eastern Regional Outreach Director

- **C**onduct USPTO programming
- **C**oordinate USPTO engagement
- **C**ollaborate with USPTO stakeholders
- **C**ommunicate USPTO priorities and programs



Inventor and entrepreneur resources

- USPTO's hub for resources and information for inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses.
- Webpage: <https://www.uspto.gov/inventors>

The screenshot shows the USPTO website's 'Inventor and entrepreneur resources' page. The header includes the USPTO logo, 'UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE', and navigation links for 'About Us', 'Jobs', and 'Contact Us'. A search bar is located in the top right. Below the header is a navigation menu with 'Patents', 'Trademarks', 'IP Policy', and 'Learning and Resources'. The main content area is titled 'Inventor and entrepreneur resources' and is organized into four columns:

- Patents for startups:** Describes the patent process as challenging for beginners and provides links to 'Patent process overview', 'Inventors Assistance Center', 'Patents FAQs', 'Patents homepage', 'Search for patents', and 'Official Gazette for patents'.
- Trademarks for inventors and entrepreneurs:** Explains the trademark process and provides links to 'Trademark Basics', 'Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)', 'Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS)', 'Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDB)', 'Electronic Trademark Assignment System (ETAS)', 'Assignments on the Web (ACTW)', 'Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB)', 'Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure (TMPEP)', 'Pro Se and Pro Bono', and 'Law School Clinics'.
- Inventor and entrepreneur assistance:** Describes the Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) and provides links to 'Inventors Assistance Center', 'Patents Ombudsman Office', 'BusinessUSA', 'Trademark Assistance Center', and 'University Outreach Program'.
- Education and information:** Provides guides and information for inventors, with links to 'Scam prevention', 'Provisional Application for Patent', 'General Information', 'A Guide to Filing a Nonprovisional Utility Patent Application', 'A Guide to Filing a Design Patent Application', 'Basic Facts About Trademarks', 'Financial Manager', 'U.S. map of state resources', and 'IP Awareness Assessment'.

Additional sections include 'Scam Prevention' (warning about legal proceedings against invention promoters), 'Current Events' (information about conferences and upcoming events), and 'Other federal resources' (helpful resources from other agencies like myRA, Treasury, and Small Business Innovation Research Program).



Inventor and entrepreneur resources by state

Resources and assistance in your state for filing for a patent or registering a trademark

- Free patent and trademark legal assistance
- Learn to search inventions and trademarks
- Attend events in your region
- Network with inventor and entrepreneur organizations in your state
- Accessible via uspto.gov homepage
 - New to IP? Find help in your area

New to IP?

Learn the basics of intellectual property.



[Patent basics >](#)

[Trademark basics >](#)

[Find help in your area >](#)

There are lots of resources and assistance to make filing for a patent or registering a trademark easier, more affordable, and ultimately result in strong legal protection for your invention or brand. For example, if you can afford an attorney, there are several programs that provide free legal representation. Use the map below to find out what is available in your state.

And remember, our [Inventor and entrepreneur resources page](#) is the USPTO hub for resources and information for inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses.

Select your state below to find resources



This map derived from commons.wikimedia.org

List of State Names

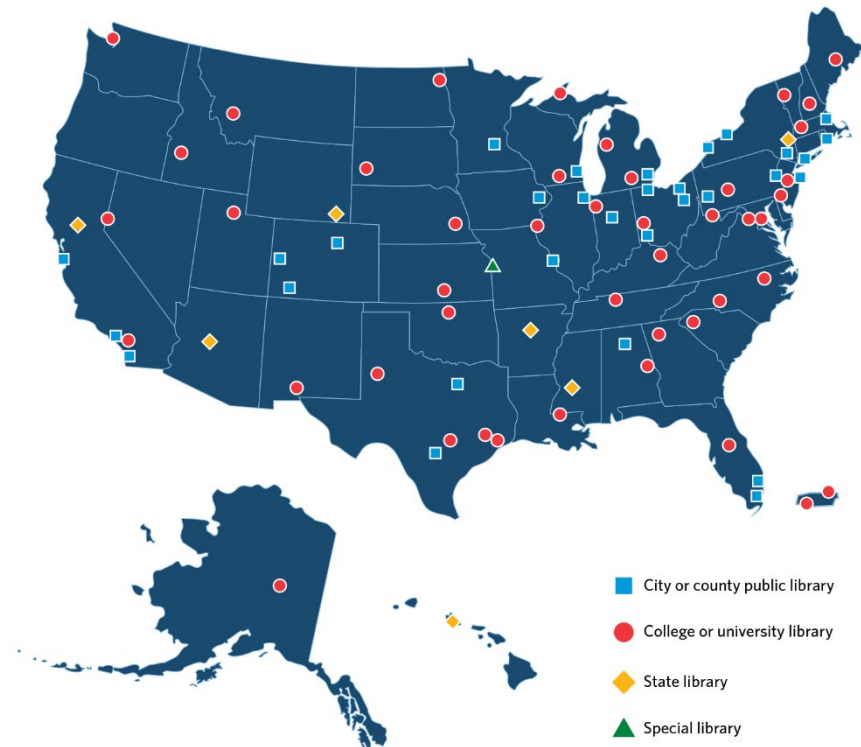
Alabama	Georgia	Maryland	New Jersey	Rhode Island	Wisconsin
Alaska	Hawaii	Massachusetts	New Mexico	South Carolina	Wyoming
Arizona	Idaho	Michigan	New York	South Dakota	
Arkansas	Illinois	Minnesota	North Carolina	Tennessee	
California	Indiana	Mississippi	North Dakota	Texas	
Colorado	Iowa	Missouri	Ohio	Utah	
Connecticut	Kansas	Montana	Oklahoma	Vermont	
Delaware	Kentucky	Nebraska	Oregon	Virginia	
District of Columbia	Louisiana	Nevada	Pennsylvania	Washington	
Florida	Maine	New Hampshire	South Dakota	West Virginia	



Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRC)

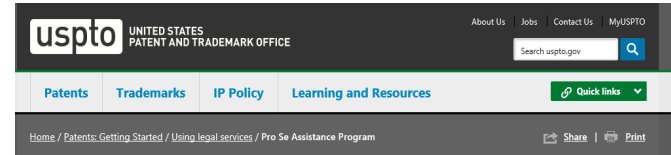
Nationwide network of public, state, and academic libraries that are designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information and to support intellectual property needs of the public.

www.uspto.gov/ptrc



Pro Se Assistance Program

- Hours of Operation
 - 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. (ET), Monday – Friday
- Email
 - innovationdevelopment@uspto.gov
- Phone
 - 866-757-3848
 - Webpage
 - <https://www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents>



- Intellectual property legal assistance programs
- Patent pro bono program
- Pro Se Assistance Program**
- Scam Prevention
- Law school clinic program

Pro Se Assistance Program

The Pro Se Assistance Program is the United States Patent and Trademark Office's comprehensive pilot to expand outreach to inventors who file patent applications without the assistance of a registered patent attorney or agent (also known as "pro se" filing). On this page, you will find information about the program and how it works, and guides and resources for some of the most common issues that pro se applicants encounter.

If you've got a great idea for an invention but you're not sure what a patent is or why you might need one, watch the animated video below.



- [Getting started with pro se assistance](#)
- [Application checklist](#)
- [Nonprovisional Utility Patent Application Checklist](#)



Free legal assistance

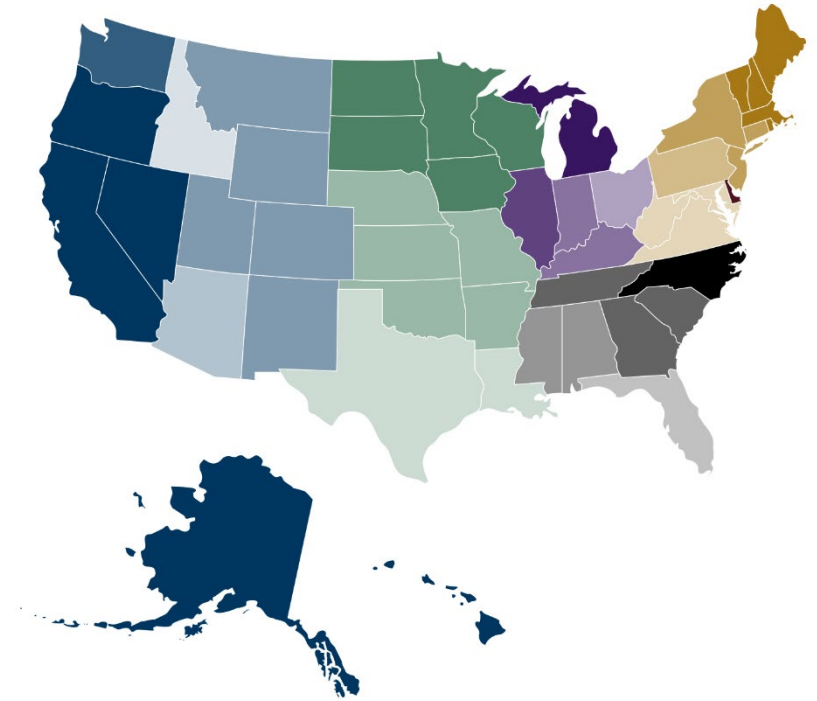
- Patent Pro Bono Program
- Law School Clinic Certification Program

Applicant(s) must pay for all USPTO fees

Patent Pro Bono Program

File and prosecute patent applications: The program matches financially under-resourced inventors and small businesses with registered patent attorneys.

- 22 regional programs across the country provide matching services.





USPTO

Law School

CLINIC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM





Thank you!

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www.uspto.gov