

**UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



A faint, light-colored technical drawing of a mechanical assembly is visible in the background. It features various parts with callout numbers such as 90, 86, 84, 82, 56, 62, 58, 28, 38, 42, 54, 46, 64, 34, and 66. The drawing is a cross-section or exploded view of a complex machine.

# Intro to the PTRC program and USPTO resources

Sara Butts and Spruce Fraser, Librarians  
August 16, 2023



UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

# Disclaimer

References to particular products, patents, trademarks, service marks, services, companies and/or organizations in this presentation are for illustrative and educational purposes only and do not constitute or imply endorsement by the U.S. government, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, or any other federal agency.



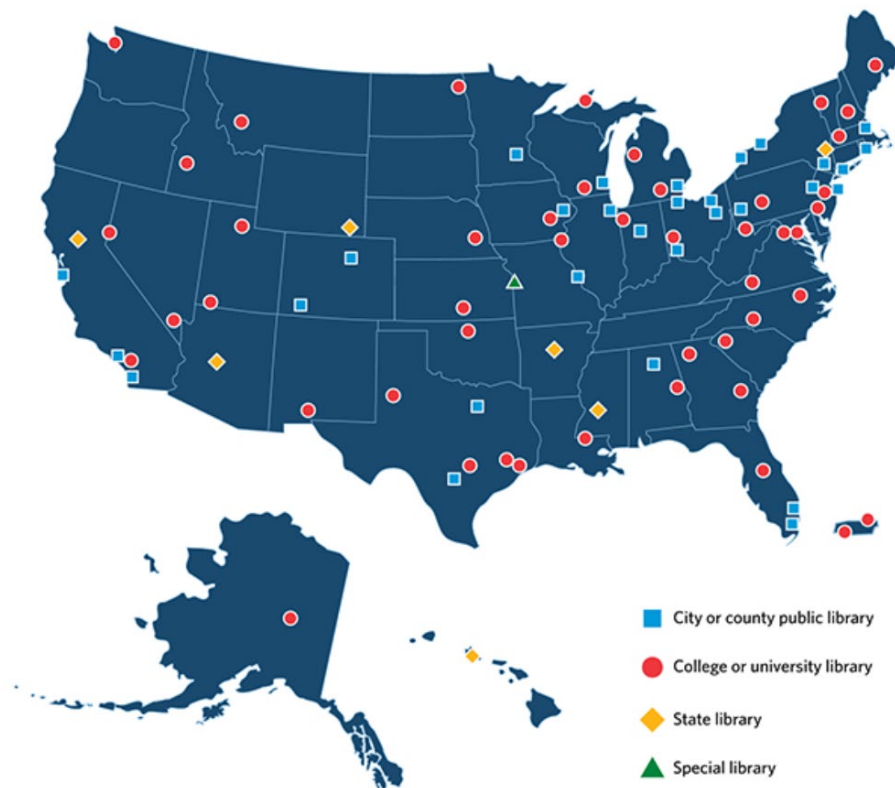
# Topics

- PTRC program
- Introduction to patents and trademarks
- Patent search tools
- Trademark search tools
- Legal and pro se assistance

# Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) Program

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](http://www.uspto.gov/ptrc)



# Patent models and prior art search

- 1790-1880: U.S. Patent Office required both documentation and three-dimensional patent models when an invention was submitted for a patent.
- Beginning in the 1870s, the U.S. Patent Office distributed patent drawings and specifications to public libraries to allow inventors to conduct their own prior art search more accessibly.
- Beginning in the 1970s, the U.S. Patent Office provided training for librarians in public and academic libraries who could then help patrons understand and access these materials.



# New PTRC locations

- St. George, Utah
  - Utah Tech University
- Iowa City, Iowa
  - University of Iowa
- Statesboro, Georgia
  - Georgia Southern University
- Blacksburg, VA
  - Virginia Tech

Utah Tech University earns official Patent and Trademark Resource Center designation

Written by or for St. George News  October 31, 2022



Utah Tech University's Library, located in the Jeffrey R. Holland Centennial Commons building on campus, will house the officially designated Patent and Trademark Resource Center as granted by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, St. George, Utah, location unspecified | Photo courtesy of Utah Tech University, St. George News

# PTRC librarians have a variety of backgrounds

- Engineering
- Science
- Business
- Law
- Humanities



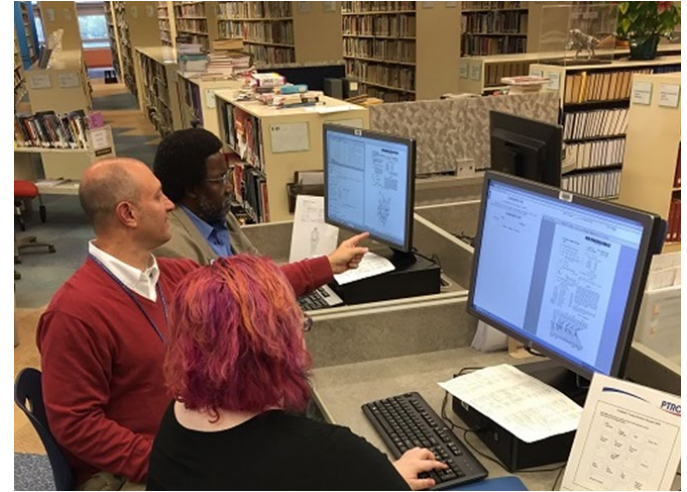


# PTRC librarians provide

- One-on-one assistance via phone, email, letter, chat, virtual meeting, and in-person.
- Workshops that are open to the public.
- Library instruction to college classes.
- Guest speaking to groups such as Small Business Development Center workshops and inventor associations.
- Topics may include intellectual property (IP) overview, patent and trademark database search strategies, historical IP research strategies, and information about USPTO and local resources.

# PTRC librarians assist patrons using hypothetical examples

- PTRC librarians **will** help patrons learn how to search and how to find relevant resources.
- PTRC librarians **will not**:
  - Give legal advice.
  - Complete or submit an application for a patron.
  - Provide a legal opinion about the feasibility of an application or project.
  - Conduct a prior art search for a patron.



# PTRC librarians do outreach

- Organizations that support entrepreneurs and small businesses such as the Small Business Administration and their resource partners, local chambers of commerce, Secretaries of State, etc.
- Entrepreneur and small business owner networking events, conferences, and seminars.
- Student pitch competitions.
- Inventors associations and maker spaces.
- K-12 STEM, Boy Scouts<sup>®</sup>, Girl Scouts<sup>®</sup>, and Maker Faire<sup>®</sup> events
- Collaborate with USPTO regional offices.

# The USPTO's PTRC program office supports PTRCs

- Annual training seminar, webinars, and individual training for PTRC library staff.
- Site visits that include public programming and library staff training.
- Annual check-in calls.
- Research assistance.
- Collaborative outreach programming.
- Brochures and handouts.

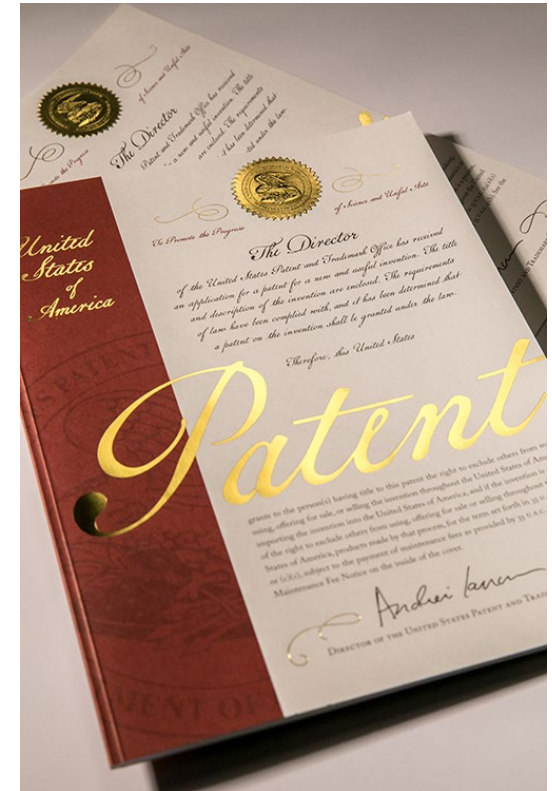


# Introduction to patents

# 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

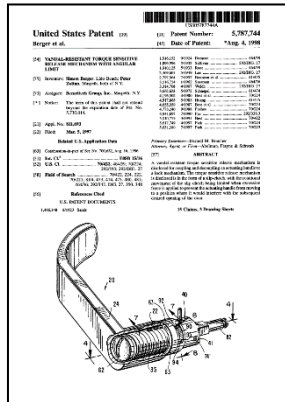


# Types of patents

## Utility

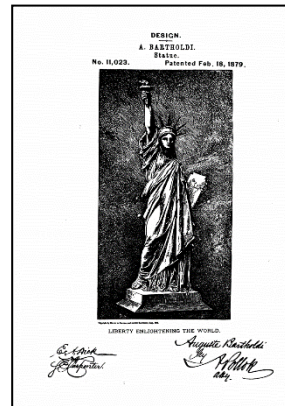
Protects how an invention works, functions or is made for 20 years from filing date

- Process
- Machine
- Article of manufacture
- Composition of matter



## Design

Protects the way a product or article looks, the ornamental expression for 15 years from the date of grant



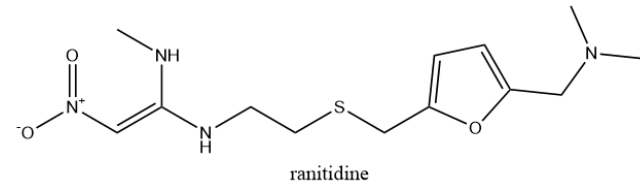
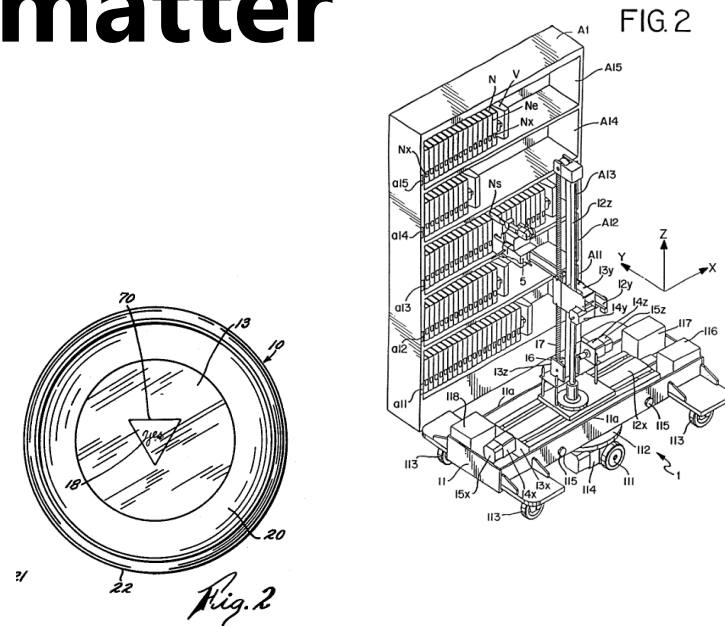
## Plant

Protects newly invented strains of asexually reproducing flowering plants, fruit trees, and other hybrid plants for 20 years from filing date



# Patentable subject matter

- Machine: Automated Library System with Retrieving and Repositioning Robot [US 6,535,790](#)
- Article of Manufacture: May have parts but any interaction between the parts is usually static. Amusement Device (Magic 8 Ball) [US 3,168,315](#)
- Composition of Matter: Ranitidine Solid Dosage Form (Zantac) [US 5,407,687](#)

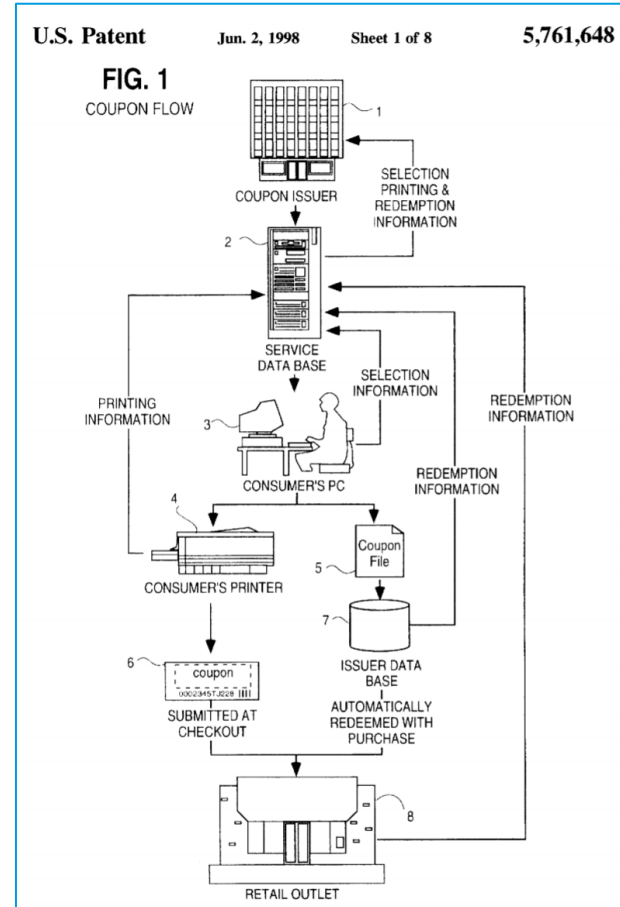




# Patentable subject matter (cont.)

Process: Business Method Patents

- Amazon's one-click patent [US 5,960,411](#)
- CoolSavings patent for providing internet coupons [US 5,761,648](#)



# Architecture of a patent

- Front page information
- Specification pages including drawing sheets
- Claims

Example: US 9,474,406

Apparatus with Beverage Cartridge Holder Having Movable Outlet

<b>(12) United States Patent</b> <b>Smith et al.</b>		<b>(10) Patent No.: US 9,474,406 B2</b>
		<b>(45) Date of Patent: Oct. 25, 2016</b>
<b>(54) APPARATUS WITH BEVERAGE CARTRIDGE HOLDER HAVING MOVABLE OUTLET</b>	<b>(58) Field of Classification Search</b> CPC ——— A47J 31/407; A47J 31/4492; A47J 31/0673; A47J 31/46; A47J 31/3628; A47J 31/3695; A23F 5/262; A23F 3/18; B65D 85/8043	
<b>(71) Applicant: Keurig Green Mountain, Inc., Waterbury, VT (US)</b>		See application file for complete search history.
<b>(72) Inventors: Geoffrey Y. Smith, Melrose, MA (US); Jonathan Alexander Brodie, North Billerica, MA (US); Stuart Jay Foster, Somerville, MA (US); James E. Shepard, Marblehead, MA (US); Yoav Rabino, Newton, MA (US); Ian Tinkler, Wakefield, MA (US)</b>	<b>(56) References Cited</b> U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS 4,550,652 A 11/1985 Da Silva 6,584,888 B2 7/2003 Conese 6,698,332 B2 3/2004 Kollep et al. 6,955,116 B2 10/2005 Hale (Continued)	
<b>(73) Assignee: Keurig Green Mountain, Inc., Waterbury, VT (US)</b>	<b>(*) Notice:</b> Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 60 days.	<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b> EP 1101430 A1 5/2001 EP 1107201 A2 6/2001 (Continued)
<b>(21) Appl. No.: 14/157,889</b>		<b>OTHER PUBLICATIONS</b> U.S. Appl. No. 15/056,316, filed Feb. 29, 2016, Tinkler et al. <i>Primary Examiner</i> — Anthony Weier <b>(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm</b> — Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
<b>(22) Filed: Jan. 17, 2014</b>		
<b>(65) Prior Publication Data</b> US 2015/0201790 A1 Jul. 23, 2015		
<b>(51) Int. Cl.</b> A47J 31/40 (2006.01) A47J 31/44 (2006.01) A47J 31/46 (2006.01) B65D 85/804 (2006.01) A23F 3/18 (2006.01) A23F 5/26 (2006.01) A47J 31/06 (2006.01) A47J 31/36 (2006.01)		<b>(57) ABSTRACT</b> A method and apparatus for controlling operation of a beverage forming machine arranged for use with cartridges of different types, or receiving an upwardly flowing beverage from a cartridge. A beverage outlet may be movable to receive beverage from a cartridge of a first type, and to not receive beverage from a cartridge of a second type. Different cartridge characteristics may be detected by multiple detectors, e.g., for detecting a presence/absence of a cartridge, a cartridge type and/or an authorization feature.
<b>(52) U.S. Cl.</b> CPC ——— A47J 31/407 (2013.01); A23F 3/18 (2013.01); A23F 5/262 (2013.01); A47J 31/0673 (2013.01); A47J 31/3628 (2013.01); A47J 31/3695 (2013.01); A47J 31/4492 (2013.01); A47J 31/46 (2013.01); B65D 85/8043 (2013.01)		<b>16 Claims, 14 Drawing Sheets</b>

# The path to a patent



New Idea?

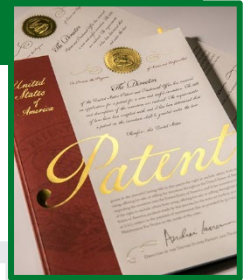
One year

Provisional application  
(optional)

Twenty years

Non-  
provisional application

Patent!



# **Introduction to trademarks**

# What is a trademark?

Any word, name, symbol or device or combination of these that distinguishes goods and services and identifies a source can be a trademark.



Reg. no. 0396914



Reg. no.  
1,286,301



Reg. no.  
5,129,530



Reg. no. 3,330,494



# Types of marks

Word mark: "Just Do It" Reg. No. 1875307



Designs, logos and symbols: Reg. No. 4576268



# Types of marks continued

Color: Orange background color of product packaging, equivalent to Pantone 165C

Homestead, Inc. (Formerly owned by Hershey Chocolate & Confectionery LLC)

Reg. No. 2256226

Sound: MGM roaring lion

Reg. No. 1395550

Fragrance: Play-Doh scent mark

Hasbro

Reg. No. 5467089



# Protected areas for federal trademarks

- Goods
- Services
  
- Collective service and membership
- Certification



Reg. No. 1647570



Reg No. 5036379



Reg. No. 6075813 & others



Reg. No. 1999485

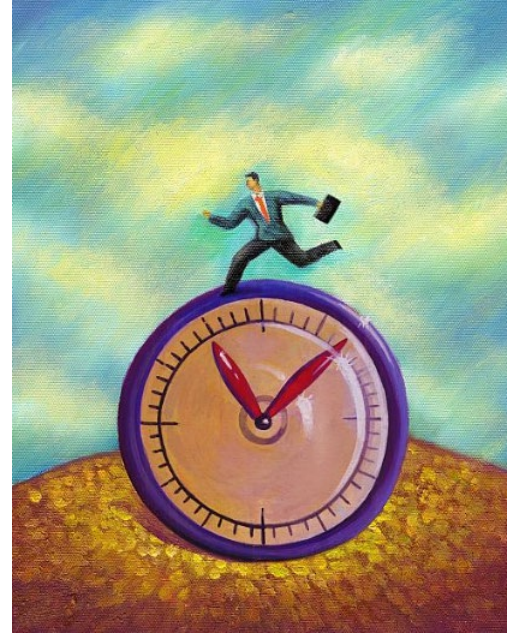




# Trademark rights

Rights derive from first use of the mark in commerce

- Common law (unregistered)
- State registration
- Federal registration



# Patent search tools

# Patent Public Search

The image shows a screenshot of the USPTO website. At the top left is the USPTO logo and the text "UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE". To the right are links for "About Us", "Jobs", "Contact Us", and "MyUSPTO". Below this is a search bar with the text "Search uspto.gov" and a magnifying glass icon. A navigation bar contains "Patents", "Trademarks", "IP Policy", and "Learning and Resources". A red box highlights the "Find It Fast" link in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar is a large image of a girl reading a book, with the text "A girl's window into history" and "How Pleasant Rowland's American Girl® helped tweens find their place". To the right of the image is a menu with two columns: "Patents" and "Trademarks". The "Patents" column includes links for "Patent Public Search" (highlighted with a red box), "Patent Center", "Pay maintenance fees", "PTAB", "Search assignment", and "MPEP". The "Trademarks" column includes links for "TESS", "TEAS", "TSDR", "TTAB", "Search assignment", "TMEP", and "Trademark processing wait times".

Visit the USPTO home page ([www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)) and use the "Find It Fast" menu. Select the "Patent Public Search" link at the top of the menu.

# Patent Public Search landing page

## Welcome to Patent Public Search

The Patent Public Search tool is a new web-based patent search application that will replace internal legacy search tools PubEast and PubWest and external legacy search tools PatFT and AppFT. Patent Public Search has two user selectable modern interfaces that provide enhanced access to prior art. The new, powerful, and flexible capabilities of the application will improve the overall patent searching process.

If you are **new to patent searches**, or want to use the **functionality that was available in the USPTO's PatFT/AppFT**, select 'Basic Search' to look for patents by keywords or common fields, such as inventor or publication number. Select 'Advanced Search' to use full query options as well as to further filter a patent search by database or organize documents through tagging.



[Basic Search](#)

[Advanced Search](#)



[Help](#)

Information and support



[FAQs](#)

Answers to frequently asked questions



[Training materials](#)

Learn about Patent Public Search features and functionalities

# Basic Search

## Patent Public Search Basic (PPUBS Basic)

### Quick lookup

Patent or Publication number

For example: 0123456 or 20210123456

OR

### Basic search

Search

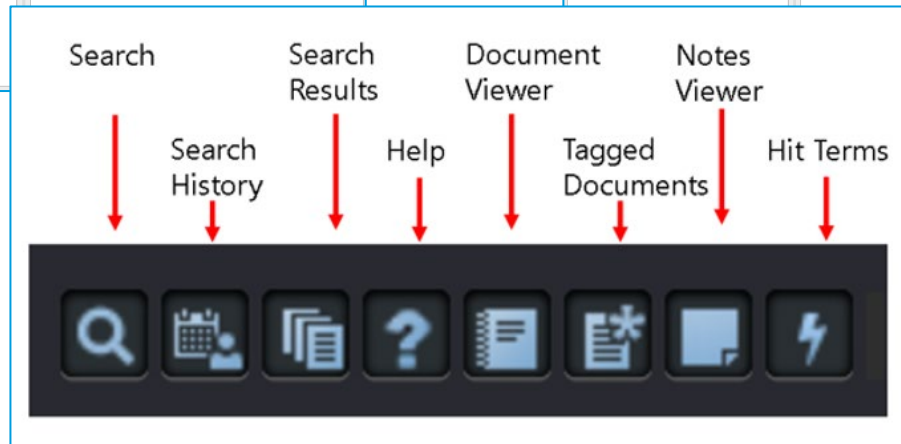
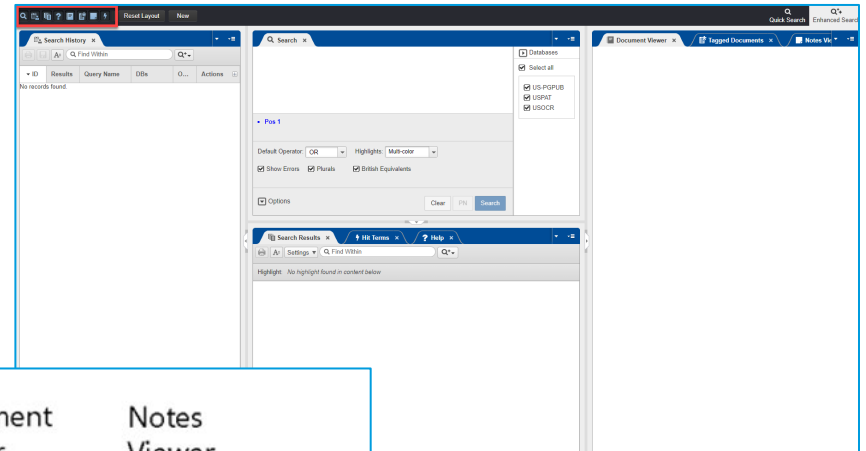
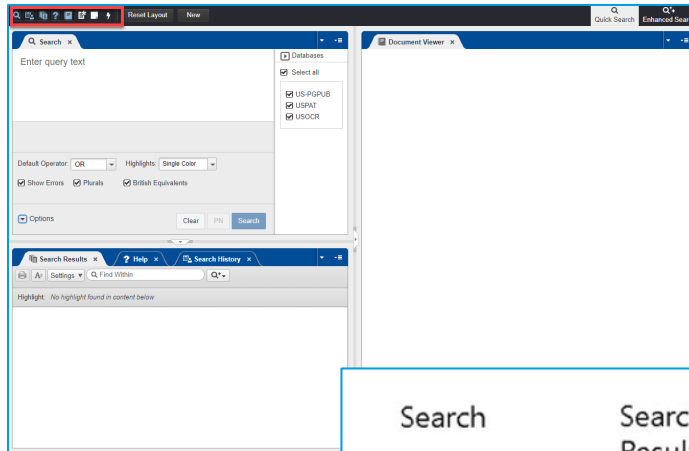
For

Operator

Search

For

# Advanced Search





# Three databases, one search tool

Patent Public Search can be used to search up to three databases at the same time:

- **US-PGPUB** - U.S. Pre-Grant Publications (Published Patent Applications) since 2001.
- **USPAT** - all issued U.S. patents since 1790.
- **USOCR** - text of issued U.S. patents from appx. 1830's to 1970 scanned using OCR (Optical Character Recognition).

# Devices and browsers

## Basic Search

- Should work with almost all devices used to search the Internet, including smartphones and tablets.
- Will work with most current browsers, including Safari®.











## Advanced Search

- Will not work with smartphones and tablets.
- Will only work with Chromium based browsers such as Chrome® and Edge®.



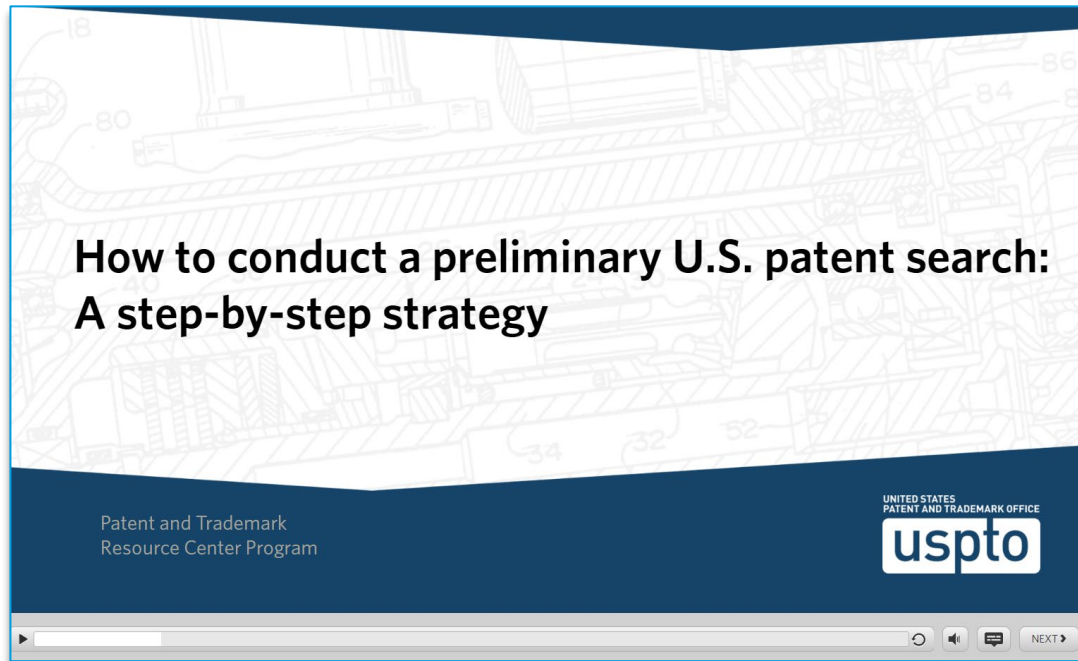
# Quick Reference Guides

Check the “Training Materials” from the Patent Public Search welcome page to discover over 10 step by step Quick Reference Guides.

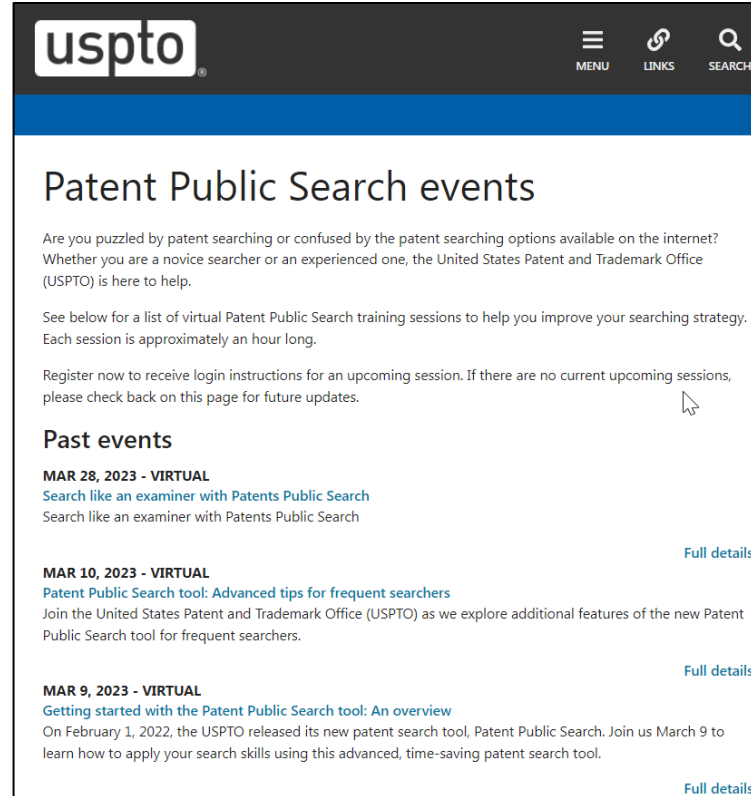
- [Add notes to images](#) 
- [Workspace layouts](#) 
- [Manage highlights](#) 
- [Search overview](#) 
- [Search results](#) 
- [Tagged documents](#) 
- [Keyboard numpad navigation](#) 
- [Setting up external search](#) 
- [Field conversion from PatFT/AppFT](#) 
- [Basic Search overview](#) 

# Narrated computer-based training with examples from Patent Public Search

<https://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/prelim-patent-search/index.html>



# USPTO Patent Public Search webinars



The screenshot shows the USPTO website's 'Patent Public Search events' page. The header includes the USPTO logo and navigation icons for Menu, Links, and Search. The main content area features a title, an introductory paragraph, a list of upcoming virtual sessions with descriptions and 'Full details' links, and a section for past events.

**uspto** MENU LINKS SEARCH

## Patent Public Search events

Are you puzzled by patent searching or confused by the patent searching options available on the internet? Whether you are a novice searcher or an experienced one, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is here to help.

See below for a list of virtual Patent Public Search training sessions to help you improve your searching strategy. Each session is approximately an hour long.

Register now to receive login instructions for an upcoming session. If there are no current upcoming sessions, please check back on this page for future updates.

### Past events

**MAR 28, 2023 - VIRTUAL**  
[Search like an examiner with Patents Public Search](#)  
Search like an examiner with Patents Public Search [Full details](#)

**MAR 10, 2023 - VIRTUAL**  
[Patent Public Search tool: Advanced tips for frequent searchers](#)  
Join the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as we explore additional features of the new Patent Public Search tool for frequent searchers. [Full details](#)

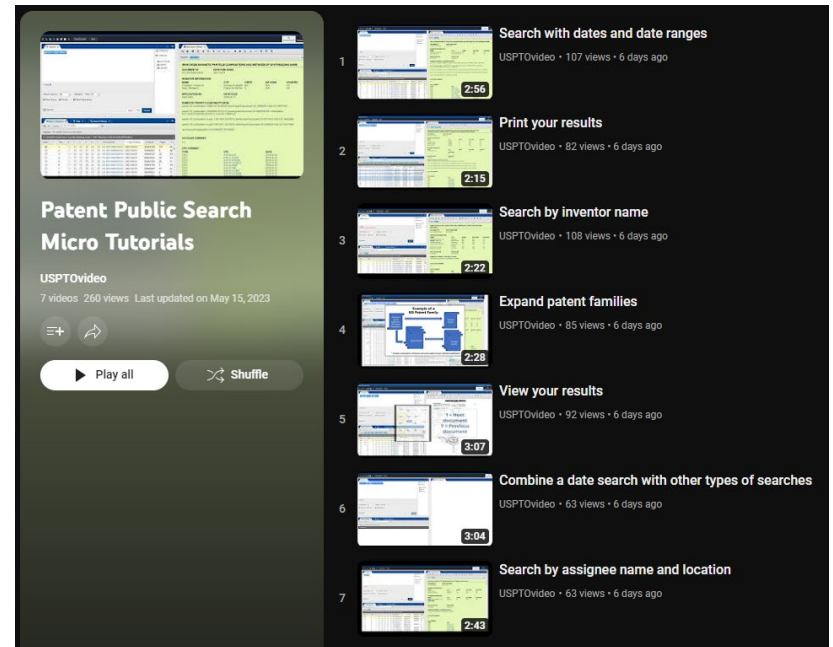
**MAR 9, 2023 - VIRTUAL**  
[Getting started with the Patent Public Search tool: An overview](#)  
On February 1, 2022, the USPTO released its new patent search tool, Patent Public Search. Join us March 9 to learn how to apply your search skills using this advanced, time-saving patent search tool. [Full details](#)



# Further help: Micro Tutorials on YouTube

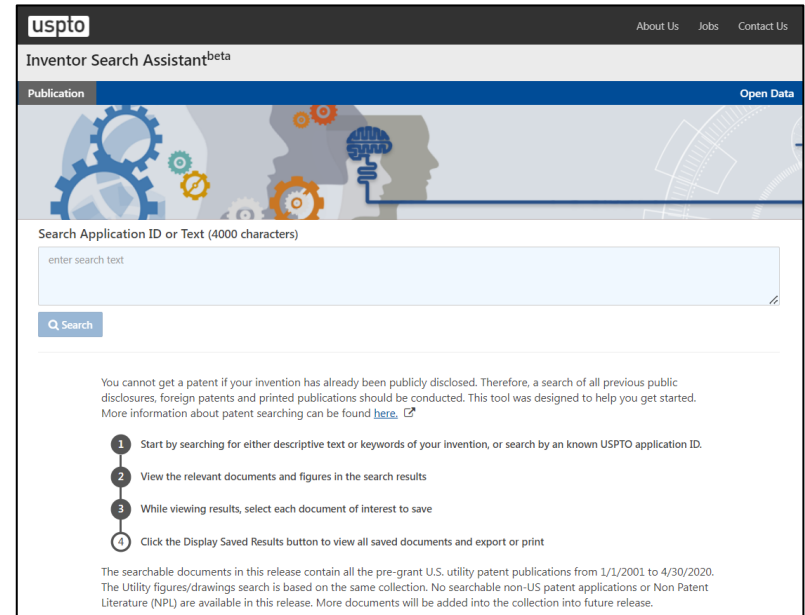
YouTube Playlist available for seven Micro Tutorial videos demonstrating frequently used Patent Public Search searches:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9BtHzl4w-dnBiSi4fB6srNxq0W3NHsiQ>



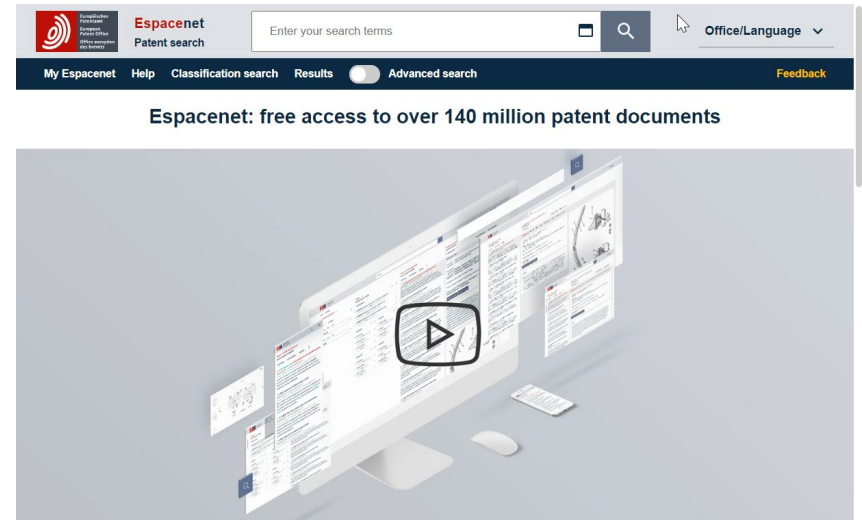
# Inventor Search Assistant (beta)

- Inventor Search Assistant (beta) is located at <https://developer.uspto.gov/inventor-search>
- Search pre-grant U.S. patent publications (published patent applications) from 1/1/2001 to 4/30/2020.
- Relevant documents including application results, non-patent literature, and non-US documents are sorted by relevancy.
- Relevant figures and Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) symbols are also sorted by relevancy.



# Espacenet

- The European Patent Office (EPO) has a patent search tool called Espacenet, located at [Worldwide.Espacenet.com](http://Worldwide.Espacenet.com), that allows users to search U.S. and foreign patents.
- Users can use a “Pocket Guide” as a reference to build search queries in the smart search bar or use the “Advanced Search” for a structured search with a drop-down menu.



# Patentscope

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has a patent search tool called Patentscope, <https://www.wipo.int/patentscope> that allows users to search international Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications and patent documents from participating national and regional offices.
- Search options include: basic search, advanced search, field combination search, cross-lingual expansion, and chemical compound search.

The screenshot shows the WIPO Patentscope Simple Search page. At the top left is the WIPO logo, and at the top right is a 'Help' dropdown menu. Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > PATENTSCOPE > Search'. A navigation bar contains 'Feedback', 'Search' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Browse' (with a dropdown arrow), 'Tools' (with a dropdown arrow), and 'Settings'. The main heading is 'PATENTSCOPE Simple Search'. Below this is a grey box containing text: 'Using PATENTSCOPE you can search 112 million patent documents including 4.6 million published international patent applications (PCT). [Detailed coverage information](#) PCT publication 30/2023 (27.07.2023) is now available [here](#). The next PCT publication 31/2023 is scheduled for 03.08.2023. [More](#) Check out the [latest PATENTSCOPE news and features](#) PATENTSCOPE Live Chat : every Monday from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM CET'. Below the grey box is a search input area with a dropdown menu set to 'Field Front Page', a search box containing 'Search terms...', and a magnifying glass icon. At the bottom right of the search area is a link for 'Query Examples'.



# Non-patent literature

- Inventions can be publicly disclosed in a variety of non-patent publications, too, such as:

**Books / journal articles / websites / technical catalogs / conference proceedings**

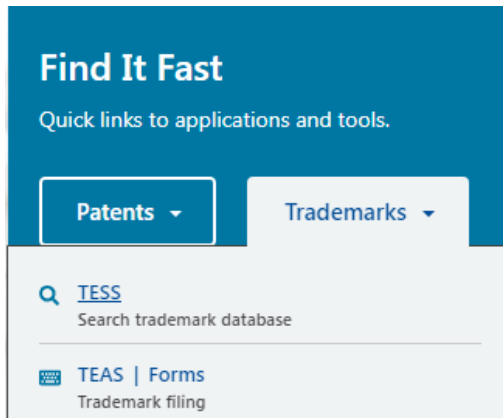
- Depending on the databases available for public use at your PTRC, a PTRC library staff member can show how to search these for non-patent literature also.



# Trademark search tools

# Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)

- The Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS) allows users to search U.S. published trademark application and registration information.
- Users can search word, design, and non-traditional marks.
- TESS does not include state registered marks or common law marks.
- To access TESS, visit USPTO.gov and use “Find It Fast” to select TESS.



Select A Search Option
<p>▶ <b>Basic Word Mark Search (New User)</b> This option cannot be used to search design marks.</p>
<p>▶ <b>Word and/or Design Mark Search (Structured)</b> This option is used to search word and/or design marks. <b>NOTE:</b> You must first use the <a href="#">Design Search Code Manual</a> to look up the relevant Design Codes.</p>
<p>▶ <b>Word and/or Design Mark Search (Free Form)</b> This option allows you to construct word and/or design searches using Boolean logic and multiple search fields. <b>NOTE:</b> You must first use the <a href="#">Design Search Code Manual</a> to look up the relevant Design Codes.</p>

# Global Brand Database

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) hosts the Global Brand Database, which offers access to the collections of:

- Trademarks from participating intellectual property offices.
- Appellations of origin and geographical indications.
- Official emblems.
- International nonproprietary names.




The screenshot shows the WIPO Global Brand Database website. At the top left is the WIPO logo. To the right are a search icon and a menu icon. Below the logo is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Global Brand Database. The main heading is "Global Brand Database". Below this, a paragraph states: "The [Global Brand Database](#) provides access to the [collections](#) of:". This is followed by a bulleted list of collections: "International trademarks under the [Madrid System](#)", "Appellations of origin and Geographical Indications under the [Lisbon system](#)", "Emblems under [6ter](#)", "INNs of the World Health Organization", and "Trademarks from participating national and regional offices". Below the list, a paragraph explains: "You can search those collections using keywords, names, [numbers](#), [goods and services](#) and [image similarity](#) and/or a combination of those." Another paragraph states: "Join free of charge [webinars](#) and/or read the [User's Guide](#) to find out more about how to use the Global Brand Database." At the bottom is a blue button with the text "Access the Global Brand Database".

**Legal and pro se assistance**

# Intellectual Property Identifier

## [Intellectual property \(IP\) Identifier](#)

- Questions guide users to identify which types of IP they may have.
- Users are provided with additional relevant IP information and resources.



The screenshot displays the USPTO IP Identifier website. At the top, the USPTO logo and the text "UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE" are visible, along with navigation links for "About Us", "Careers", and "Contact Us". The main heading reads "IP Identifier: Learn to identify and protect your intellectual property". Below this, a blue horizontal bar is present. A sidebar on the left contains a "Welcome" link with a right-pointing arrow. The main content area lists three options: "Basic IP Identifier", "Advanced IP Identifier", and "Tips for managing your IP assets".

# Intellectual property basics

## Inventor and entrepreneur resources

- Patent, trademark, and copyright basics.
- Search patents and trademarks.
- Find resources near you.



### Get started

Learn about types of intellectual property (IP) and how to protect your idea or product.

- > [Types of IP protection](#)
- > [Identify the kind of IP you have](#)
- > [Patents basics](#)
- > [Trademark basics](#)
- > [Copyright basics](#)



### Before you apply

Search existing patents and trademarks to find out if your idea is unique. If it is, create an account.

- > [Search patents](#)
- > [Search trademarks](#)
- > [Create an account to apply](#)
- > [Attend a free training](#)



### Get help to apply

Set yourself up for success by learning via USPTO's free resources and find expert help.

- > [Access our free services](#)
- > [Find resources near you](#)
- > [Find a patent attorney](#)
- > [Do I need a trademark attorney?](#)



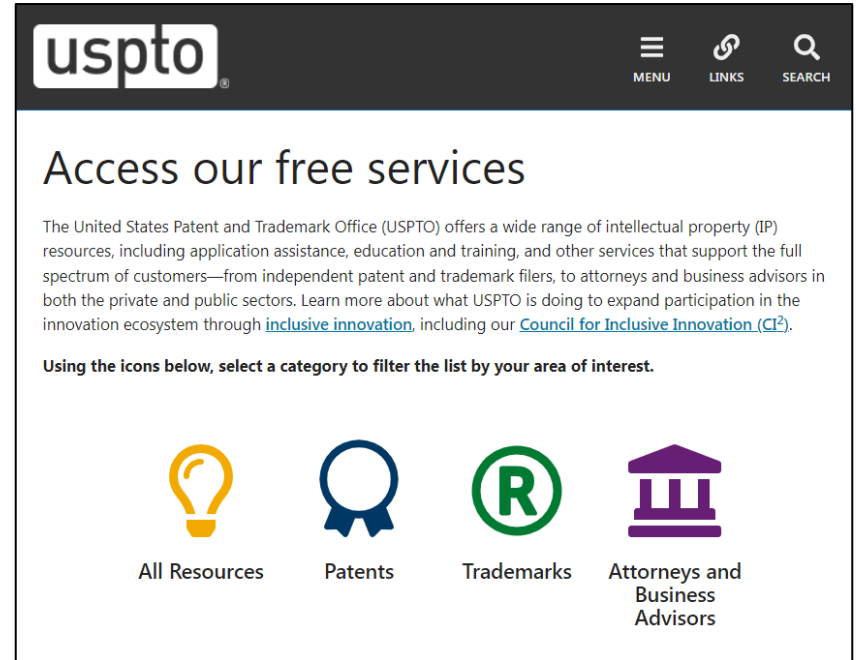
### Apply for IP rights

Submit your application for a patent or trademark. See if you qualify for reduced patent fees.

- > [Apply for a patent](#)
- > [Apply for a trademark](#)
- > [Costs to file](#)
- > [Reduced patent fees](#)

# Free services

- Application assistance
- Business resources
- Education and training




The screenshot shows the USPTO website header with the logo and navigation links for MENU, LINKS, and SEARCH. Below the header, the main content area features the heading "Access our free services" and a paragraph of text. The text describes the USPTO's offerings and includes links for "inclusive innovation" and the "Council for Inclusive Innovation (CI<sup>2</sup>)". Below the text, there is a prompt to use icons to filter the list by area of interest, followed by four icons: a lightbulb for "All Resources", a ribbon for "Patents", a registered trademark symbol for "Trademarks", and a building for "Attorneys and Business Advisors".


**uspto** MENU LINKS SEARCH


## Access our free services


The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) offers a wide range of intellectual property (IP) resources, including application assistance, education and training, and other services that support the full spectrum of customers—from independent patent and trademark filers, to attorneys and business advisors in both the private and public sectors. Learn more about what USPTO is doing to expand participation in the innovation ecosystem through [inclusive innovation](#), including our [Council for Inclusive Innovation \(CI<sup>2</sup>\)](#).

Using the icons below, select a category to filter the list by your area of interest.

 All Resources

 Patents

 Trademarks

 Attorneys and Business Advisors

# Pro bono versus pro se assistance

## ***Pro bono***

- *Pro bono publico* - Latin phrase meaning “for the public good.”
- Professional work or legal services donated for the public good.

## ***Pro se***

- Latin phrase meaning “for oneself, on one’s own behalf.”
- Individuals who represent themselves in any type of legal matter without a legal representative.

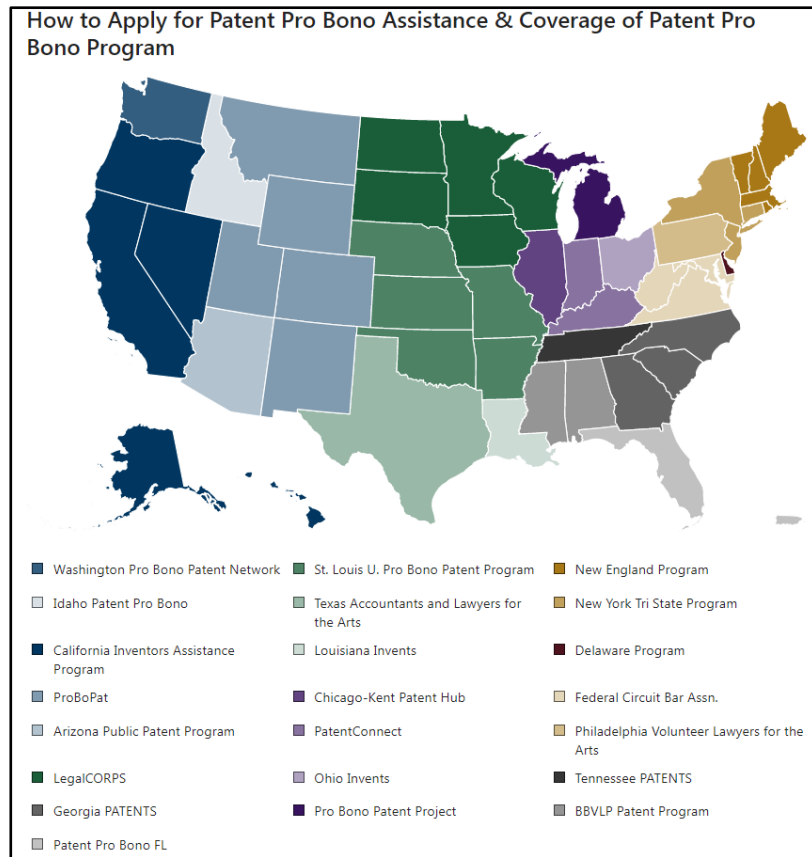




# Patent Pro Bono Program

In general, requirements for admission are:

- **Income:** Your gross household income should be less than three times the federal poverty level guidelines.
- **Knowledge:** You must demonstrate knowledge of the patent system by having a provisional application already on file with the USPTO or successful completion of the certificate training course.
- **Invention:** You must be able to describe the particular features of the invention and how it works.



# Law School Clinic Program

- **Over 60 participating law schools that provide patent and/or trademark pro bono assistance.**
- Law school clinics may serve all of the U.S., individual states, or a cluster of states.
- Each clinic should be contacted directly if requesting legal services or making inquiries.

## Law School Clinic Certification Program

The Law School Clinic Certification Program includes over 60 participating law school clinics that provide legal services pro bono to the public, including to inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. Participating law school clinics provide patent and/or trademark legal services to qualified members of the public who are accepted as a client of a clinic. Each participating law school has requirements for accepting new clients and accepts new clients at their discretion.

[Expand all](#) | [Collapse all](#)

### ▼ Get help from a law school clinic

Students enrolled in participating law school clinic certification programs practice intellectual property law before the USPTO under the strict guidance of a law school faculty clinic supervisor. Students practice both patent and trademark law before the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The Office of Enrollment and Discipline administers the program; the Director of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline grants the law students limited recognition to practice before the USPTO.


Students gain experience drafting and filing either patent applications or trademark applications for clients of the law school clinic. Further, as they are authorized to practice before the USPTO, they gain experience answering office actions and communicating with either patent examiners or trademark examining attorneys for the applications they have filed.

To get help, contact a participating law school clinic through their email address provided below.

### Participating law schools

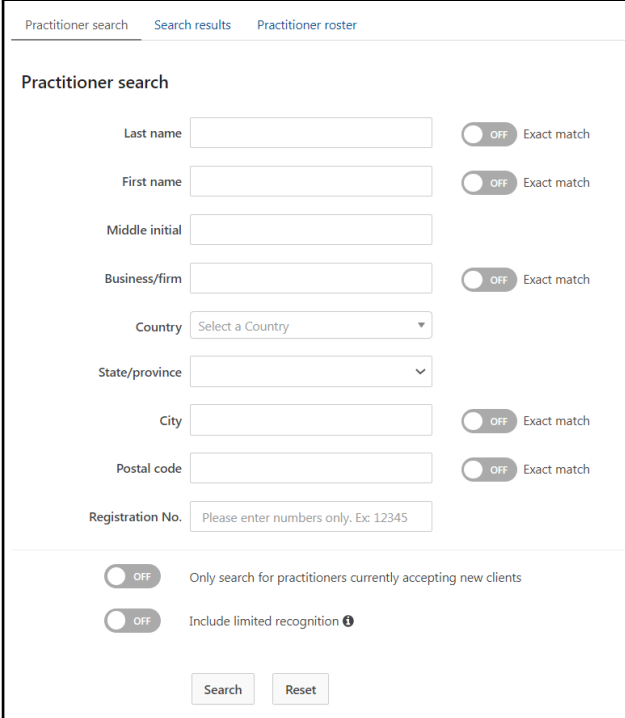
The following law schools participate in the USPTO Law School Clinic Certification Program. **Please contact the school at the listed e-mail address to make general inquiries or request legal services.**

**\*\*Acceptance as a client is subject to the law school's requirements and discretion**

Participating law schools	E-mail address	IP practice area	Geographic area** (from which the law school may accept clients)
American University, Washington College of Law	<a href="mailto:ipclinic@wcl.american.edu">ipclinic@wcl.american.edu</a> 	Patents and Trademarks	District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia only

# Registered patent practitioners

- Do not recommend a specific patent attorney or law firm as that could be construed as legal advice.
- USPTO has a Register of Active Patent Practitioners that includes patent attorneys and agents.
- Search by name, firm, location, and other categories.



The screenshot shows the 'Practitioner search' interface on the USPTO website. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Practitioner search', 'Search results', and 'Practitioner roster'. The 'Practitioner search' tab is active. Below the tabs, the title 'Practitioner search' is displayed. The form contains several input fields and filters:

- Last name:** Text input field with a toggle switch labeled 'OFF' and 'Exact match'.
- First name:** Text input field with a toggle switch labeled 'OFF' and 'Exact match'.
- Middle initial:** Text input field.
- Business/firm:** Text input field with a toggle switch labeled 'OFF' and 'Exact match'.
- Country:** Dropdown menu with the text 'Select a Country'.
- State/province:** Dropdown menu.
- City:** Text input field with a toggle switch labeled 'OFF' and 'Exact match'.
- Postal code:** Text input field with a toggle switch labeled 'OFF' and 'Exact match'.
- Registration No.:** Text input field with the placeholder text 'Please enter numbers only. Ex: 12345'.

At the bottom of the form, there are two additional filters:

- Only search for practitioners currently accepting new clients:** Toggle switch labeled 'OFF'.
- Include limited recognition:** Toggle switch labeled 'OFF' with an information icon.

At the very bottom, there are two buttons: 'Search' and 'Reset'.

# Registered patent attorney/agent

- After an inventor has done preliminary research, they are better prepared to discuss their invention's viability with an attorney.
- The patent attorney/agent may choose to conduct their own patentability search.



# USPTO resources for patent applicants

## [Manual of Patent Examining Procedure \(MPEP\)](#)

Provides guidance pertaining to types of patent applications, application requirements, patentability, etc.

## [Inventors Assistance Center](#)

## [Pro Se Assistance Program](#)

Both provide resources and guidance to applicants.

## [Patent Center](#)

Tool used for filing a patent application online.



# USPTO resources for trademark applicants

## [Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure \(TMEP\)](#)

Provides guidance pertaining to trademark application requirements.

## [Trademark Assistance Center](#)

Provides resources and guidance to applicants.

# Resource links

- Patent and Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) Program: <http://www.uspto.gov/ptrc>
- Patent Public Search: <https://www.uspto.gov/> - Find It Fast menu or <https://ppubs.uspto.gov/pubwebapp/static/pages/landing.html>
- Patent Public Search monthly webinars: <https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/patent-public-search>
- “How to conduct a preliminary U.S. patent search: A step-by-step strategy”  
<https://www.uspto.gov/video/cbt/prelim-patent-search/index.html>
- Patent Public Search micro tutorials on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9BtHzl4w-dnBiSi4fB6srNxq0W3NHSiQ>
- Inventor Search Assistant (beta): <https://developer.uspto.gov/inventor-search>
- European Patent Office’s Espacenet patent search: <https://worldwide.espacenet.com/>
- World Intellectual Property Patent Organization’s Patentscope patent search: <https://www.wipo.int/patentscope>
- Trademark Electronic Search System: <https://tmsearch.uspto.gov/>
- World Intellectual Property Patent Organization’s Global Brand Database: <https://www.wipo.int/branddb/en>
- Intellectual Property (IP) Identifier: <https://ipidentifier.uspto.gov/>

# Resource links continued

- Inventor and entrepreneur resources: <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/inventors-entrepreneurs-resources>
- Free services: <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/access-our-free-services>
- Patent Pro Bono Program: <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/basics/using-legal-services/pro-bono/patent-pro-bono-program>
- Law School Clinic Certification Program: <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/ip-policy/public-information-about-practitioners/law-school-clinic-1>
- Register of Active Patent Practitioners: <https://oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI/practitionerSearchEntry>
- Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP): <https://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/index.html>
- Inventors Assistance Center: <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/support-centers/inventors-assistance-center-iac>
- Pro Se Assistance Program: <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/basics/using-legal-services/pro-se-assistance-program>
- Patent Center: <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/apply/patent-center>
- Trademark Manual of Examining Procedure (TMEP): <https://tmep.uspto.gov/RDMS/TMEP/current>
- Trademark Assistance Center: <https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/support-centers/trademark-assistance-center>



# Questions?

Sara Butts and Spruce Fraser, Librarians

For inquiries about the PTRC Program or to request a copy of these slides, please email [PTRCP@uspto.gov](mailto:PTRCP@uspto.gov)

Patent and Trademark Resource Center Program

[www.uspto.gov/ptrc](http://www.uspto.gov/ptrc)



