

Administrative Patent Judge

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

This job announcement has closed

 Print

Summary

Please Note: This announcement has been extended to reflect a new closing date of April 5, 2018.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has been serving the economic interests of America for more than 200 years. We are responsible for granting US intellectual property rights for patents and trademarks. Our efforts have provided inventors exclusive rights over their discoveries. It is an effort that continues to contribute to a strong global economy, to encourage investment in innovation and to cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit for the 21st century. The USPTO is headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, and has over **13,000** employees, including engineers, scientists, attorneys, analysts, IT specialists, etc. all dedicated to accomplishing the USPTO's mission, vision, strategic goals and guiding principles. For more information about the USPTO, please visit our websites at www.uspto.gov/careers


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Overview

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Reviewing applications

Open & closing dates

 02/02/2018 to 04/05/2018

Salary

\$126,148 - \$174,500 per year

Pay scale & grade

AD 00

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Locations

many vacancies in the following locations:

 **San Jose, CA**

 **Denver, CO**

 **Detroit, MI**

 **Dallas, TX**

[Show more locations \(1\).](#)

Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

Appointment type

Permanent - Full Time

Work schedule

Full-time - Permanent

Service**Promotion potential**

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Job family (Series)

[1222 Patent Attorney](#)

Supervisory status

Yes

Announcement number

PTAB-2018-0002

Control number

488320100

This job is open to



The public

U.S. Citizens, Nationals or those who owe allegiance to the U.S.

Duties

An Administrative Patent Judge (APJ) serves as a member of the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The PTAB has authority to:

Hear and adjudicate appeals from decisions of Primary Examiners as to Patentability in patent applications and reissue and re-examination of patents

Conduct Post-Grant Review proceedings, Inter Partes Review proceedings, Derivation proceedings, and Transitional Program for Covered Business Method Patent proceedings, and declare and conduct proceedings in legacy interferences.

As and APJ, you will be expected to:

Formulate ideas and communicate them effectively to various stakeholders; and

Draft decisions regarding patentability.

Though not required, PTAB prefers candidates with 10-15 years or more of patent experience, including those who have prosecuted and/or litigated patent cases and supervised professional IP teams and/or attorneys. In addition, PTAB prefers candidates with experience prosecuting and/or litigating electrical, computer, data processing or biotechnology/pharma patents and patent applications.

Who May Apply

This job is open to...

Applications will be accepted from all United States Citizens and Nationals. This is a Non-bargaining position. More than one position may be filled.

[Questions? This job is open to 1 group.](#)

Requirements

Conditions of Employment

- Complete application with all required documentation.
- Bachelor or higher technical degrees and law degree.
- Proof of active Bar Membership in good standing.
- U.S. Citizen or National.
- Writing Sample (answer to Vacancy Question 11 serves as the writing sample)
- Must Provide a Copy of School Transcripts.

AND

A good understanding, both theoretical and practical, of the engineering sciences and techniques and their application to professional engineering. This can be demonstrated by one of the following:

1. **Professional registration**-- Current registration as a professional engineer by any State, the District of Columbia, Guam or Puerto Rico.
2. **Written test**--Evidence of passing the Engineer-in-Training (EIT) examination or the written test required for professional registration, administered by the Boards of Engineering Examiners in various States, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico.
3. **Specified academic courses**-- Successful completion of at least 60 semester hours in the physical, mathematical and engineering sciences and including the courses specified in the basic requirements. The courses must be fully acceptable toward meeting the requirements of a professional engineering curriculum as described in paragraph A.
4. **Related curriculum**--Successful completion of a curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree in engineering technology or in an appropriate professional field, e.g., physics, chemistry, biology, architecture, computer science, mathematics, hydrology, or geology, may be accepted in lieu of an Engineering degree, provided the applicant has had at least 1 year of professional engineering experience with professional engineering supervision and guidance.

AND

- (C) Successful completion of a law degree (minimum: J.D. or equivalent).

(D) Proof of active membership of the Bar of any state, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, or any U.S. territory, in good standing.

(E) Demonstration of recent, extensive and comprehensive experience with the following:

1. Evaluating combined Intellectual Property (IP) assets and providing legal advice.
2. Formulating ideas and communicating them effectively to various stakeholders via clear, logically-developed opinions and decisions regarding patentability.
3. Effectively working with others.
4. Conducting and managing patent prosecution, examination or administration which demonstrates a thorough knowledge and application of patent laws and rules of practice.

Qualifications

Experience must have been at a sufficiently high level of difficulty to clearly show that the candidate possesses the required professional and technical qualifications to litigate and/or prosecute issues and to draft decisions directed to patentability.

Experience refers to paid and unpaid experience, including volunteer work done through National Service programs (e.g., Peace Corps, AmeriCorps) and other organizations (e.g., professional; philanthropic; religious; spiritual; community, student, social). Volunteer work helps build critical competencies, knowledge, and skills and can provide valuable training and experience that translates directly to paid employment. You will receive credit for all qualifying experience, including volunteer experience.

Education

You must meet the [United States Office of Personnel Management's \(OPM\) qualification requirements](#) by the closing date of this announcement. To qualify for this position, you must be a Member in good standing of the Bar and meet the technical degree requirements outlined within the Qualification section.

Individuals with an Electrical Engineering and/or Biotechnology/pharma degree are strongly encouraged to apply.

To be considered for this position, you must possess the following:

(A) Proof of successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's or higher degree in the study of engineering, chemistry, or biology.

For an engineering degree, the curriculum must:

1. Be accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) as a professional engineering curriculum;

OR

2. Include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advanced than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas:

a) statics, dynamics

b) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships)

c) fluid mechanics, hydraulics

d) thermodynamics

e) electrical fields and circuits

f) nature and properties of materials (relating to particle and aggregate structure to properties)

g) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics or electronics

OR

(B) A combination of Education and Experience. This combination of college level education, training and/or technical experience must have furnished both:

- A thorough knowledge of the physical and mathematical sciences underlying professional engineering;

Additional information

[Read more](#)

Benefits

How You Will Be Evaluated

You will be evaluated for this job based on how well you meet the qualifications above.

Your resume, supporting documentation and self-assessment answers will be evaluated for required competencies and specialized experience. The self-assessment questions cover the following competencies:

- Knowledge of legal matters associated with patent prosecution, examination, litigation, and administration.
- Knowledge of Patent Trial and Appeal Board jurisdiction, rules, and procedures.
- Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing
- Knowledge of evaluating, applying, and interpreting patent law
- Ability to lead people

Your application will then be evaluated and rated by a subject matter expert panel via federal government selection procedures.

Qualified applicants are assigned to one of these two categories:

- Best Qualified - Possessing recent exceptional experience with a background that demonstrates a superior level of knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies required to perform the duties of the position
- Well Qualified - Possessing good recent experience with a background that demonstrates a satisfactory level of knowledge, skills, abilities, and competencies required to perform the duties of the position

To preview questions please [click here](#).

Benefits

Required Documents

How to Apply

Fair and Transparent

Required Documents



IMPORTANT NOTE: You are expected to furnish all required documents to ultimately qualify for the position. Official undergraduate, graduate and law degree transcripts may be requested before employment. Proof of Bar Membership is due upon the closing date of the announcement. Official documents will be accepted after the application is submitted.

A complete application includes the following documents submitted BY THE CLOSING DATE of this announcement:

1. Cover Letter explaining, at a minimum, your interest in the position and your first preference for office location (if interested in multiple locations).
2. Resume including: • Citizenship • Job-related qualifications • Education • Work experience (including job titles, salary, employment dates, duties and accomplishments, and how any experience relates to the competencies listed in the job announcement.) Resumes should clearly address any relevant experience in electrical, computer, data processing or biotechnology/pharma patents and patent applications.
3. Responses to self-assessment questions. Answers to questions not fully supported by your resume may result in rating adjustments. Also, any experience claimed in a cover letter should also be substantiated by your resume.
4. Education Documentation • Transcripts: As part of the recruitment process, MUST provide a copy of school transcripts.
5. Proof of active Bar Membership (Good Standing)

If you are relying on your education to meet qualification requirements:

Education must be accredited by an accrediting institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in order for it to be credited towards qualifications. Therefore, provide only the attendance and/or degrees from schools accredited by accrediting institutions recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Failure to provide all of the required information as stated in this vacancy announcement may result in an ineligible rating or may affect the overall rating.

How to Apply

[Read more](#)

Agency contact information

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United States

[Learn more about this agency.](#)

Next steps

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Fair & Transparent

The Federal hiring process is set up to be fair and transparent. Please read the following guidance.

[Equal Employment Opportunity \(EEO\) Policy](#)

[Reasonable accommodation policy](#)

[Financial suitability](#)

[Selective Service](#)

[New employee probationary period](#)

[Signature and false statements](#)

[Privacy Act](#)

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Detroit, MI



Dallas, TX

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Relocation expenses reimbursed

No

Appointment type

Permanent - Full Time

Work schedule

Full-time - Permanent

Service

Promotion potential

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Job family (Series)

[1222 Patent Attorney](#)

Supervisory status

Yes

Announcement number

PTAB-2018-0002

Control number

488320100

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