UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



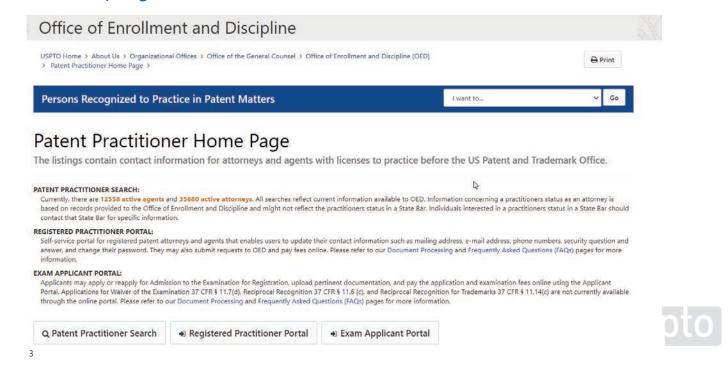
Professional responsibility and practice before the USPTO

Office of Enrollment and Discipline
United States Patent and Trademark Office



Register of patent practitioners

oedci.uspto.gov/OEDCI/



OED Diversion Pilot Program

- In 2016, the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs and the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation published a study of about 13,000 currently practicing attorneys and found the following:
 - About 21% qualify as problem drinkers
 - 28% struggle with some level of depression
 - 19% struggle with anxiety
 - 23% struggle with stress
- Other difficulties include social alienation, work addiction, sleep deprivation, job dissatisfaction, and complaints of work-life conflict.
- In 2017, the USPTO launched the Diversion Pilot Program.



OED Diversion Pilot Program-criteria

- Willingness and ability to participate in the program
- No public discipline by the USPTO or another jurisdiction in the past three years
- Misconduct at issue must not:
 - Involve misappropriation of funds or dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation
 - Result in or be likely to result in substantial prejudice to a client or other person
 - Constitute a "serious crime" (see 37 C.F.R. § 11.1)
 - Be part of a pattern of similar misconduct or be of the same nature as misconduct for which practitioner has been disciplined within the past five years



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Pro bono programs

- USPTO Law School Clinic Certification Program:
 - Allows students in a participating law school's clinic program to practice before the USPTO under the strict guidance of a law school faculty clinic supervisor
 - Limited recognition for participating students
 - www.uspto.gov/lawschoolclinic
- USPTO Patent Pro Bono Program:
 - Independent regional programs located across the nation work to match financially under-resourced inventors and small businesses with volunteer practitioners to file and prosecute patent applications.
 - Inventors and interested attorneys can navigate the USPTO website to find links to their regional program: www.uspto.gov/probonopatents

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