

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

USPTO Law School Clinic Certification Program

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Britten Sessions

Director/Founder

IP Clinic at Lincoln Law School of San Jose

Overview



- USPTO Clinic Certification Program
- Resources available from Lincoln Law School

USPTO Clinic Certification Program

Focus



The Program allows law school students to practice patent and/or trademark law before the USPTO under the guidance of a Faculty Clinic Supervisor, who is a registered patent attorney or patent agent (Patent portion) or who is a licensed attorney in good standing with the highest court of a State (Trademark portion).

Law school clinics participating in the Program also provide their services pro bono to the public.

History



- The Program began in the Fall Semester of 2008 with 6 participating law school clinics.
- The Program was expanded in 2010 to add 10 additional trademark clinics.
- The Program was expanded again in 2012 to add 11 additional law school clinics to the Patent portion of the Program and 9 additional law school clinics to the Trademark portion of the Program.

Participation



- There are now 45 law schools in the Program:
 - 18 law schools participate in both the Patent and Trademark portions of the Program
 - 21 law schools participate only in the Trademark portion of the Program
 - 6 law schools participate only in the Patent portion of the Program

Statistics



- To date, over 1400 law school clinic students have participated in the Program.
- From FY2009 through the first quarter of FY2014, law school clinics in the Program have reported filing over 220 patent applications.
- From FY2009 through the first quarter of FY2014, law school clinics in the Program have reported filing over 650 trademark applications.

Resources at IP Clinic of Lincoln Law School

Goal



IP Clinics are the perfect grounds for developing real IP skills. Real clients with real problems walk through the door, and students have the opportunity to work on real matters that can make a real difference. The goal of this very real experience is to create real skills for students and real protection for clients.

Quick Facts



- The 1st USPTO approved patent clinic in N. California
- The 2nd USPTO approved trademark clinic in N. California
- The 1st and only non-ABA school to be admitted into the USPTO clinic program
- The 1st USPTO approved patent agent clinic in California

Resources for Everyone



- Public presentations at the Sunnyvale Library (a Patent and Trademark Resource Center)
- Free chat session online every week (Wed 1-4pm)
- Free content
 - IP Clinic Manual is offered at printing cost on Amazon
 - 5 books are currently being written
- Opportunity to get involved
 - Those with science backgrounds could potentially participate with our patent agent program – a one year night program that trains scientists/engineers how to become fully licensed patent agents.

Resources for Clients



- Client Counseling
- Patentability Search
- Registrability Search
- Patent Application Drafting
- Trademark Application Drafting
- Responses to USPTO correspondence
- Examiner Interviews

Criteria to become a Client



- Financial Need
- Geographic Applicability
- Subject Matter Expertise
- Potential of the Technology

Apply to be a Client



1. Download an application at www.lincolnipclinic.com
2. Complete the application in its entirety
 - A. If you indicate a financial need, make sure you include the requested tax documentation
3. Send the application to ipclinic@lincolnlawsj.edu
4. The application will be reviewed. Absent any corrections, you will then be placed in the queue
5. When your position in the queue comes up, your application will be re-reviewed to determine whether any conflicts exist.

Further Information



- Queue
 - Currently we have nearly 30 people in our patent queue and around 20 people in our trademark queue
- Rate
 - Depends on the number of students and supervisors involved, as well as the number of current client matters we are managing
- Statistics
 - In 2014-2015, we provided services to about 25 clients (for both patent and trademark)
 - Currently, we have 11 active pending patent matters, 2 allowed patent matters, 2 active pending trademark matters, and 3 allowed trademark matters

Pros/Cons



- **Pros:**
 - No legal cost
 - High quality work (supervisions by licensed patent or TM attorney)
 - Potential to fast-track your application for free
 - Access to other low-cost alternatives
- **Cons:**
 - It takes time to wait in the queue (with some clinics, it can be in terms of years)
 - It may take longer than typical firms to get the end product
 - Students are doing the work (there is a learning curve) and interfacing with the client

Additional Free Resources



- uspto.gov
- USPTO Pro-se Assistance Program
 - Webinars
 - Content
- www.lincolnipclinic.com
- Sunnyvale Library