

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Patent Public Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

Legislative/Governmental Affairs Update

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Secretary and Director

May 2, 2019

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



The 116th Congress

Leadership of the House/Senate Judiciary committees

U.S. House of Representatives



Committee on the Judiciary

Jerry Nadler (D-NY-10), Chairman

Doug Collins (R-GA-9), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet

Hank Johnson (D-GA-4), Chairman

Martha Roby (R-AL-2), Ranking Member

U.S. Senate



Committee on the Judiciary

Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Chairman

Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Ranking Member

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

Thom Tillis (R-NC), Chairman

Christopher Coons (D-DE), Ranking Member

Congressional focus

- Congress' efforts have been focused on **oversight**, nominations (in the Senate), and **legislation**.

Oversight activity related to USPTO

- Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, “Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office” (March 13, 2019)
- Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, “Hearing to Review the FY2020 Budget for the U.S. Department of Commerce” (April 2, 2019)
- House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, “Lost Einsteins: Lack of Diversity in Patent Inventorship and the Impact on America’s Innovation Economy” (March 27, 2019)
- Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, “Trailblazers and Lost Einsteins: Women Inventors and the Future of American Innovation” (April 3, 2019)
- House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, “Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office” (Tent. May 9, 2019)

Legislative activity

Hot issues in Congress related to patents

- Drug Pricing
- Section 101 reform

**USPTO is aggressively monitoring all legislative activity to identify IP-related matters.*

Legislative priorities

- Work with Congress on section 101 reform
- Investment authority for USPTO's internal operating reserve
- Elevate IP attaché rank
- Clarify statutory authority regarding operations during interruptions

Questions and comments

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