



UH Law Center to Host USPTO Town Hall Meeting

March 22, 2006

Patent attorneys, patent agents, independent inventors and members of the small business community will gather in Krost Auditorium on March 22 for a Town Hall Meeting co-sponsored by the US Patent and Trademark Office and the UH Law Center's IPIL Institute. The two-hour meeting begins at 2 p.m. and will address proposed rule changes affecting claims and continuations. USPTO officials will also demonstrate the new web-based electronic filing system starting in Krost at 1 p.m. Registration is free, and parking at the new UH Parking Garage will include shuttle busses to Krost provided by the IPIL Institute. Details are available at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/townhall.htm>.

USPTO to Hold Town Hall Meeting on Patent Claims and Continuation Practice

Houston, Texas, March 22, 2006

The third Town Hall Meeting on the proposed rule changes for claims and continuations will be held **March 22** in **Houston, Texas**. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the University of Houston Law Center will co-sponsor the event at the University of Houston Law Center in Krost Hall. The meeting will be held from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The USPTO will demonstrate its new Web based Electronic Filing System (EFS-Web) prior to the Town Hall Meeting from 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. at the same location.

Peggy Focarino, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Operations, and **John Whealan**, Deputy General Counsel for Intellectual Property Law and Solicitor, will provide an overview of the challenges the USPTO faces and the reasons why the proposed new rules are necessary. A question and answer session will follow immediately after their presentation.

Registration is free and CLE credit may be available.

The Town Hall Meetings are for patent attorneys, patent agents, independent inventors and members of the small business community. Details regarding a future Town Hall Meeting in Washington, DC, will be posted at a later date.

>> Registration ...

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Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez Launches New Web-Based Filing System for Patent Applications

(Left to right) Commissioner for Patents John Doll, Under Secretary for IP Jon Dudas and Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez look on as (left to right) Dean Harts of 3M, April Sauders-Fuller of Fish & Richardson and Felicia Metz of the University of Maryland file patent documents electronically using the USPTO's new EFS-Web system.

Commerce Secretary **Carlos M. Gutierrez** and Under Secretary for Intellectual Property **Jon Dudas** today launched the United States Patent and

Trademark Office's (USPTO) new electronic filing system that will allow applicants to file over the Internet virtually anytime and anywhere, reducing the application process by 30 minutes and improving accuracy on filed documents.

Three early adopters—the 3M Company, the law firm of Fish & Richardson and the University of Maryland—filed the first applications using EFS-Web, the new web-based patent application tool, today at the Commerce Department officially opening the system to all patent applicants.

"This new electronic filing system is another critical step in our on-going efforts to provide innovators with the most secure and simple patent-applicant process in the world," said **Gutierrez**. "Our country is rich in skill and creativity. Every day this human talent develops novel and useful inventions to improve the lives and livelihoods of the American people."

"The USPTO worked with the intellectual property community to develop this new system," added Under Secretary **Dudas**. "Focus groups composed of corporations, law firms and individual filers provided input about their needs. Based on this customer input, USPTO developed a tool designed to meet those needs – an efficient patent submission tool in which users have full confidence."

The shift from a paper-based system to an electronic environment offers a number of advantages to patent filers. Patent customers can file applications and related documents using their existing software. It is now possible to submit documents by simply attaching PDF files. EFS-Web offers additional practical flexibility to the intellectual property community by allowing staff to file documents prepared and reviewed by patent attorneys. Filers will also be able to pay filing fees over the Internet.

EFS-Web submissions are automatically processed through the USPTO. Patent filers receive rapid access to their applications through the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system, so they can view their submissions and confirm that documents have been securely and accurately received. EFS-Web also offers visual proof that patent applications and documents have been received in the form of an automatic electronic receipt.

Over the last several months, the USPTO conducted beta tests of the

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Strategic Planning

- ▶ 21st Century Strategic Plan
- ▶ Comments & Suggestions for developing 2007-2012 Strategic Plan
- ▶ Proposed Rule Changes to Focus the Patent Process in the 21st Century

- ▶ Annual Performance and Accountability Report

Inventor Support

- ▶ Inventor Resources

[\(Transcript 22 FEB 2006\)](#)

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