



August 12, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jon W. Dudas
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

FROM: *Judith J. Gordon*
Judith J. Gordon
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Audit of USPTO's Quality Assurance Process

The Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science, U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations has requested that the Office of Inspector General audit USPTO's patent quality assurance process. We plan to begin the audit immediately.

The objectives of our review are to (1) determine the effectiveness of USPTO's patent quality assurance process in ensuring that established standards of patent examination quality are met, and (2) determine whether USPTO's patent quality assurance process complies with applicable Department, bureau, and federal laws, regulations, policies, procedures, and guidelines.

As an initial step in our review, we will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the pending audit, please contact me at (202) 482-2754, or Ronald Lieberman, director of the Office of Audit and Evaluation Business and Science Division, at (301) 713-2070.

cc: Welton Lloyd, USPTO Audit Liaison