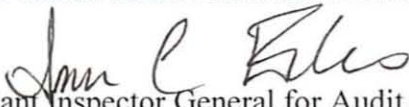




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

December 22, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

FROM: Ann C. Eilers 
Principal Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Review of USPTO's Initiatives to Improve Patent Timeliness
and Quality

As part of our Fiscal Year 2011 audit and evaluation plan, we will conduct a review of USPTO's initiatives to improve patent timeliness and quality. Our objectives are to assess the implementation status of USPTO's multiple initiatives to address patent quality and timeliness and to assess USPTO's plans to evaluate these initiatives. Our review will focus on the initiatives identified in USPTO's FY 2010–2015 strategic plan.

We will contact the audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference. Should you have any questions, please call me at (202) 482-2754, or Ron Prevost, Assistant Inspector General for Economic and Statistical Program Assessment, at (202) 482-3052. We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this review.

cc: Robert L. Stoll, Commissioner for Patents, USPTO
Anthony P. Scardino, Chief Financial Officer, USPTO
Welton Lloyd, Audit Liaison, USPTO