




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

November 3, 2011

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

FROM: Ron Prevost 
Assistant Inspector General for Economic and Statistical
Program Assessment

SUBJECT: Audit of USPTO's Efforts to Reduce BPAI's Backlog and
Pendency

As part of our fiscal year 2012 audit and evaluation plan, we will conduct an audit of USPTO's efforts to reduce the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences' (BPAI) backlog and pendency. Our objectives are to determine (1) how BPAI's caseload has grown and possible cause(s) for the increase, (2) whether BPAI's staffing and resources have kept pace with caseload growth, and (3) how effective BPAI operations are given its current resources.

We will contact the audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this review, please call me at (202) 482-3052 or Jill Schamberger, Senior Program Analyst, at (571) 272-5561. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

cc: James D. Smith, Chief Administrative Patent Judge
Robert L. Stoll, Commissioner for Patents, USPTO
Anthony P. Scardino, Chief Financial Officer, USPTO
Welton Lloyd, Audit Liaison, USPTO