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