



February 15, 2024

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Kathi Vidal  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

**FROM:** Frederick J. Meny, Jr.  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

**SUBJECT:** Audit of USPTO's Quality Reviews of Continuing Patent  
Applications (#2024-478)

We are initiating an audit of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO's) quality review process for continuing patent applications. Our objective is to determine the effectiveness of USPTO's quality reviews of continuing patent applications.

We plan to begin this work immediately. We will contact your liaison to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss in further detail the specific nature of our audit—including our objective and scope, time frames, and any potential requests for data. If you have any questions about this audit, please contact me at (202) 793-2938 or Amni Samson, Director for Audit and Evaluation, Intellectual Property Programs, at (202) 793-3324.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation during this effort.

cc: Derrick Brent, Deputy Director, USPTO  
Vaishali Udupa, Commissioner for Patents, USPTO  
Scott R. Boalick, Chief Judge for the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, USPTO  
David L. Berdan, General Counsel, USPTO  
Jay Hoffman, Chief Financial Officer, USPTO  
Sean Mildrew, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Audit Resolution Officer, USPTO