



August 4, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR: Coke Stewart
Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark
Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. Ryan".

FROM: Kevin D. Ryan
Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT: Audit of USPTO's Handling of Patent Applications Containing
Sensitive Information
Project No. 2025-525

We are initiating an audit of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO's) handling of patent applications containing sensitive information. Our objective is to determine whether USPTO has effective controls to identify and escalate patent applications containing potentially national-security-sensitive or export-controlled content.

We plan to begin this work immediately. We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference, at which time we will discuss the specific nature of our audit with you, 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 202-750-5190 or Amni Samson, Director for Audit and Evaluation, Intellectual Property Programs, at 202-793-3324.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

