



Summary of Investigation

Investigation Into Allegations of Misuse of Position by a USPTO Official

Case No. 25-0064

Date Posted: June 27, 2025

► **What We Investigated** | We received an allegation that a U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) patent examiner was creating job postings on a freelance work website and paying others to do the examiner's work.

► **What We Found** | We confirmed that the patent examiner created multiple job postings on a freelance work website seeking to pay people to do the examiner's official work. We also found that on at least one occasion, the examiner hired a foreign national to complete the work. With these actions, the examiner misused their official government position and failed to protect confidential patent information.

This case was declined for criminal prosecution, and USPTO terminated the examiner during this investigation. We referred our findings to USPTO for informational purposes.