



Resolving Your Patent Application Processing Problems

The Patents Ombudsman program saves applicants and attorneys time and resources by ensuring application-processing problems are handled efficiently. Our goal is to improve patent quality and efficiency of patent examinations.

If you are experiencing problems at any stage throughout the patent application/examination process, we can help get you back on track. We also provide assistance on the merits where there is an issue with case prosecution concerns including claim objections, claim rejections, after-final practice or restrictions.

How Can You Get Help?

You can submit your inquiry to the Patents Ombudsman Program in one of three ways:

1. Website: www.uspto.gov/patents/ombudsman.jsp
2. Phone: 571-272-5555 or 1-855-559-8589 (toll free)
3. E-mail: PatentsOmbudsmanprogram@uspto.gov



Within one business day, a Patents Ombudsman Representative will contact you, address your issue, or refer you to an appropriate USPTO contact for quick resolution.

The Patents Ombudsman Program should only be contacted when an applicant, attorney or agent feels that examination has stalled and that their efforts to move their application forward through the normal channels (e.g., contacting the examiner or supervisory patent examiner or TC Director) have not been effective.

Visit the Patents Ombudsman Program Web Page

- Patents Ombudsman FAQs
- Access links to:
 - Contact other Patents Offices
 - Get the status of your application
 - Check on current estimates for your receipt of a first office action

"The Program works... I believe it could help the backlog and avoid appeal."

Ombudsman Program User

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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