



October 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: Andrei Iancu
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office


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

SUBJECT: Evaluation of USPTO's Patent Examination Process (#2021-383)

We are initiating an evaluation on U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO's) patent examination process. Our objectives are to (1) assess whether patents are examined in compliance with applicable statutes, regulations, and case laws; (2) identify deficiencies within the examination process impacting the quality of patents granted; and (3) identify areas for improvement within the examination process to increase its effectiveness and efficiency.

We contracted The MITRE Corporation—an independent firm—to perform this evaluation. My office will oversee the progress of the evaluation to ensure that it is performed in accordance with quality standards for inspection and evaluation and contract terms.

We plan to begin this work immediately. We will contact your office to schedule an entrance conference to discuss our evaluation objectives and scope in further detail. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 482-1931 or Amni Samson, Director for Audit and Evaluation, at (571) 272-5561.

cc: Laura Peter, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Deputy Director, USPTO
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