



October 1, 2019

**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 the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB)  
Operations (#2020-353)

We are initiating an evaluation on U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO's) PTAB operations. The objectives for this evaluation are to (1) assess PTAB's processes; (2) identify risk areas within PTAB; and (3) identify any internal and external challenges PTAB faces, and the significance and impacts of these challenges.

We contracted the MITRE Corporation, an independent firm, to perform the 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, as well as contract terms.

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

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

cc: Laura Peter, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director, USPTO  
Sarah Harris, General Counsel, USPTO  
Sean Mildrew, Acting Chief Financial Officer and Audit Resolution Officer, USPTO  
Welton Lloyd, Audit Liaison, USPTO  
Mohamed Ahmed, Audit Liaison, USPTO