

TMpeople

A magazine by TM people for TM people

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Trademarks Welcomes New Leadership



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Deputy Commissioner
for Trademark Operations

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TMpeople

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Trademarks: Registering America's Success



On the cover: Dan Vavonese
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Operations and Amy Cotton Deputy
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This edition of TMpeople is dedicated to the memories of Colleen Kearney and Kimberly Turner.

With great sadness, we acknowledge the loss of two dear Trademark colleagues and friends. Colleen Kearney passed away Sunday, April 4th after a valiant three-year battle against metastatic breast cancer. Colleen first started as a trademark attorney in 2005 and ultimately became an attorney in the Petitions Office in her final years with the Office. Colleen will be greatly missed by our Trademarks family, but fondly remembered for living her life to the fullest. Kimberly Turner (wife of Harold Ross /Intent to Use) passed away on Sunday, April 25. Kimberly began her career with USPTO in 1993 in the Pre-examination Unit ultimately moving to Post Registration where Kim was a specialist and expert in this area. Kim had a reputation as a true professional, and was known for her beautiful smile, contagious laugh and as someone who cared deeply for her colleagues. Kimberly will be remembered for her unflinching kindness and her countless contributions to the USPTO.



Dan Vavonese Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations

computer and paper searches in the public search room, and this was my first introduction to the office.”

This started Dan on the path that led him to his role today. While attending law school, he earned an internship assisting trademark examining attorneys. His duty was to perform legal research to prove that products were related and he probably didn’t realize at the time how exciting this internship would actually be.

“We went to local stores and took pictures of one product near another product on the store shelves. We were often chased out of the stores because they didn’t want us taking pictures of the displays,” he said with laughter as he reminisced. “Exposure to the USPTO and doing the legal research made me more and more interested in trademark law.”

Right out of law school, Dan came to work at the office that had so piqued his curiosity and interest. That natural intrigue, plus many helping hands, led him to ascend from internship to leadership.

“I was inspired by experienced examining attorneys who made themselves available to their less-experienced colleagues,” he said about his early days in the office. “Doors were always open and this group of experienced examining attorneys were there for me to learn from, not just with legal advice, but also on how to be better and more efficient.”

Those examining attorneys and managers set a tone for Dan, inspiring the way he envisions the office atmosphere today and the experiences he hopes today’s employees, in every role, have while working in Trademarks. The atmosphere, for Dan, felt collegial. The work climate lent itself to discussion and collaboration, and colleagues a few rungs above on the ladder of success often reached back to lift employees up. He hopes to inspire new and future Trademarks employees the same way he was inspired 25 years ago.

“I know how important it is to talk to employees and figure out how to give them opportunities to develop themselves,” he explained. “It’s the opportunity I got early in my career. The key is to listen to people and

In the span of 25 years, our new Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations Dan Vavonese has held a number of attorney roles within the agency. Many of us already know him as a Group Director for the trademark law offices. Some of us may know that he served as an examining attorney, senior attorney, and managing attorney too, during his career. But it may surprise some to learn that Dan was introduced to the Trademarks organization long before he ever set foot inside a law school classroom.

“Before law school,” he explained, “I took a job in this area with a document research company. They had us come down to the USPTO to do research on patents and trademarks. I did

hear what they're interested in and what concerns them, with the end goal being to get better individually and together as an organization."

For the future vision of Trademarks, Dan desires to improve operational efficiencies by taking action to provide employees at all levels additional resources and tools so they can perform their job more dynamically. Also, he hopes to improve efficiencies in our structure and analyze how Trademarks is organized. "Those are the keys as far as operations is concerned, but then we also have to get into the nuts-and-bolts of what we do and ensure we continue to preserve the integrity of the register."

Fewer than six months have passed since Dan's new role was announced and we are facing challenges like pendency and fraud that he knows Operations can help to solve. "I didn't go into this position thinking I knew exactly what needed to be done, and I'll consider various approaches and perspectives to solve the problems." He's relying on previous experience and pearls of wisdom he's picked up along the way, one of which is being a good listener. "Our team has a ton to contribute," he said. "Listening to people who have differing perspectives and opinions will help us as we move forward. We know enough from changes over the years that things have always gone better when we've taken the time to explain the problem while being as

transparent as possible, so we can get feedback and so that people understand our challenges."

It may be safe to say that Dan likes to embrace a good challenge head on. From playing sports to hiking and gardening in the unforgiving Virginia clay soil, he enjoys a robust lifestyle. He also enjoys traveling and spending time with his family, including his wife, Andrea, two daughters, Sara and Sydney, and their West Highland Terrier, "Boo." Of course, the pandemic has put a halt to most travel plans and he recognizes the tremendous impact the pandemic has had on both family life and professional life for all Trademarks employees. Yet, he hopes that the Trademarks family remains tight knit as we persevere.

"Trying to keep the collegial atmosphere in a telework environment is difficult," he said. "We're all still adapting to this new world and we want to maintain the kind of community that we've had for a long time among our employees. Working with such an amazing team of people and being part of an organization that supports our businesses and the economy in such a profound way inspires me in my work every day."

TM





Amy Cotton

Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy

Early career lessons

Prior to joining us, Amy worked at the American Intellectual Property Law Association. She was External Affairs Counsel under the supervision of former USPTO official Michael Kirk. Under his mentorship, she learned everything she needed to know to venture forward in intellectual property. To this day, she still adheres to the valuable lessons that he taught her. Two in particular still resonate with her:

- If you're good at your job, they will come. You don't have to advertise it. You don't have to self-promote. Just do a good job.
- Communication is so critical within an office. If you are not communicating well and effectively with the people you work with, you better fix it because nothing will work. If you're not being a good colleague, nothing will work well, and no one will work with you.

To Amy these were not only career lessons—they were also life lessons that she says have gotten her far.

Accomplishments at the USPTO

Shortly after joining the USPTO, Amy participated in a detail with OPIA. Within her first month, she was on a 24-hour flight to Melbourne, Australia to represent the USPTO at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers meeting. The trip was overwhelming, but she was hooked after this first experience and soon became a permanent part of OPIA, ultimately being named Senior Counsel for Trademarks. In this role, she used her experience in domestic and international trademark registration to guide policies for trademark, geographical indication, and domain name issues. Although she found the rigorous travel schedule to countries all over the world very hard, she enjoyed representing the Office, being with her colleagues, and meeting foreign colleagues face to face.

Amy's leadership role in domestic and international policy work required her to play the long game. She compares the process to pushing a boulder up a hill. Communicating effectively and building a consensus around her ideas

We recently welcomed Amy Cotton as the third Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy. Amy has been with the Office for over 20 years, serving as an examining attorney within Law Office 110 and as Senior Counsel with the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA). She has called Northern Virginia home for much of her life. She earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in English from the University of Virginia and obtained her law degree from Indiana University Bloomington.

were key in guiding policy and changing trademark culture. These strengths contributed to her many accomplishments and prepared her for her current position as Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy. She sees these as the top three accomplishments that helped prepare her for her new position:

- Addressing the problem of protection for well-known marks domestically and internationally by pushing the boundaries of case law, such as in Belmora LLC v. Bayer Consumer Care AG.
- Advocating for better protection of geographical certification marks by improving examination for certification marks of regional origin.
- Acting as lead negotiator on behalf of the United States for the Geneva Act of the Lisbon agreement in 2016, where her team persuaded the Europeans to create a more balanced treaty in the interest of the United States.

Looking forward

Amy's experience and accomplishments have undoubtedly prepared her for her new role. She has already hit the ground running by directing the rule making process for the Trademark Modernization Act. As Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Examination Policy, she leads eight offices and she's ready for the challenge.

In Amy's first year, she plans to focus on having all of the offices under the examination policy umbrella singing off of the same song sheet. Her goal is to create clarity, transparency, and improve communication to move forward with a clear strategic plan—one that gives every employee a clear picture of what they should be doing every day and what they're trying to achieve.

In the long term, Amy's goal is to dramatically increase stability in trademark operations and policy. She plans to reconstitute the trademark system to normalize how we deal with emerging crises. Her vision is for all employees to know what's coming down the pike so that they can solve whatever problems come up. She hopes this will establish a new baseline for the trademark system that is stable, predictable, and transparent.

After Work

Amy describes herself as a problem solver, a consensus builder, and no nonsense. Her personal motto used at work and at home is "don't bring me a problem without a solution, and I'll do the same." She says the background for this motto is critical thinking—it's a life skill that everyone can use both personally and professionally because life throws you problems constantly. Ultimately, you have to come up with a solution.

When not working Amy spends time with her husband, who was a musician for four decades and now teaches, and their three children.

Her happiest moments are when she's outside enjoying nature. She loves to hike, take in the views of the Shenandoah along Skyline Drive, and sit on her back deck looking at the trees and listening to the birds. Nature keeps her grounded.

Back in the office, we can count on Amy's leadership to keep the Trademarks organization grounded too. **TM**



Celebrating the life of our beloved colleague and friend, Colleen Kearney

I have written numerous articles for TM People, and have always done so with great pleasure. This time around though, I am honored, but saddened at the same time to write this piece. On Sunday, April 4th, we said goodbye to Colleen Kearney after her valiant three-year battle against Stage IV metastatic breast cancer. As one of the newest members of the Petitions group, I am honored to be able to memorialize and highlight the career achievements of Colleen, and also to be able to write about her as a friend. However, at the same time, I am saddened to be reminded that we had to say goodbye to one of Petitions' and Trademarks' most beloved colleague and friend far too early before her time.

It was Colleen that passed me the baton when it came to writing articles about Trademarks' newest senior attorneys for TM People. I was always so nervous to have to live up to the high standards that Colleen set with her articles. But now, I know she will be proud, or at least give us all a good smirk from above when she reads this article and sees a sample of the kindest things that her friends in the Office had to say about her.

For those of you who did not have the pleasure of knowing Colleen, I am sorry. She was an amazing woman with an infectious smile and the wittiest sense of humor. She could make the worst of your days instantly better the second she popped into your office, texted you a picture of her insanely adorable dog Ollie, or asked you to join her for a glass (or bottle) of libations at the newest restaurant in town. She was also an adventurous traveler who never turned down the opportunity to hop on a plane to visit a new place. However, the best fact of all about Colleen is that she was an amazing bassoon player! She started playing the bassoon in high school and stuck with it, even playing in the same orchestra in Washington D.C. since 2004. Seriously... the bassoon!

Colleen had an unbelievably amazing career that focused on all things "IP." I, like so many others in the Office, went to her with our legal (and life) questions because we always knew her answers would be spot-on correct and genuine. She knew IP backwards and forwards! Before joining the Office, Colleen spent two years at the Department of Justice in the Special Litigation Section and four years at



the U.S. Copyright Office, where she worked in the Visual Arts Section. Then in 2005, she joined the Office and worked in Law Office 113. During her time at the Office she completed a Petitions detail and a Solicitor's Office detail before joining the Petitions group in 2013. While in Petitions, Colleen served as the Electronic Filing and Web Services liaison where she focused on TEAS-related issues. One of her proudest achievements while in the Office was when she dealt with numerous fraudulent filings and was able to work directly with the corporate and individual registrants and applicants who were targeted by bad actors to successfully resolve their issues. She was also tasked with working on a group of petitions related to the lengthy TEAS outage that occurred over the holidays in 2015. Colleen

was able to calm the petitioners' worries and resolve their issues during that time of the unprecedented electronic system outage at the Office.

In 2018 Colleen was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. After working for a couple of years while balancing her cancer treatments, Colleen decided to take an early medical retirement option in the fall of 2020 to focus first and foremost on her health. When I asked her what she was going to miss most about working, she exclaimed, "My friends! I have so many friends in the Office as well as on TEAPP. I'm going to have to go visit my TEAPP friends in Rochester, Boston, and Florida soon. I met some extraordinary folks at the USPTO and made numerous great friends during my 15 years with the agency."



In return, when I asked Colleen's friends what they would miss most about her, here's what some of them had to say:

"I will always remember Colleen telling me that I wasn't 'lifing' hard enough right now. That was her saying, that we all had to 'life hard' because time is so short. Colleen certainly 'lifed hard' right down to the end, and I will cherish her for that."

Karen Strzyz

"I will miss Colleen's radical honesty. She was so open about her cancer fight and lived every day to the fullest with miraculous enthusiasm and a sense of humor."

Carrie Genovese

"What I will miss most about working with Colleen is EVERYTHING! But most of all, her fabulous sense of humor and expertise on all things trademark! I will miss the time we spent bonding over our walks together in Old Town, and our regular trips to the farmer's market on weekends."

Jennifer Richardson

"What I will miss most about working with Colleen is having a wonderful, funny, and supportive friend working in Trademarks."

Laurie Kaufman

"What I will miss most about working with Colleen is having a colleague who I could trust to give me a good opinion about a difficult case. She was always approachable and I knew her opinion was built on a thorough knowledge of trademark law and rules as well as sound judgment. I also miss her sense of humor. She had the ability to be both serious and to bring humor to situations, when appropriate. Because she was so easy to talk to about work, she became a good friend outside of the workplace. I'm so thankful that when I started at the Office, her office was just a few doors down from mine and we got to know each other."

Marilyn Izzi Vengroff

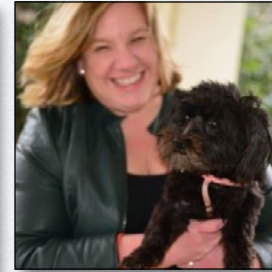
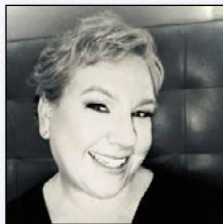
"I will miss Colleen's infectious laugh, wry observations and steadfast dedication to getting the work done. I could not ask for a greater model of what it means to be a Petitions attorney. Colleen represents the best of what the USPTO has to offer. We all miss her deeply." *Emily Carlsen*



When I asked Colleen what she was looking forward to doing as soon as the Covid-19 pandemic was resolved, she said

that she first wanted to go to a tapas restaurant with a bunch of friends and spend the evening reconnecting in person over great food and wine. Then of course she wanted to travel as soon as possible. She even had a tentative trip to Florida booked so that she could go visit friends and family there later this year. I think the future absolutely holds a foreseeable gathering of friends and family as we “break bread” over pans and pans of paella (non-seafood of course) and toast in memory of our now beautiful angel.

Colleen was a cancer fighter right up until the end. She fought a valiant battle and she tried as hard as she could to not let her cancer diagnosis mess with her ability to live her life to the fullest and “life hard” right up until the end. Colleen’s outlook on life reminds us to never take anything for granted, never miss an opportunity to travel, and to hug our loved ones tight. Although she is no longer with us, I can still picture that bright smile and blonde hair of hers popping into my office to say hello. I am so fortunate that I have those memories to cherish. Colleen, we love and miss you! Cheers to you! TM



Colleen was involved with the organization METAvivor Research and Support Inc., a national non-profit organization dedicated to funding research for stage IV metastatic breast cancer. The organization’s mission was dear to Colleen as it focuses on researching the very cancer that she battled with for so long. Donations in Colleen’s honor can be made at <https://www.metavivor.org/>.

An Author's Journey: From Happy Hour to Publication

It's impossible to know when inspiration may strike. For Brian Weber, the lightning bolt came after an online, Office of Trademark Quality Review and Training (OTQRT) happy hour last summer.

If you're an examining attorney of a "certain age," you think of Brian Weber as the face of TOTAL or TEALE training (today, it's known as "TM Launch"). Brian started at the USPTO as an examining attorney, has served as a staff attorney in the Office of the Commissioner for Trademarks and a law office senior attorney, and is currently a senior staff attorney with OTQRT.

It turns out, Brian can add a new title after his name: published author. In less than eight months, Brian conceived of, wrote, and published a pulp fiction paperback set in Las Vegas in the early 1960s. What prompted this burst of creative activity? Brian insists the idea did, in fact, originate from a happy hour.

Early in the pandemic shutdown, OTQRT began having weekly, virtual happy hours as a way to stay connected and sane. Each week, a different member of OTQRT volunteered to "host" the happy hour, during which he or she would discuss a topic of interest (travel, recipes, trivia, pets, etc.). Last June, Brian gave a great presentation on notable "firsts" in Las Vegas history.

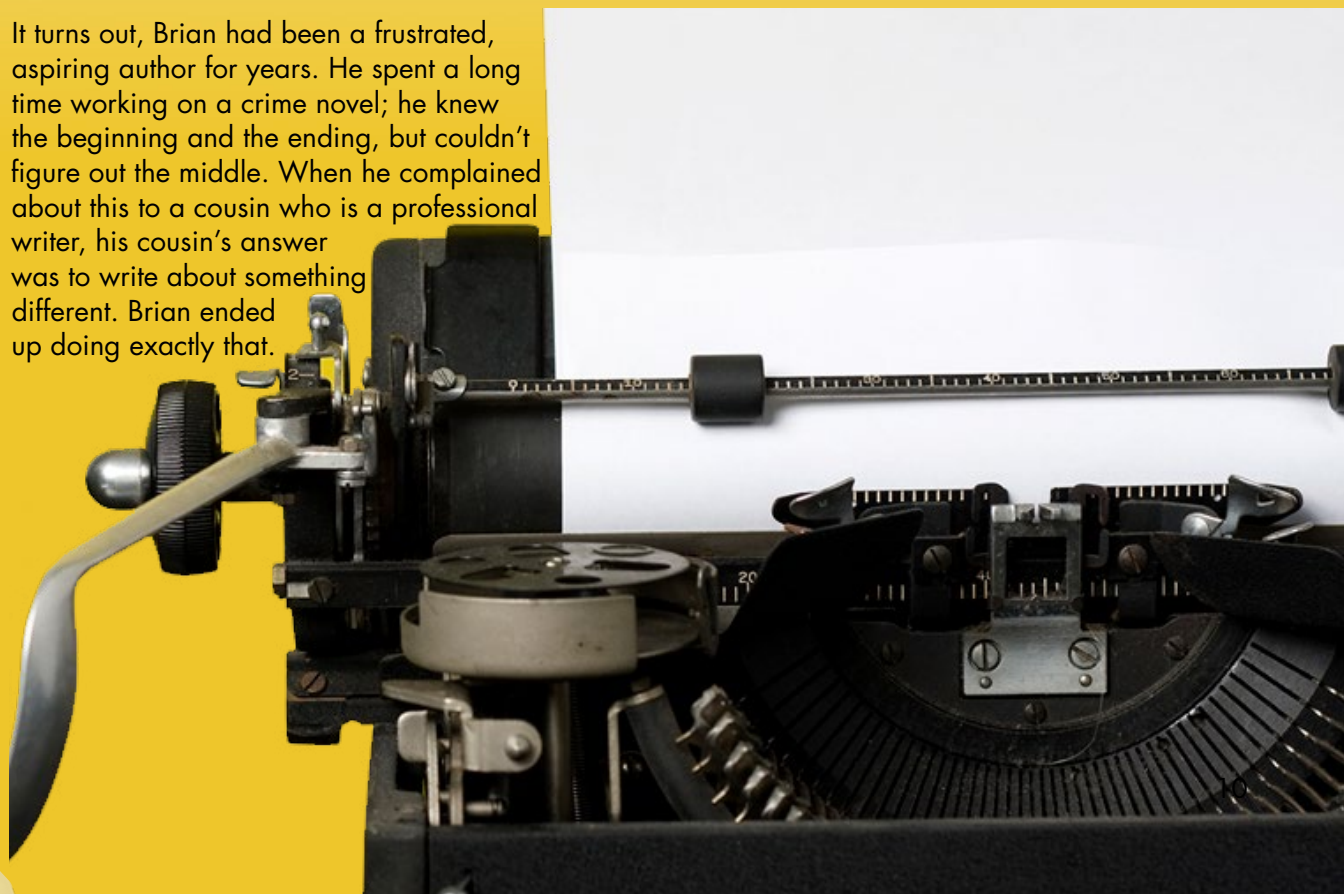
During his research, he became intrigued by the suspicious and catastrophic 1960 fire at El Rancho Vegas, which had been the first resort built on the Las Vegas strip. In less than a year, Brian's initial research became a novel.

Lots of people think about writing a book, but most never do. I asked Brian how someone wanting to write the great (or not-so-great), American novel might actually complete such a project.

It turns out, Brian had been a frustrated, aspiring author for years. He spent a long time working on a crime novel; he knew the beginning and the ending, but couldn't figure out the middle. When he complained about this to a cousin who is a professional writer, his cousin's answer was to write about something different. Brian ended up doing exactly that.

Today's technology enables people to work without an editor or a publisher. So, what steps would someone planning to self-publish follow? Brian's process consisted first of conducting research and developing the plot, writing the first draft, working on multiple re-writes, and, eventually, collaborating with a designer.

Unlike Brian's previous attempt, the plot for this story was not difficult to map. However, once a story is mapped out, a writer wishing



to speak with an authentic voice must be a scrupulous researcher. Fortunately, anyone who has worked as an examining attorney is well equipped for that! The internet is extraordinarily helpful, but libraries, archives, and historians are equally important. They help a writer determine whether a street went by a particular name at a given time in history or if a specific type of store would have existed at the time the book is set.

According to Brian, the first draft is like framing the outside of a house; it has a recognizable structure but it's clearly not finished. Thus, the first draft would include the plot and some dialogue and details. Rewrites are where an author fills in smaller details to create the feeling of authenticity, such as dialogue that would convey the speaker's geographic or educational background, descriptions of clothing that would have been in fashion, or references to music that would play on the radio at that time.

The rewrites are also where the author makes edits to improve the writing, corrects typographical errors, and addresses inconsistent plot points. Because authors who self-publish their books do not have editors, it's impossible to overstate the importance of finding a few friends or family members to read and reread the drafts. Brian especially recommends people who understand the "constructive" aspect of constructive criticism.

If the first draft is analogous to framing a house, then the rewrites are the walls,

plumbing, and electricity. The final part, which makes the house truly livable, is the designer. An author who is self-publishing should not try to save money by skipping this part of the process.

What does a designer do? The designer is key in making the book look and feel how you want it. It isn't just about the cover, although cover design is important. A designer also coordinates the look of the inside: fonts, margins, spacing, and line placement on the page. If a book is set in the 1960s, a designer may recommend using a font that was common in books at that time.

Brian emphasized the importance of the designer, because this work incorporates the author's concepts and themes into an image or an impression. The designer's work is a visual echo of the writing.

I wondered if working on office actions, exam guides, quality review, or training materials might provide a useful foundation for a hopeful author-to-be. Brian's answer was an emphatic "Yes!" He spent years preparing and revising new attorney training materials; organizing those materials into a logical series was like figuring out a story's plot. His work as an examining attorney, mentor, and staff attorney

has been subject to editing; likewise, he has edited the work of others. All of these interactions with words and writing helped him tighten up his own and gave him the confidence and discipline to finish his book.

My last question for Brian was what he wished he had known when he started his project. Hopefully, his answer will inspire anyone thinking about writing a book. He expressed joy and satisfaction at creating something out of nothing. "If I had known how fulfilling it would be to do and finish, I would've tried it sooner." TM



Trademarks Hires Two New Senior Attorneys

2021 began with the hiring of two new permanent senior attorneys: Elizabeth Shen (Law Office 101) and Heather Schubert (Law Office 116). Let's welcome these two talented new seniors and get to know them a little better!

Elizabeth Shen Law Office 101



Liz was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area and made her way to the East after graduating from University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts

in legal studies. After working as a legal assistant (and before that, as an ice cream scooper, a campaign staffer, a book store shelf stocker, security for a Pride parade float, a camp counselor, and a freelance food photographer), Liz went on to receive her law degree from American University Washington College of Law in 2012.

Liz joined the USPTO in November 2015 as a member of Law Office 121. She then mentored in Law Office 127 before participating in the acting senior attorney work project for Law Offices 101 and 130. Liz states that each of these positions were meaningful in their own way. Specifically, being a mentor helped her better understand the examining attorney position and ultimately made her a better and faster examining attorney, while the acting senior attorney work project allowed her to see

what was happening within the law office (and across all law offices) at the management level, putting her work as an examining attorney into greater context.

Liz finds mentoring and training to be the most rewarding parts of her new position, and finds it incredible to be able to say that she helped someone be more efficient, work through a difficult issue, or improve their quality ("I want to keep doing that, every day"). The most surprising part of her new role has been the collaborative nature of the job. As Liz herself says it best, "It takes a village and a lot of Webex meetings, y'all."

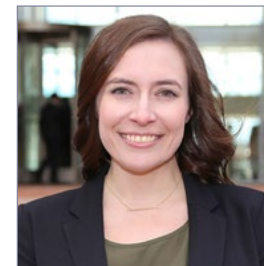
During her free time, Liz enjoys spending time with her dogs, trying to train them to not bark at the neighbor's dogs. She can also often be found baking and cooking, and has even created a pretend cooking show for some of her friends (can we please get a Webex invite to the viewing party for your next episode, Liz?). Her favorite cuisine is Korean food, with Lighthouse Tofu being one of her favorite restaurants in the area. When she's not creating her own cooking shows, Liz enjoys

watching *Pushing Daisies* and *Gilmore Girls*; she's seen the latter more than a dozen times from beginning to end.

In the "before times," Liz enjoyed watching movies, traveling, and learning about new places/cultures/food/memes/obscure pop culture. Her favorite trip was to Mexico City, where she and her wife ate at every taqueria and panaderia they could find.

As to something people might not know about Liz, she admits that she is "extremely, annoyingly gullible." We "promise" we won't abuse this new knowledge, Liz, as we welcome you into your new role!

Heather Schubert Law Office 116



Heather is originally from Pittsburgh. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in art history from Allegheny College, a Master of Library and Information Science

from the University of Pittsburgh, and a law degree from Rutgers Law School - Camden. She then switched coasts and headed to Los Angeles, where she was in the trademark department at NBCUniversal. Heather headed back East to join Law Office 103 in the beginning of 2017.

While at the USPTO, Heather mentored in Law Office 127 and served as the acting senior attorney for Law Office 116. She has also been a “Buddy” and worked on cannabis special marks cases. Heather highlights mentoring as a great way to strengthen and develop her trademark knowledge by teaching, gaining experience working collaboratively, and learning how to communicate effectively.

Heather finds helping people to be the most gratifying aspect of the senior attorney position. When she sees it “click” for a mentee, or when she is able to help an examining attorney navigate a complex issue, or work with colleagues to resolve a case, “it’s been a good day.” Although Heather knew management received a lot of emails, she has found her inbox (that is, the constant guessing game as to how full it will be when logging in for the day) to be the most surprising aspect of her new role.

Heather recently moved across the river from Alexandria into D.C., so she enjoys exploring the city and trying new coffee shops and

restaurants (sushi is her special occasion treat!) in her spare time. She is also working on decorating her apartment, adding to her bookshelf, and winning over the affection of her cat. When she’s not out and about, you might find her watching re-runs of *New Girl* or binge watching sci-fi or fantasy shows (let us know if you have any recommendations, Heather).

The District is not the only place Heather has explored recently. This past winter, she spent a few days with some foodie/wine friends in Paris before taking a solo week to tour London. Heather says it was a great way to get a mix of seeing friends but also having a new solo-trip experience.

Finally, something you may not know about Heather is that she has been involved in the ABA IP Section for eight years and has built a network of IP friends across the country. She is also on the Board of Directors for the USPTO Fitness Center, which helps her stay active. We look forward to hearing your examination tips and your workout suggestions, Heather! **TM**



Trademarks Welcomes New Petition Attorneys

Catherine Tarcu



1. Where are you from and what schools did you attend? I grew up on Long Island. I attended George Mason University for undergraduate and Franklin Pierce Law Center (now the University of New Hampshire School of Law) for law school.

2. When did you start and where have you worked at the USPTO? I started at the USPTO in 2012 in Law Office 105. I completed a mentoring detail and acting senior attorney detail before accepting the permanent senior attorney position in Law Office 109.

3. What energizes you at work? Being able to cross things off my to-do list. I love the feeling of getting things done.

4. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit? Getting up earlier, and my six-month-old son, Roman, is definitely helping me achieve this new habit.

5. What's your favorite beverage? Champagne! Bubbles straight up or a champagne cocktail usually makes me quite content. OK, let's be honest, really any cocktail makes me happy!

6. If someone wrote a biography about you, what would the title be? *The Equestrian Traveler – An Account of the Private Life of Catherine L. Tarcu.*

7. What's something you saw recently that made you smile? My son.

8. What would you sing at Karaoke night? Lana Del Rey's "Summertime Sadness"

9. Any hobbies? Horseback riding!

10. What energizes you outside of work? Riding and competing on my horse, "Monroe," and now enjoying Roman. He's just discovered how to sit up on his own and watching him try to figure out everything in the world (and falling over while doing it) is quite entertaining.

11. Pearl of Wisdom/Life lesson? Learn something from everyone you meet. Always be respectful and kind. And lastly, when on vacation, put down your phone and take everything all in! Covid severely restricted our ability to travel, so I'm now yearning to get away and enjoy new places with an entirely new level of appreciation.

Evan Mucha



1. Where are you from and what schools did you attend? I grew up in West Chester, Pennsylvania, which is about an hour outside Philadelphia. I attended Columbia University

as an undergraduate and I earned my J.D. from Cornell Law School.

2. When did you start and where have you worked at the USPTO? I was lucky enough to join Law Office 106 when I was hired in March 2015. I served on a detail with the Copyright Team at OPIA and I've mentored in Law Offices 106 and 125. I was also part of the special marks group for applications involving controlled substances, especially marijuana.

3. What energizes you at work? I like to take on new challenges and interact with people in different work units.

4. What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit? Lately, I have been doing yoga in the morning before work and reading a book before bed instead of doomscrolling on my phone.

TM

5. **What's your favorite beverage?** Unsweetened iced tea. Also wine, beer, and coffee.

6. **If someone wrote a biography about you, what would the title be?** *Call Me by My Middle Name.*

7. **What's something you saw recently that made you smile?** My wife and I are expecting our first child in July. We recently got the 20-week ultrasound done and seeing those images put a pretty big smile on my face.

8. **What would you sing at Karaoke night?** "Criminal," by Fiona Apple

9. **Any hobbies?** I've been playing ice hockey since I was six and I still play a couple of times per week. I also enjoy playing the piano and guitar.

10. **What energizes you outside of work?** Preparing for the arrival of my son in the summer has been keeping me going of late. Beyond that, my wife is a professional dancer and watching her perform is one of my greatest joys.

11. **Pearl of Wisdom/Life lesson?** I'm still figuring this whole thing out, so I'm not sure I would be the best person to ask.

Brittany Lee-Richardson



1. **Where are you from and what schools did you attend?** I am from the Lover state of Virginia, Northern Virginia to be exact. I attended the University of Maryland – College Park for

undergraduate (GO TERPS!) and William & Mary Law School.

2. **When did you start and where have you worked at the USPTO?** I began this amazing career with the USPTO on February 22, 2016 (and I started with a class of rock stars!). I've been so fortunate to complete a work project with the TTAB and I detailed with the Petitions Office. I finished the detail right before being hired on permanently. Incredible timing! Also, I've served as a "TM Buddy" for a few amazing examining attorneys, including one who became my senior attorney just before I left for the Petitions Office.

3. **What energizes you at work?** A few things keep me energized at work, including music of all kinds, wonderful colleagues and managers, and nuanced issues. I truly enjoy learning new information and figuring out the answer to oddball issues.

4. **What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?** Working out at least two full hours, six days a week would be phenomenal. Also, not continuously snacking on KIND Bark throughout the day would be a great habit to make or break, however you want to put it!

5. **What's your favorite beverage?** Typically, I really enjoy an Arnold Palmer with sweet tea or a nice crisp hard cider, but lately iced cold water has been the go-to.

6. **If someone wrote a biography about you, what would the title be?** My bio likely would be titled something like *Poetically Blessed or Charisma is Her Name* or maybe *The Rainbow in the Rain*.

7. **What's something you saw recently that made you smile?** My son enjoying playing his trumpet. He's quite good now and this is only his

second year.

8. **What would you sing at Karaoke night?** So many songs, including "Happy," by Pharrell Williams, "I Want to Dance with Somebody," by Whitney Houston, and Montell Jordan's "This is How We Do It."

9. **Any hobbies?** I love to play and watch sports with family and friends; research and check out sports cars; write poetry and stories; make-up fun songs; travel (except during the pandemic); shop; and take millions of pictures of everything. My favorite place I've visited is Hawaii.

10. **What energizes you outside of work?** Exercise, sermons, family, friends, beautiful weather, music, and kind people.

11. **Pearl of Wisdom/Life lesson?** Life is unbelievably short and, at times, quite unfair, so live life to the fullest, treat people with love and respect, help people in need, take time for reflection, do things that make YOU happy, focus on the light in dark times, and smile. Lastly, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a as many times as you can in a week.

Wendy Jun



1. **Where are you from and what schools did you attend?** Bounced around between South Korea, Singapore, and different parts of the U.S. due to my dad's job until I came to Northern Virginia during

middle school. Graduated from Virginia Tech undergraduate and Syracuse University College of Law.

TM

2. **When did you start and where have you worked at the USPTO?** Started in 2005 as an examining attorney and did a detail in the Petitions Office.
3. **What energizes you at work?** When I was an examining attorney, the bonus and overtime.
4. **What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?** Exercise. Quarantine really helps because there's not much else to do.
5. **What's your favorite beverage?** My illy coffee in the morning.
6. **If someone wrote a biography about you, what would the title be?** I couldn't think of an answer to this and asked my son for help and he answered: *Work*. I beg to differ.
7. **What's something you saw recently that made you smile?** I recently took my Havanpoo to the groomer and they shaved off like three inches and he came back looking like a Chihuahua. I couldn't stop laughing.
8. **What would you sing at Karaoke night?** I try to do people a favor and not sing.
9. **Any hobbies?** Traveling, reading, trying new restaurants.
10. **What energizes you outside of work?** Hiking. We are a big hiking family.

Erica Jeung Dickey



1. **Where are you from and what schools did you attend?** I grew up outside Milwaukee and I attended Washington University in St. Louis for undergraduate (Spanish/Political science) and Boston University School of Law

2. **When did you start and where have you worked at the USPTO?** I began at the USPTO in March 2015. I started as a trademark attorney right out of law school, in the Milwaukee office of a Midwestern law firm, then spent 18 months in Honolulu doing civil rights litigation. After coming back to D.C., I joined the same firm again until coming to the USPTO.
3. **What energizes you at work?** I love working with others to find creative ways to solve problems.
4. **What's one thing you're currently trying to make a habit?** During the pandemic, my family and I have been able to eat at least one, if not two (!) meals together every day. I'm not sure that two meals a day is sustainable long term, but I'd love to keep up the practice of all of us sitting down and eating together.
5. **What's your favorite beverage?** I'm that person who has at least two beverages on me at all times! And I have a really hard time picking favorites. I like to break down things into sub-categories so I can pick more favorites! Non-caffeinated: lime Spindrift. We buy multiple cases at Costco these days. Caffeinated: iced Americano with milk.
6. **If someone wrote a biography about you, what would the title be?** *For Real* – it's a phrase I say a lot, but also something I strive to be. This question is so hard! I picked mine based on Amy Poehler's *Yes Please*, which is a phrase I actually now try to incorporate into my life. I also thought about *Did You Have a Pet Cow?* The story of growing up Chinese-American in Wisconsin, based on Mindy Kaling's books, which almost all use questions as titles. The one

word title, like Michelle Obama's *Becoming*, was out of reach for me.

7. **What's something you saw recently that made you smile?** We have a bird feeder attached to the French doors that lead to our deck. The other day I saw a really fat squirrel climb up to the bird feeder, and I mean the fattest squirrel I have ever seen, with its fat white belly pressed against the glass. It was so cute! But then I got enraged that it was stealing from the birds and I let the kids chase it off. This also made me laugh.
8. **What would you sing at Karaoke night?** Carly Rae Jepsen's "Call Me Maybe." Or "Super Bass," by Nicki Minaj. Or what about "Landslide," by Fleetwood Mac. Also, can you tell I have a really hard time choosing things???
9. **Any hobbies?** I picked up a few hobbies during the pandemic: brush-lettering calligraphy, hiking, and learning to play the ukulele. Also, since all of the plants that used to live in my office came home, my house is approaching jungle-like status. On last count, my house had 50 house plants.
10. **What energizes you outside of work?** I like spending a morning checking in on all my plants to see how they are doing. I also love conversations with friends and family. And I enjoy getting outside to savor the sunshine.
11. **Pearl of Wisdom/Life lesson?** I have none and, seriously, that's my pearl of wisdom. People get and give so much advice, so only listen to the things that ring true for you. [TM](#)

Petitions Hires Two New Paralegal Specialists

Michael Hines



Michael was born and raised in Alexandria and graduated from T.C. Williams High School. While in high school, he began his career at the USPTO in 1992 as a docket clerk. Since 1997, he has worked as a legal instruments examiner in the Pre-Examination Unit.

He earned his business certification from Northern Virginia Community College, through the program that the USPTO offered to employees. During his tenure here, Michael served on several career development details in the Trademark Assistance Center and the Petitions Office. In fact, he became interested in applying for his new position after working two details in the Petitions Office. He believes that this new position will allow him to gain a broader understanding of the USPTO as a whole. When not working, Michael enjoys washing and waxing his car, bike riding on trails, fishing with family, and “just being out enjoying the weather” on a nice day.

Theresa Harris



Theresa Harris was born in Washington, D.C. She started with the USPTO in 1999 as a legal document review clerk on a term position. Since 2005, she has worked as a Trademark Information

Specialist in the Trademark Assistance Center. Due to her desire for professional growth, she decided to apply for the paralegal specialist position.

During her personal time, she loves to spend quality time with family and friends. She has two children, Nehemiah and Alyssa. She enjoys listening to gospel music, watching movies, singing and playing drums when needed at her church, as well as serving within her church. Her friends would describe Theresa as easy going, a good listener, a jokester and life of the party, passionate, and supportive. However, she says, “In all seriousness, I try to make the most out of life and take one day at a time because the next day isn’t promised.” **TM**

A COMMUNAL BREATH



At the beginning of the pandemic last year, friends and colleagues encouraged me to offer a virtual yoga class as a well-being initiative to support our Trademarks community during these unprecedented times. Eagerly, I embraced the suggestion and began my attempt to bring calm to this perfect storm that began with an unusual and unpredictable concurrence of events and things impacting the entire world and especially our work lives. While many of us at the USPTO are used to working from home in some capacity, we are not used to the rest of our lives also being at home, all the time.

And so, I naively set foot on this well-being initiative, all the while thinking it would be something that would just last for a couple months and end once everything was back to *normal*. Well, spoiler alert, *normal* never came. As we approach the one-year anniversary of our weekly yoga sessions, I can't help but notice how it has become something greater than just this quick virtual break to stretch together.

Initially, each week began with the hope that someone would show up, find value in this, and feel better. However, somewhere along the way, doubt and nerves turned into reassurance, which quickly became comfort and ease. New faces kept coming with even more returning like loyal friends. Nearly everyone expressed gratitude and shared that they felt the benefits of just 15 minutes of breathing and stretching together. It wasn't long before we had a communal space for spreading mind and body wellness, one that I can now confidently say isn't going anywhere, not in this new normal nor if the old normal ever triumphs.

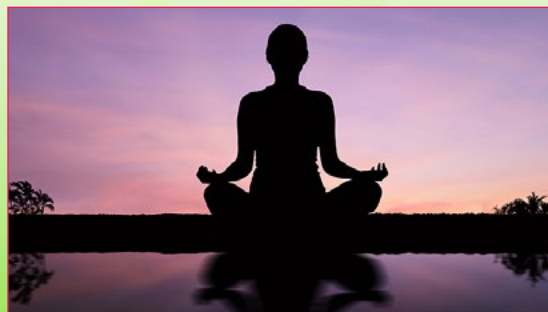
When we set on a new path, we often end up somewhere different from where we imagined we would. I can now say each person finishes practice feeling a little different, a little lighter, and more open compared to how they showed up at the beginning of class. For that, I am thankful that my showing up for others can be such a positive force.

For the modern life filled with no-goers stuck in the constant state of rushing from one thing to another to the nonbelievers, trying to fit in even ten minutes more of another thing can feel like a daunting task. So while time isn't something we have in ample supply, a yoga practice can truly do wonders for your mind-set, stress relief, and body wellness. I know you hear it and see it everywhere, so I will not bore you with a list of benefits, but I can't help myself from saying one thing: I can promise you that if you take just one minute to notice what is going on inside, the monkey mind we all so often become a victim to will, at the very minimum, give way to a sense of calm and release for that fleeting moment.



And so once again, I set foot on this path to support our community, especially for those who haven't been able to join because of conflicting obligations, with an extension of our communal space to help you quiet the monkey-mind chatter and loosen up the stiffness in our bodies.

"SO HUM" MEDITATION



Step 1

Find a comfortable posture for breathing, a cushion or chair works just fine. Let your spine rise up from your seat, imagine a string attached to the top of your head and holding you up straight.

Step 2

Bring your attention to the tidal rhythm of your breath, feeling the rise and fall of your inhale and exhale. As you inhale, silently say "so" to yourself and as you exhale, say "hum" and begin to employ the mantra "so hum." Notice how the breath in sounds like "so" and the breath out sounds like "hum."

Step 3

Once the "so hum" rhythm has been established, contemplate the meaning of the mantra. As you inhale "so," say to yourself, "I am" and connect with your inner self. As you exhale with "hum," inwardly say "that" or "all that is." Visualize your breath entering "I am" with each "so" and then with each "hum" visualize the same breath leaving your body through your nostrils and back into your surroundings and "all that is." If a thought arises, come back to "so hum."

Begin with setting a timer for a few minutes and as you get more comfortable and less distracted, increase the time on your timer.

DESK YOGA STRETCH



photo credit
Medium.com

1. Sit at the edge of your chair with your back tall and straight with feet and knees hips-width apart. Raise your arms, interlace your hands together, and do an overhead stretch. As you stretch, breathe three times.
2. Sit with your back straight and fold forward with both hands placed flat on the ground. Hold for a few seconds and breathe normally.
3. Inhale and raise both arms up and lift your seat into chair pose. Keep your knees hips-width apart, chest forward and arms above your head, in line with ears.
4. Sit down with your legs bent at the knee and tucked under your thighs. Your heels should touch your seat, and the toes should be kept together. If sitting like that gets too painful, get a small cushion or a thick folded cloth and place it under your feet. Sit for at least three breaths.

5. Sit straight and reach your hands a couple inches behind your hips. Push into the chair, and reach your shoulder blades down and back. Send your gaze up. Sit for three to five breaths.


6. Sit in a cross-legged position or with your knees and feet together in front of you. Inhale through the mouth, notice the air pass onto your tongue. Exhale through your nose and notice how the air feels as it passes through your nostrils. Sit for five breaths.

So basically, now you are a yogi too! If all of this isn't enough to create a consistent practice or persuade you to join me every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., I'll leave you with this quote because, well, who doesn't love a good quote:

Grounded confidence is the messy process of learning and unlearning, practicing and failing, and surviving a few misses. This brand of confidence is not blustery arrogance or posturing or built on BS; it's real, solid, and built on self-awareness and practice. Once we witness how courage can transform the way we live, we can trade the limitations that keep us small for grounded confidence

that lifts us up and supports our efforts to be brave.

-adapted from *Dare to Lead* by Brene Brown

Keep practicing! For any questions, please reach me at kamal.bal@uspto.gov.  TM



New TM Information Specialists

Aiysha Wilson

Aiysha joined the Trademark Assistance Center (TAC) team in March 2021 as a Trademark Information Specialist (TIS). Prior to transitioning to the Trademarks organization, Aiysha worked in the Application Assistance Center Unit as a customer service representative. She was a contractor for 20 years and worked in various offices, including the Office of the Commissioner for Patents. She looks forward to sharing her knowledge and adding value to the TAC team.

Aiysha currently resides in Prince George's County, Maryland, where she enjoys listening to good music, dancing, walks in the park, and spending quality time with her children.

Shannon Wallace

Shannon currently serves as a TIS in TAC. She originally joined the USPTO in March 2006 as a contractor in UCCD Contact Center, where she worked as a customer service representative until 2010. In that year, she joined the Calvert County public school system to pursue her passion of teaching and helping the youth as a substitute teacher and a substitute bus assistant. She rejoined the USPTO Contact Center contract staff in 2016, which eventually led her to join

the government team within the Application Assistance Unit, where she continued her passion of helping others.

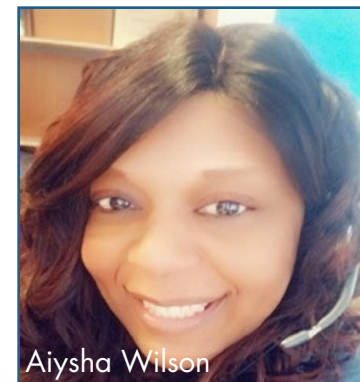
Shannon enjoys listening to music, shopping, reading, and spending time with her family, especially her little nephew, Elijah. She has two dogs: a miniature dachshund and a chocolate lab. She lives in Calvert County, Maryland with her family.

Monique Watts

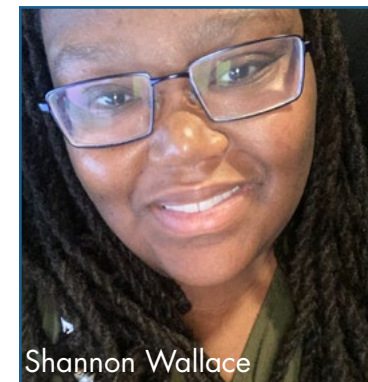
Monique joined the USPTO in February 1991 and has held a variety of positions in her 30-year career. In addition to serving as a document clerk, a legal instrument examiner in the Pre-Examination Unit and a law office, she has served on several career details. She was featured in a TM People article on customer service, an area in which she excels. Monique joined TAC in December 2020 as a TIS. Monique is originally from Jacksonville and relocated to the metropolitan area by way of Beaufort, South Carolina. She attended Voorhees College, where she majored in business administration.

She is an active member of the Patent and Trademark Society and the Asian Pacific American Network, serving as the trademark representative for both affinity groups. She has also been a member of the Piranhas dragon

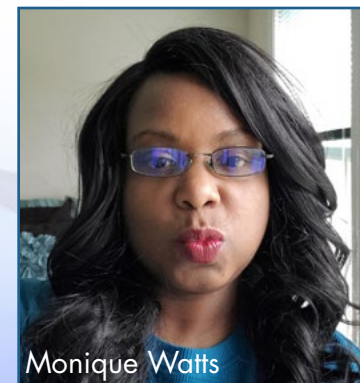
boating team for at least seven years. Hobbies include volunteering, flute playing, being an active member of the Trademark EXPO team, and spending time with her family and pet cat, "Midnight." You might also recognize Monique as the "grape" from the "Fruit of the Loom" EXPO costume.



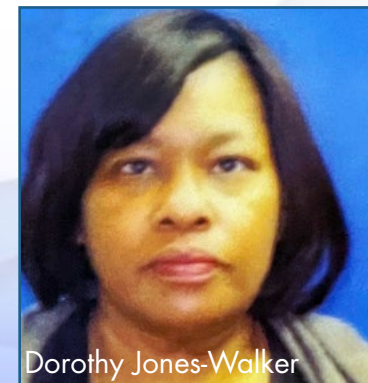
Aiysha Wilson



Shannon Wallace



Monique Watts



Dorothy Jones-Walker

Dorothy Jones-Walker

Dorothy joined TAC in 2021 as a TIS. Prior to joining TAC, she spent 13 years as an administrative coordinator for the Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Management System Trademark. Prior to joining the USPTO, she worked for AT&T for 15 years. Dorothy has a Bachelor of Science in technical management with a minor in criminal justice and is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority. She enjoys life by spending time with her family, including her dog, “Max,” and cat, “Nicki,” listening to music, and mastering the art of people watching.

Crystal Harley

Cystal joined TAC on March 28, 2021. She starts her journey as a government employee with 22 years of high-level customer service experience. Crystal was born in Washington, D.C. She is a continuous learner who enjoys traveling, exploring new restaurants, and DIY projects. Crystal is passionate about spending time with her husband, children, and grandson.

Since the pandemic, she has become a novice gardener and looks forward to planting seeds of knowledge into the Trademarks customer.

Horace Hamlin

Horace joined the USPTO in 1997, working as a contractor for the Office of Public Records, Certification

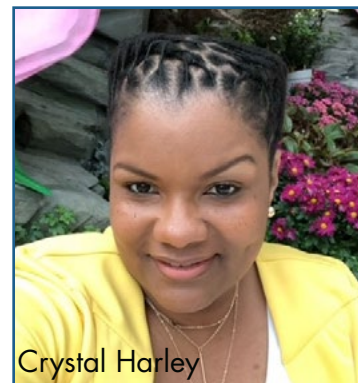
Branch and has had several positions supporting the mission and goals of the USPTO. He transitioned to a government position in December 2019 as a customer service representative for the Application Assistance Unit. In March 2021, he joined TAC as a TIS.

He enjoys spending quality time with his wife and his 15-year-old son, particularly when teaching him the art of winning a one-on-one game of basketball. In his spare time, Horace likes riding motorcycles, watching movies, and cooking on his grill (he’s been labeled a “GRILL MASTER”). Horace lives in Charles County, Maryland.

Renee Johnson

Renee rejoined the USPTO on March 1, 2021 as a TIS within TAC. She was previously employed for 13 years in the Intent-to-Use Division and left the Trademarks organization to start her entrepreneurship journey as the founder and chief executive officer of Little Wonders Family Child Care Center. She has since turned over the entrepreneurship reigns to her daughter.

Renee is excited to rejoin her Trademarks family and continue her passion of helping and serving others. She currently lives in Temple Hill, Maryland and enjoys traveling, listening to music, and reading. During the pandemic, she has developed a new interest in crafting. Renee’s family and friends are at the center of her heart and life. **TM**



Crystal Harley

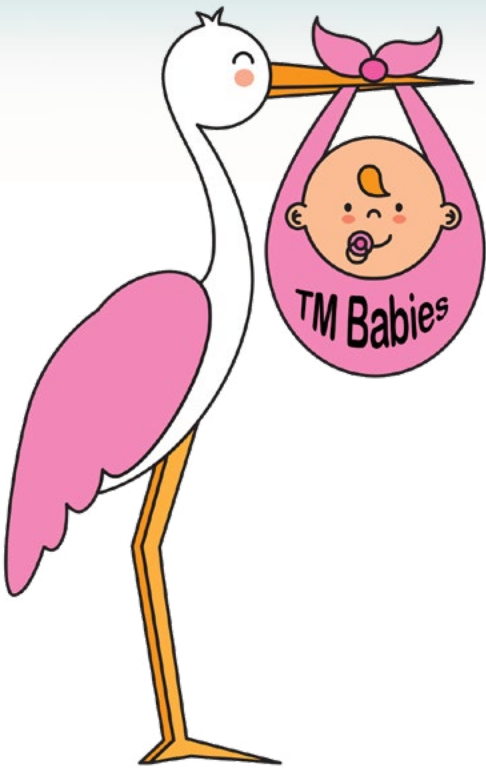


Horace Hamlin



Renee Johnson

New TM People Babies



Designer Paul Ehke welcomed his third daughter, Sarah, on February 20th.



Managing Producer Liz Jackson welcomed her second daughter, Mara, on February 28th



TM

The Trademark Tourist

I love to travel. Visiting new cities and exploring new locales is one of my favorite things to do, and one of the things I've missed the most this past year. And ever since I started working for the USPTO, I also love trademark spotting – I guess I've never really outgrown that new-trademark-attorney excitement at seeing marks I've examined or registered out in the real world. So it shouldn't come as a surprise that back in the days when unfettered travel was something taken for granted, I had the added habit of dragging my family to places that coincide with various well-known trademarks.

For example, I'm sure we've all turned up the 109-words long THE LEGEND OF THE DUCKS mark (Reg. No. 3853633) during many an X-search session. So during a road trip that included Memphis, I made sure that we included a visit to The Peabody Hotel at the proper time to see the ducks take their walk. Unfortunately, if you don't position yourself just right, it's really hard to get a good picture.



Driving north from Atlanta into the mountains, I saw a sign for a restaurant in Tiger, Georgia with goats eating grass off the roof. I immediately informed my husband that we would be making an unplanned stop – after all, I presumed that these goats must be affiliated with Reg. Nos. 2007624 and 3942832, which are for goats grazing on



grass covering the roofs of buildings. Alas, it turns out the goats we gazed upon do not appear to be affiliated with the registrations' owner, Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant and Butik, Inc., rather with a different individual who registered the words GOATS ON THE ROOF with a design for grocery stores back in 2009; that mark (Reg. No. 3625719) has



since been canceled. But the goats were still fun to watch.

While my family and I enjoy gallivanting about in our minivan, that's not our only mode of travel. We took the TEXAS EAGLE (Reg. No. 3162194 for railroad transportation services) from Dallas to Chicago.



Another time, heading to a flight at JFK, I had to pause and take a photo of the display showing the evolution of the

American Airlines logo over the years (including Reg. Nos. 0785759, 1905580, 4004914, and 4449061).

With most of our travel plans canceled this past year, I was afraid that my trademark-seeking opportunities would be lost as well. But then I recalled the recent hullabaloo over that grand Texas institution, Bucc-ee's travel stops and its beaver mascot (Reg. Nos. 3246893, 4007064, 4316461, 4973185, and 4973077) vs. the Choke Canyon

crocodile mascot (now canceled Reg. Nos. 4446867 and 5010931), and knew that a timely picture of Bucc-ee himself (with mask!) was a step in the right direction. Then, just a few weeks ago, as we drove to and from Lake Brownwood State Park, we passed over Pecan Bayou – geographic subject of a Trademark Trial and Appeal Board appeal over a Section 2(d) refusal and included case in our recent training for evaluating overall commercial impression.



Yep, traveling with a self-professed trademark geek can definitely be a bit of a challenge – there's always a photo op or an extra stop. Fortunately, my husband and kids are (usually) good sports about it. And, hopefully someday soon, we can get back to our travel habits of old and keep crisscrossing the country, pausing to note the trademarks as we go. **TM**



Unsolicited Advice on Summer Reading for Kids

Some people prefer ski slopes, hot chocolate, and holiday music on repeat; I prefer beaches, cookouts, and fireflies. I'm a summer person. As winter fades into spring and this interminable school year filled with schedule changes, technical glitches, and first-year viola classes in the living room winds down, I'm ready for a summer escape. Of course, I'm also looking forward to summer reading-when you're a librarian your kids are going to read and a distant land is as close as the couch.

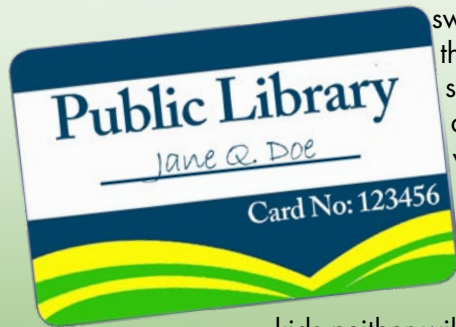
How do you get your kids to read? I'm not a school librarian but as a parent in an adjacent

specialty, here's how I established an "I get to read" mindset.

We shop for books wherever we go. We participate in [Little Free Libraries](#) and exchange titles through our neighborhood [Buy Nothing group](#). We give and receive books as gifts. Before or after we watch a TV show together we look for that book or for more by the same author. We take photos of interesting book covers in stores. Graphic novels, favorite tomes, art books, and even Sunday comics litter almost every room of our house. And, of course, we make regular use of school and public libraries.

We let our kids own their reading experience. Send a subliminal message by taking a basket as you enter the library and let your wee one carry it until it's too full of treasures to manage. At a certain age, let your child explore the shelves away from prying parental eyes. I give my kids wide latitude to choose whatever strikes their fancy. At our house books are not gendered and heroes come from all walks of life; technical manuals, nonfiction titles, and even the occasional book in a foreign language spark imagination and conversation. Intervention is minimal. Sometimes books sit untouched before they're returned, but other times my children surprise me (and themselves) with a new interest.

Empower kids from the start. When they're little, make a big deal about how grown up it is to have a library card and then get them their own as soon as they can sign their names on the back. My daughter



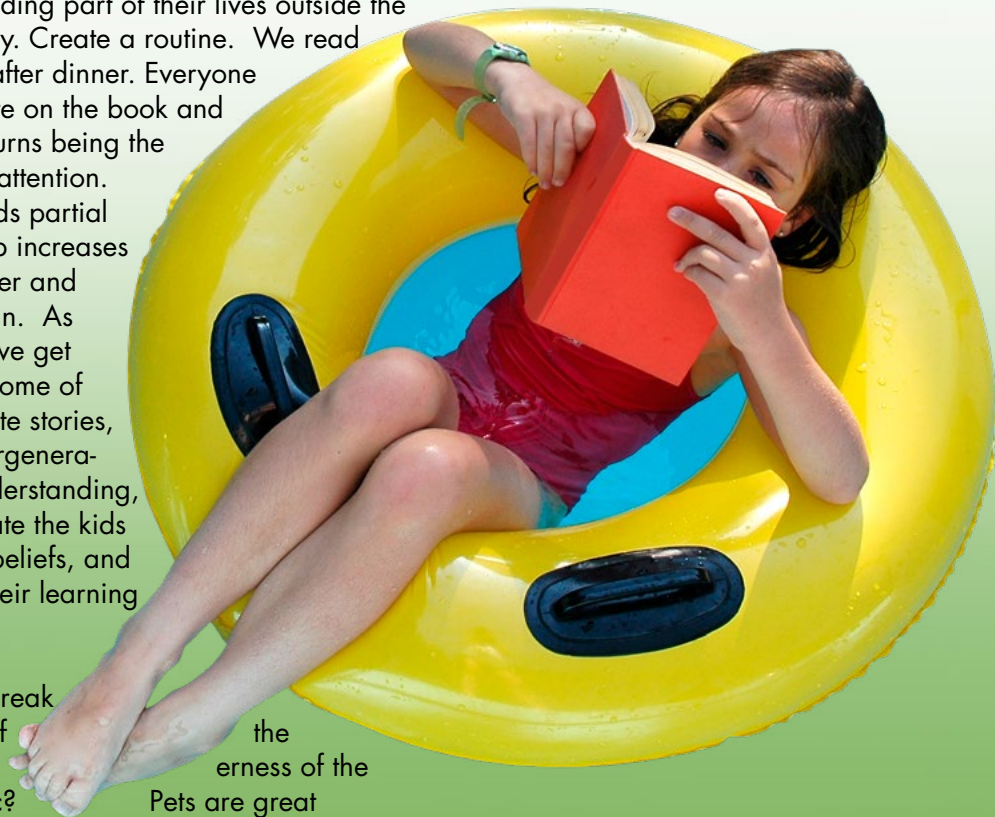
swore she could smell the scratch-and-sniff sticker for a full year after she received her very own [Precious](#). Embrace their exuberance; nine times out of ten if you don't shush your

kids neither will the staff. Harness little ones' "I do it" mentality by letting them check out the books. Teach older children to search the online catalog on their phones and to borrow audio titles. Our teens are already glued to those screens wearing headphones for hours at a time anyway, right?

What should your kids read? Consider sending an email to your child's school librarian for recommendations. They'll know what's popular as well as what's happening in the classroom. It's also helpful to understand how books are segmented into different markets based on reading ability, stamina, and by how sophisticated the content is. Picking the right books can be particularly tricky when [choosing between middle grade and young adult novels](#). An expert can help.

Make reading part of their lives outside the school day. Create a routine. We read out loud after dinner. Everyone gets a vote on the book and we take turns being the center of attention. Giving kids partial ownership increases their power and their buy-in. As parents, we get to relive some of our favorite stories, build intergenerational understanding, indoctrinate the kids with our beliefs, and witness their learning firsthand.

Need a break from all of the togetherness of the pandemic? Pets are great listeners. If you don't have an animal friend of your own you can sign up to read to a dog through Zoom Room or read to a favorite stuffy. Some libraries also host therapy dogs for this purpose. Personally, I look forward to the return of such programs at local animal shelters where kids simultaneously practice their skills and socialize cats and dogs for forever homes.



I like to create reading destinations on the home front, too. There's often a blanket fort in the living room with or without a furry friend inside. We also snuggle up in the hammock to share stories. You can do the same with an indoor bent tent or a cheap camping tent in the yard. Bonus points for the flashlight that lets them think they're getting away with something. Partial credit for

dragging a device under the covers to watch children's books on YouTube. Bring on the popcorn or the s'mores around a fire pit to give reading time a camping or ghost-story flair. Just keep the paper away from the melting chocolate and marshmallows!



Take the story beyond the book. Have your kids attended a Harry Potter- or Wings of Fire-themed camp? Maybe you could put those pandemic cooking skills to use

with a Fancy Nancy Tea Party or whip up some Fantastic Foods from Redwall. When it's time to travel again, we'll be headed to Assateague Island thanks to Misty of Chincoteague and maybe one day we'll get to visit Klickatut Street.

I don't know where the next story will take us or if we'll get there by rocket ship, boat, or bus. But I'm ready for an odyssey of the mind and hope you are too. Let's throw off those winter coats and get away! [TM](#)

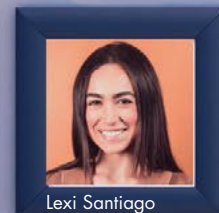
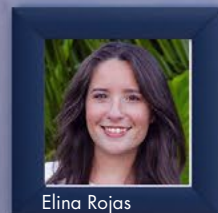
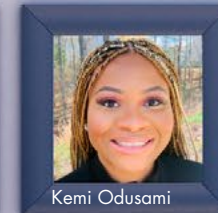
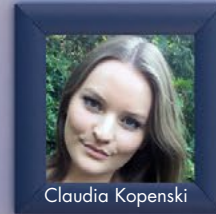
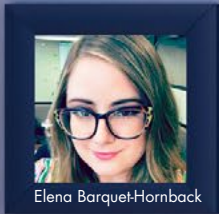
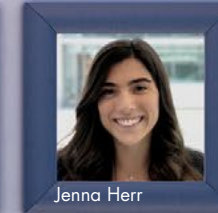
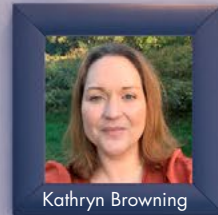




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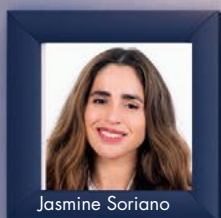
Trademarks Welcomes Our New Trademark Examining Attorneys

Christine Brightmire King
and Matthew Cuccias
Law Office 111 / Law Office 116





Paige Siegel



Jasmine Soriano



Stephen Stanwood



Katie Sutton



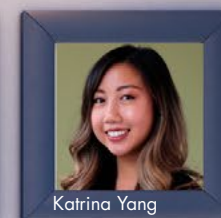
Justin Wickersham



Chris Wolfsen



Kristen Wu



Katrina Yang

Brandon Arey

Law Office 127

Originally from Caribou, Maine, Brandon currently lives in Woburn, Massachusetts. He graduated (cum laude) with a B.S. in philosophy from St. Anselm College in 2011, and graduated (cum laude) from New England Law | Boston in 2016. After law school, he worked as a civil litigation defense attorney. Brandon became interested in trademarks during law school. He always had an interest in sports and thought his best path to be able to work in sports would be through trademarks and the branding and assets associated therewith. Brandon interned with a trademark law firm and also served as a research assistant for a trademark professor. He decided to work at the USPTO because “it is the hub of all trademarks in the U.S.” Recently married, Brandon enjoys cycling, motorcycles, classic cars, and finding the next binge-worthy series. He also is a die-hard New England sports fan and avidly roots for the New England Patriots, Boston Bruins,

and New England Revolution, as well as Liverpool Football Club in the English Premier League (professional soccer).

Ivie Baker

Law Office 113

Ivie, a self-described adventure seeker from South Memphis, has never met a challenge that he was not ready to engage. He has overcome many such challenges, including scaling Table Mountain in South Africa, working with “his better half to beat the odds as a food entrepreneur while still in law school,” and “taming two kids under two” during a global pandemic. He says that he is “always ready to encounter situations with the full force of my effort and perseverance, and I am excited to bring this attitude to my role at the USPTO.”

Amber Barreda

Law Office 103

Amber is originally from Illinois. She double-majored in political science and psychology at the University of Illinois at Champaign-

Urbana before attending American University Washington College of Law. She developed an interest in trademark law through a variety of IP-related courses and during her practice as a student attorney for the Glushko-Samuels Intellectual Property Clinic. While in law school, Amber worked at Facebook in the privacy and policy sector. Before coming to the USPTO, she worked at WorthPoint Corporation as an intellectual property counsel. Amber is a die-hard White Sox fan and in her free time also enjoys cooking, traveling (pre-COVID), playing sports, working on her green thumb, and hiking with her pup, “Copper.” A fun/embarrassing fact about Amber is that she is terribly afraid of clowns.

Kathryn Browning

Law Office 124

Kathryn is an Arlington native and went to Georgetown undergraduate, majoring in philosophy and minoring in German and Spanish. She has an M.A. in political science from George Mason University and

went to law school at George Washington University. She previously worked in communications in the U.S. House of Representatives and has spent the last ten years working for the Social Security Administration, with a focus on identifying and addressing fraudulent claims. Kathryn has always found trademark law interesting and she is very excited to learn more about it. With two young children, she says that “most of my extracurricular time is spent chasing after them.” However, she also loves to travel, learn new languages, and experience other cultures. A fun fact about Kathryn is that she is a surprisingly talented parallel parker, a useful skill in this area!

Rebecca Choi

Law Office 118

Rebecca is a “Double Terp,” having graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a B.A. in English language and literature and from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. She graduated law school with a focus in business and intellectual property. She served as the judicial law clerk to the Honorable Timothy J. McCrone at the Howard County Circuit Court. Rebecca decided to pursue trademark law because she thought the visual elements of trademark law were striking. Given her interest in trademarks and public service, she said she knew that “working at the USPTO was always an end goal of mine” but “to be able to start my legal career here is surreal!” Rebecca enjoys golfing and backcountry camping, with the most

memorable locales being the Grand Tetons and the South Island of New Zealand.

Jessica Chong

Law Office 102

Originally from Raleigh, Jessica joins Law Office 102 after clerking in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. She majored in biological sciences at North Carolina State University and worked in vaccine operations at Merck prior to pursuing a J.D. from Elon University School of Law. Jessica became interested in trademarks through law school IP courses, researching trademark issues during law school internships, and serving as the President of the Intellectual Property Society. She is excited to work at the USPTO by combining her interest in trademarks and public service. In her spare time, Jessica enjoys running, playing tennis, traveling, and discovering fusion foods.

Diana Chung

Law Office 129

Diana is from Fort Lauderdale. She graduated from the University of Miami, with a major in marketing and a minor in accounting before attending St. Thomas University School of Law. Previously, Diana worked as a real estate attorney, a law clerk at CACI and an attorney at the Social Security Administration (Appeals Council). Her interest in trademark law began after she assisted another attorney in the defense of a heavily litigated patent infringement case. As an added bonus, her husband

has been a patent examiner at the USPTO for the past 13 years and her two children are enrolled at the Innovation Station. She jokes that she spends “so much time on campus already, it obviously made sense to work here too.” In her spare time, she enjoys helping people to find COVID vaccine appointments. However, she notes that “other than that, my hobby/interest time has been absorbed by my kids. I used to like to read, though.” Diana’s fun fact: her parents are both Jamaican Chinese (Chinese but born in Jamaica), so she grew up immersed in both cultures.

Megan Clifford

Law Office 111

Megan is from Cincinnati. She attended Belmont University in Nashville, where she graduated with a B.A. in entertainment industry studies. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Megan decided to pursue a law degree at Brooklyn Law School. It was while attending Brooklyn that Megan developed a passion for IP – particularly trademarks. Prior to accepting this position, Megan worked as a law clerk in the IP department of a law firm that primarily focused on anti-counterfeiting and brand enforcement. She is very excited to be joining the USPTO and is looking forward to her move to the D.C. area! In her free time, Megan enjoys taking Pilates reformer classes, listening to podcasts, and trying new restaurants.

Samantha Cruzado

Law Office 128

Samantha grew up in Yonkers and completed her undergraduate degree at Drexel University in Philadelphia with a major in music business. She went to law school at Pace Law School in White Plains, New York. Samantha has worked as a freelance audio engineer/producer in college, in retail at a big-box music instrument store, and at a music law firm. She says that her interest in trademark law started as an interest in branding within the music business. Her first hands-on experience with trademark law was assisting in trademark prosecution for a solo practitioner. She recalls that “those experiences with the Trademarks organization are what sparked my interest in trademark examination.” Samantha enjoys hiking with her dog, photography, playing guitar/writing music, and cooking.

Tiesha Fields

Law Office 129

Tiesha was born and raised in Black Diamond, Washington. She graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle, before attending law school at New England Law | Boston. After law school, she worked for a small firm “doing every area of law that passed through the door,” before leaving to obtain her LL.M. in Intellectual Property Law and Policy at the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle. After graduation, she opened her own law firm, specializing in trademark and copyright protection, as well as non-IP fields.

She decided on the USPTO because she wants to focus her career on trademark law and it provides a great balance between meaningful work and real life. Tiesha has a very close-knit family that spends a lot of time together. She has a Yorkie-Maltese named “Atty” who is “spoiled rotten.” Tiesha loves to read, watch movies, eat out, and is up for any kind of adventure at any time. Fun fact: her parents are missionaries with the Assemblies of God Church and she lived in Rustenburg, South Africa for several years as a teenager. She has an “adopted by heart” younger brother who is from Zambia. Of the many mission trips she did with her parents around the globe, some of her favorite places are Nepal, Haiti, Dominican Republic, and Brazil.

Mike Furda

Law Office 129

Michael is from Princeton, New Jersey. He graduated with a B.A. in philosophy from Rider University in 2016 and received his J.D. from Rutgers Law School in 2020. Michael first developed an interest in IP law after taking an intellectual property course. Afterwards, he worked at the Rutgers Intellectual Property Law Clinic during his 3L year. Michael decided to work at the USPTO because he wanted to follow his passion for trademark law and work with attorneys who share the same interest. The USPTO is Michael’s first full-time job after graduating law school. However, he previously worked as

a law clerk at a small patent firm. In his free time, he enjoys being with friends, going to the beach, and playing video games.

Jamilla Galloway

Law Office 121

Jamilla grew up in Jackson, Mississippi and is a graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi School of Law. Her previous experience includes working as a commercial litigation associate for a mid-sized law firm in Michigan and serving as production counsel for an L.A.-based TV/film production company. Throughout her career, Jamilla has always had an interest in trademark law and pursued this further by earning her LL.M. in Intellectual Property at the University of Washington. For Jamilla, working at the USPTO is the perfect opportunity to merge her interest in the constant evolution of creative ideas with the rights and protection provided by the law. In her free time, Jamilla is an avid runner who has run over six marathons.

Jessica Gearhart

Law Office 106

Jessica grew up in Texas. She received her undergraduate degree in 2009 from Tarleton State University and her Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from Texas Wesleyan University in 2013. Jessica began her law career as a DOJ Honors Attorney in 2013. She spent the next eight years with the Bureau of Prisons, working in both employment law and as senior agency

counsel. Jessica first became interested in intellectual property in law school and is excited to join the USPTO. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, attempting to be crafty/artsy and failing spectacularly, and spending time with her husband, David, their son, Maxwell, and two Goldendoodles, “Pippa” and “Penny.”

Ashley Green

Law Office 119

Ashley grew up in the Washington, D.C. area and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware and her law degree from American University. In college, she was a catcher on the women's softball team, and prior to law school she lived in Japan for two years. After she graduated from law school, she worked in “big law” for five years, and most recently ran her own law practice in Bethesda. Ashley is excited to be working at the USPTO because trademark prosecution has always been her favorite part of practice, “and it's nice to bring that passion to public service.” From both a practitioner and consumer perspective, she loves good branding. In her spare time, Ashley likes to swim and write fiction.

Jenna Herr

Law Office 101

Jenna is from Joplin, Missouri. She earned a B.S. in business administration and a minor in entrepreneurship from the University of Missouri before attending the American University Washington College of Law. She spent the past year working as a real estate

attorney in Georgia, where she specialized in residential real estate closings. Her interest in trademark law developed over time. During college, Jenna worked in the marketing department for a startup company. While she loved marketing and brand creation, she was even more interested in what the attorney was doing to protect the brand. Throughout law school, she took several trademark courses and was involved in the school's IP Clinic. Jenna says she is excited to be at the USPTO where she'll have the “opportunity to learn the ins and outs of trademark law while also incorporating my marketing background.” Jenna loves spending time with her family and friends, travelling, playing tennis, and a good trivia night.

Mark Hill

Law Office 129

Mark is from Charlotte. He graduated from North Carolina State University (B.S. in biological sciences) and Howard University School of Law (J.D./M.B.A. dual degree). After law school, he worked as a compliance analyst for Wells Fargo Securities, and more recently as a visual arts copyright examiner at the U.S. Copyright Office. Mark's interest in trademark law started early in his law school career when he participated in Howard's trademark clinic. This led to a great experience as a trademark intern at Google, LLC.'s headquarters in Mountain View, California. Mark enjoys jogging and leading an active lifestyle. He is passionate about music, movies, the arts (general), and intellectual property (trademarks

and copyrights). Fun fact: during a study abroad opportunity in law school, Mark spent a summer in Cape Town, where he was taught South African constitutional law by Justice Zak Yacoob, a former Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa.

Allie Horn

Law Office 120

Originally from Atlantic City, Allie went to the University of South Florida for international affairs and criminology and studied abroad in London before attending Pace University School of Law. Before coming to the USPTO, she was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Jeffrey J. Waldman, J.S.C. in the Superior Court of New Jersey. Allie became interested in trademark/IP law while working at the United Nations, where she learned about WIPO. She is excited to practice in this area of the law. In her free time, Allie has several volunteer roles with the Sierra Club of New Jersey. She also likes taking dance classes, painting, and spending as much time as possible outdoors.

Elena Barquet-Hornback

Law Office 120

Elena is from Puerto Rico. She did her undergraduate studies in Ann Arbor and graduated from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. She began working as a law clerk in the Extraordinary Remedies Courtroom in the Court of First Instance of San Juan. Later, she continued as a law clerk for the same judge in

the Puerto Rico Court of Appeals. In 2019, she was recruited to work at a local medical malpractice law firm as a litigation attorney, where she represented the defendants and insurance companies. Elena loves reading, art, cats, dance and workout classes, growing all sorts of plants, doing makeup, and enjoying the outdoors. Surprisingly, Elena is a ballet history buff.

Andrew Janson

Law Office 105

Andrew is from Colorado originally (where he still lives at the moment, although he plan to move to Virginia later in 2021). He majored in journalism at the University of Denver and graduated from law school there, focusing on intellectual property law and cannabis law and policy. He worked as a writer and editor for a tech magazine. After law school, he practiced law at a small hemp law firm in Colorado. Through his background in media, Andrew first discovered his passion for intellectual property, and particularly trademarks, because it is “something we all interact with on a daily basis.” When he is not working, you’ll almost always find Andrew practicing guitar or piano, or playing hockey (when he can get ice time). Andrew also enjoys relaxing at home with his cat and spending time with his family.

Taryn Joswig

Law Office 127

Taryn is from California. She majored in history at the University of California (Berkeley)

before attending the University of Michigan law school. Prior to law school, she worked at a large firm assisting Social Security Disability claimants at hearings before administrative law judges. She also founded a contract brief-writing company, focusing in the area of Social Security disability claims. After law school, she practiced trademark law at a large firm. She decided to seek employment at the USPTO because she is “passionate about trademark law and public service.” Taryn enjoys literature, music, hiking, and her dogs.

Claudia Kopenski

Law Office 129

Claudia is from Morristown, New Jersey. She studied sociology, political science and law at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. She graduated from The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C., where she was a member and certificate recipient of the Law and Technology Institute with a focus on IP law. During law school, she worked as a legal intern for the Recording Industry Association of America, and served as a law clerk for both the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Copyright Office. Claudia’s passion for IP/trademark law came from her experience as an actress/singer and her desire to help individuals protect and monetize their creativity. She enjoys movies (particularly classic cinema), music, fashion and fashion law, and animals and animal welfare. Fun fact: Claudia grew up in London and is a dual citizen of the United

States and United Kingdom.

Kieu-Nhi Le

Law Office 129

Kieu-Nhi grew up in New Jersey and is now living in Brooklyn. She majored in English and political science at Rutgers University before graduating from Rutgers Law School. Prior to coming to the USPTO, she worked in compliance at J.P. Morgan. Due to Kieu-Nhi’s interest in trademark law, she focused on IP in law school and interned at a boutique IP firm in law school for a year. She enjoys cooking, hiking, and discovering new music. Fun fact: “My friends and I were in the opening credits of Saturday Night Live for a couple of seasons.”

Justine Levy

Law Office 128

Justine was born and raised in Las Vegas and attended University of Nevada, Las Vegas for undergrad, where she majored in English and psychology. She worked for a cannabis law firm in Las Vegas before attending the University of San Francisco School of Law. During law school, she spent both summers working abroad in Paris and Berlin. Her interest in intellectual property began after participating in her school’s international externship program. She spent her 1L summer working in an IP firm in Paris, where she was introduced to IP. After returning to school, she took several IP courses and then became involved in the IP Clinic, where she was able to help real clients.

She is very passionate about traveling, reading, listening to music, and watching movies. During the lockdown, she got really into cooking again and spent time recreating some of her Moroccan family meals. Some of her favorite travel stories include being in Paris when France won the World Cup, renting a camper van and driving through Iceland, and training with the Shaolin Monks in China.

Todd Lewellen

Law Office 110

Todd is originally from Southern California. He received a B.A. from the University of California at Irvine and a J.D. from Stanford Law School. After graduating from law school, he practiced civil litigation before joining the public sector as an attorney for the Social Security Administration. Todd became interested in trademarks and other intellectual property law during law school. He took all the intellectual property courses the school offered and served as an editor for a Stanford Law and Technology Association publication. In his free time, Todd enjoys spending time with friends, playing board games, reading books, and staying up late to watch Los Angeles Lakers games.

Jacob Magit

Law Office 111

Jacob is from San Diego. He received a degree in science and technology studies from the University of California, Davis before entering law school at the University of Washington.

Prior to the USPTO, he worked at a firm specializing in consumer protection. While in law school, he earned a fellowship with a professor whose research was focused on trademark and patent law. He has always been interested in how businesses choose their names and so felt drawn to trademark law in law school. He found he was most interested in the process of federal trademark registration, making the USPTO a natural fit. Jacob's hobbies include playing and listening to music, swimming, trying to play tennis, and playing too many video games in quarantine.

Katie Mahoney

Law Office 127

Originally from Chicago, Katie designed her own major focused on arts administration, philosophy, and sociology at Winona State University, before attending the University of Wisconsin Law School. After graduation, she worked as an attorney for Ogden Glazer + Schaefer, a business transactional law firm in Madison, Wisconsin. Throughout her undergraduate and law school studies she worked primarily with children as a teacher of everything from language skills to water skiing. A love of art led her to focus on IP law in law school. As she learned more about IP law, she frequently found herself discussing, and more often debating, matters of trademark law in her day-to-day life. Her work in private practice included a fair amount of trademark work, which she loved. It didn't take long for her to realize that she wanted to work more

exclusively in trademark law. She can't imagine a better place than the USPTO to do just that. Katie absolutely loves the outdoors, especially aquatic activities like boating, water skiing, and scuba diving. She likes to spend as much time as she can traveling, camping, and exploring new places with her crazy but very lovable dog, "Snowy".

Laura Marsh

Law Office 107

Laura graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, where she was a double major in music business and marketing. She first caught the IP bug while studying an introductory copyright law course and thereafter worked at a small artist management company after graduation. She later moved back to her hometown of St. Louis to attend Saint Louis University School of Law. While there, Laura was involved in the Sports and Entertainment Law Association, Student IP Law Association, and the Trademark Moot Court team. She graduated with concentrations in IP law and international and comparative law. Before joining the USPTO, Laura primarily worked in opioid litigation, and she is more than excited to get back into the IP world. When she's not working, Laura enjoys live music, sports (especially Formula One racing), and craft cocktails.

Anastasia Mebane

Law Office 129

Anastasia is a North Carolina Central University School of Law alumni by way of

UNC Chapel Hill. After college, she joined Teach For America and taught 11th grade English before attending law school. While in law school, she explored her passion for music through the lens of IP law. After working with music artists at her own entertainment company and working with entrepreneurs in the law school's trademark clinic, she realized the importance of balancing entrepreneurial interests with innovative freedom. This realization sparked a passion for trademark law and her interest in working for the USPTO as an agency that often balances those interests. After graduating and passing the California bar, she worked at a tech startup as a data privacy and IP counsel. Fun fact: she has read every Harry Potter book at least five times.

Charlie Miller

Law Office 112

Charlie is from Connecticut. He majored in English at the University of Connecticut and graduated from Quinnipiac University School of Law. Prior to attending law school, he worked as a legal intern, a substitute teacher, and a snowboard instructor. His interest in trademark law began in law school when he took a class on entertainment law, which touched on trademarks. During and after law school he worked at a boutique IP firm where he handled the trademark portfolios of clients ranging from mid-sized companies to individual applicants. He came to work at the USPTO because he believes it is the best place to have a meaningful and challenging career in

trademark law. In the winter, Charlie likes to ski and snowboard. In the summer, he likes to fly fish, camp, and hike.

Kemi Odusami

Law Office 117

Kemi was raised in Fort Washington, Maryland. She graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a B.S.C in biology. Thereafter, she worked in scientific research, which sparked her interest in IP law. She attended the University of Maryland School of Law with the goal of exploring this area of law. Apart from taking a diverse range of IP classes, she enrolled in the IP clinic where she further developed her keen interest in trademark law. She enjoyed working with individuals and high-tech startup companies and assisting them in building their IP portfolio. After law school, she worked as an attorney at the Social Security Administration for a few years. She enjoys traveling, working out, exploring new restaurants, and spending time with her friends and family. She also enjoys listening to a wide range of music and looks forward to attending concerts and music festivals as things return normal.

Hyun-Jung Oh

Law Office 129

Hyun-Jung was born and raised in Virginia but traveled to Massachusetts for her undergraduate degree at Smith College, majoring in studio arts and East Asian studies. She later received her J.D. from the George Mason

University Antonin Scalia Law School in 2020. Since Hyun-Jung was interested in learning about IP/trademark law and was drawn to public service, she participated in her law school's IP clinic. After graduating, she worked as a law clerk to a solo practitioner in the fields of veterans' law and EEO claims. She is excited to join the USPTO where she can bring together her art and legal backgrounds. In her free time, Hyun-Jung continues to paint and illustrate. She enjoys playing video games with her friends, reading mythologies, and watching films.

Tasha Pulvermacher

Law Office 125

Originally from Connecticut, Tasha moved to D.C. in 2010 and attended The George Washington University for both undergrad and law school. During college, Tasha majored in music and criminal justice. While in law school, she interned at National Public Radio in the Office of the General Counsel, which sparked her interest in trademark law. After law school, Tasha clerked at the D.C. Superior Court. She is excited to work in trademark law because it combines her love of music with her dedication to the practice of law. In her spare time, Tasha enjoys playing violin and viola in local orchestras and in the pit for various musicals. She also loves spending time with her puppy, "Ru."

Audrey Ricks**Law Office 129**

Audrey is from Northern Virginia. She attended the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia before graduating from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston with a concentration in IP and innovation. As an attorney, she worked in a variety of fields, including homelessness prevention, anti-money laundering, and trust and estates. Prior to law school, she worked in an art gallery and during law school she worked at an independent bookstore. Her interest in trademark law began in college when she worked with artists starting their own businesses and realized the importance of proper branding. Her outside interests include music theory and watching foreign films.

Cameron Rocha**Law Office 118**

Cameron is from Los Angeles. He majored in politics at the University of California (Santa Cruz) prior to earning his J.D. from American University Washington College of Law. He worked for a start-up Esports (a form of competition using video games) company called Nerd Street Gamers and previously clerked at the U.S. Copyright Office and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Cameron became interested in trademark law while a student attorney in his law school's Glushko-Samuelson IP Clinic. Working at the USPTO fulfills Cameron's long-term goal of working in IP and the federal government. His interests

outside IP law include rooting for his hometown sports teams (Rams, Lakers, and Dodgers) and Arsenal Football Club (soccer). He is also an avid scuba diver and went cave diving in Tulum in 2018.

Elina Rojas**Law Office 121**

Elina was born and raised in sunny Miami. She graduated from Florida International University with a B.S. in business administration, with a focus on marketing. She later received her J.D. from St. Thomas University School of Law, where she earned a certificate in intellectual property law. After law school, she wanted to explore her love for intellectual property and pursued an L.L.M. in IP from American University Washington College of Law. Her interest in marketing and branding led her to trademark law. She has a passion for traveling and learning about new cultures. Her favorite cities are Havana, Barcelona, and Tangier. She loves to cook traditional Cuban food to keep in touch with her roots and also try new recipes. She enjoys playing tennis, practicing yoga, and going on walks with her English Bulldog, "Sookie," and German Shepard, "Chopper."

Lexi Santiago**Law Office 104**

Born and raised in Orlando, Lexi double-majored in global studies and history at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After living and working in Raleigh following

graduation, Lexi traded North Carolina's humidity and sunshine for rain and clouds in the Pacific Northwest, where she attended Seattle University School of Law. During her first summer of law school, Lexi attended an IP immersion program in D.C., which included a visit to the USPTO where she first learned about the trademark examining attorney role. Lexi pursued opportunities to learn more about trademark law and IP, including internships at Microsoft, Universal Pictures, PayScale, and a boutique media and tech law firm in Seattle. In her free time, Lexi enjoys long runs, live music, gaming on her Nintendo Switch, and keeping her two cats, "Pablo" and "Poppy," out of trouble.

Rebecca Schaefer**Law Office 122**

Rebecca is a New Jersey native. She earned a political science degree from Goucher College and obtained her J.D. from Rutgers Law School. Rebecca has been a barista, a paralegal, and most recently a transactional attorney focused on intellectual property and licensing. Her interest in trademark law stems from law school courses, and then seeing it in action while attending CLE courses at New York Comic Con. She is excited to work at the USPTO to help people protect their marks. In her spare time, Rebecca reads, plays video games, and participates in recreational sports leagues. She loves to travel and knows the words to every *Hamilton* song.

James Sensor**Law Office 129**

James is originally from Scotch Plains, New Jersey. He received a B.A. from the University of Maryland with a major in government and politics and a minor in philosophy, and his law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law with a concentration in family law. James was a law clerk in the Court of Common Pleas, in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. He practiced family law with a firm in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, before joining the Social Security Administration. James likes the idea of being able to help entrepreneurs secure their trademark rights and carve out a little space for themselves in a competitive global economy. He also heard from several friends that the USPTO is a great place to work. James enjoys cooking, board games (especially Axis & Allies), reading (especially about American history), visiting museums, going to concerts, singing, playing guitar, pro football, watching *The Office* with his wife and, recently, birdwatching!

Daniel Shen**Law Office 128**

Daniel grew up in Virginia. He attended Brigham Young University for both college (majoring in economics and French) and law school. Before coming to the USPTO, he served as a public defender. He has always been fascinated by how intellectual property works in the modern economy and considers himself devoted to public service. Daniel

enjoys playing ultimate Frisbee and making origami.

Paige Siegel**Law Office 101**

Paige was born and raised in Montgomery County, Maryland. She graduated in 2016 from the University of Maryland-College Park Smith School of Business, went on to American University Washington College of Law, and naturally started farming. Aside from being a farmer, she has worked as an attorney at a real estate title company and in various marketing positions. College sparked her interest in trademarks when she realized that a company's most valuable asset is often its IP. She loved her IP-related classes in law school and knew the USPTO would be a great and fulfilling place to work after meeting law school alumni who raved about their USPTO careers. In her free time, you can find Paige outside playing sports, harvesting tomatoes, or playing with her dogs. A fun fact is that if you're in Law Office 101, you have first dibs on the summer harvest!

Jasmine Soriano**Law Office 129**

Originally from Miami, Jasmine graduated from Boston University with a B.S. and from the University of Miami School of Law. She went to law school to pursue a career in intellectual property. She took a trademark class in law school, which confirmed her desire to dedicate her career to expanding her

knowledge and developing her skill in this area of law because she found it both challenging and intriguing. After law school, she worked as a litigation attorney handling matters related to first-party property claims. She applied to the USPTO because she believed it is a great way to learn the ins and outs of trademark law. Jasmine considers herself a foodie and enjoys boxing and traveling.

Stephen Stanwood**Law Office 115**

Stephen was born in Chicago but fully converted to the West Coast lifestyle after meeting his lovely wife and moving to the San Francisco Bay Area in 2015. He was a public policy major at the University of Chicago and split his time in law school between Georgetown and Santa Clara. Stephen has worked for lots of fun organizations, including the service nonprofit City Year, a presidential campaign, and a three-person Bay Area law firm. After figuring out that trademark law is the best kind of law, Stephen opened his own firm that helped other lawyers with trademark work. Despite really having no idea how running works, Stephen recently started training for a triathlon.

Katie Sutton**Law Office 103**

Katie is from Seattle and received a B.A. in English literature and sociology from the University of Washington before attending Seattle University School of Law. She was

a civil litigation associate at Smith Freed & Eberhard for a time. She enjoys working with creative and passionate people and has had the opportunity to intern with some amazing companies with significant trademark portfolios, namely, the Seattle Sounders FC (professional soccer club), the Seattle Symphony, and the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC). With the UFC, she worked directly with outside counsel to align intellectual property activities worldwide to support business objectives. She also assisted in the management of the company's global trademark portfolio, conducting trademark searches, drafting cease-and-desist letters, and providing recommendations. At the Seattle Sounders FC, Katie worked on sponsorship and confidentiality agreements to manage and protect the Seattle Sounders FC marks and those of the sponsors. Katie loves the outdoors, photography, paddle boarding, music, movies, and finding the best restaurants. And a fun fact is that she can drive a manual/stick shift car.

Justin Wickersham

Law Office 116

Justin grew up in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, but has been living in the D.C. area for the past two years (currently in Arlington). He majored in biology at Villanova University before graduating from the American University Washington College of Law. After interning at the USPTO during law school, he knew he wanted to return as an examining attorney to combine his devotion to

public service and passion for trademark law. His strong interest in trademark law began after taking a course during his second year of law school. That interest continued to grow with the practical trademark prosecution experience he received as a student attorney at the law school's intellectual property clinic. Prior to joining the USPTO, Justin worked as a legal operations associate for a legal technology startup in New York City and as an attorney for a boutique IP law firm in Washington, DC., where he focused on trademark prosecution and intellectual property enforcement. Outside of work, Justin enjoys exploring the D.C.-area food scene (pizza in particular), playing video games, hiking, reading, and spending time with his wife and mini-Goldendoodle, "Beau." And he is a passionate Philadelphia sports and Villanova Wildcats fan! Justin and his wife just welcomed their first child on March 12, 2021, and he notes that she was "exactly one month old on our start date!"

Chris Wolfson

Law Office 129

Chris is from Jacksonville but fled north to attend Wellesley College, studying economics and Chinese. She then returned home to the Sunshine State to work as a Teach For America corps member, teaching algebra and geometry to 9-12 graders for three years. Chris went on to pursue a Master of Public Policy at Jacksonville University and started her law degree at the University of Florida before

transferring to George Mason University. Chris comes to the USPTO from the Association of American Publishers, where she clerked for two years under former Register of Copyrights Maria Pallante. Chris enjoys traveling, searching for gluten-free dessert recipes, and working on home improvement projects.

Kristen Wu

Law Office 114

Kristen is from Dallas. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2011 with a B.S. in botany. After graduation, Kristen returned to her hometown and began working as a legal assistant for a boutique IP firm. It was at this firm where Kristen learned the importance of registering and enforcing trademarks. Kristen received her J.D. from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in 2016 and worked in private practice after graduation, counseling clients on both trademark and patent prosecution matters. In her free time, Kristen enjoys baking, visiting art museums, and exploring botanical gardens.

Katrina Yang

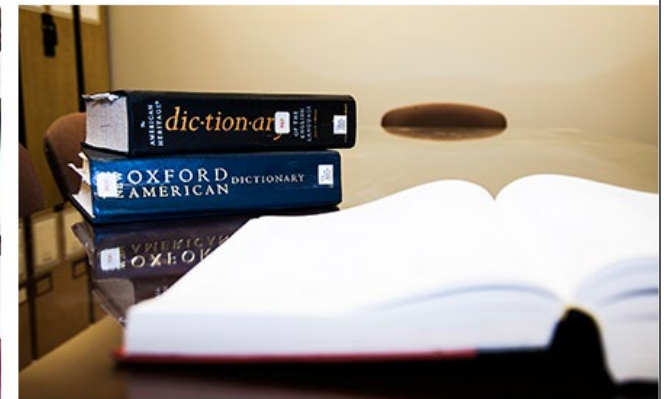
Law Office 127

Katrina stayed true to her Bruin roots and earned both her B.A. and J.D. at University of California – Los Angeles. Katrina enjoyed her IP courses the most during law school, prompting her to become involved in the school's trademark clinic. Prior to joining the USPTO, Katrina practiced primarily in the area of employee benefits and executive

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compensation at Ernst & Young. She decided to pursue a career in trademarks at the USPTO after recalling how trademark law piqued her interest both inside and outside the classroom setting. Katrina enjoys exercising, exploring different food spots, and curating the perfect music playlist. She also adopted two quarantine puppies, “Katsu” and “Levi,” who keep her busy during her time outside of work.

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Spring Back into Nature

We have all been completely or partially isolated in some form this past year. Separated from our families and friends, our jobs and/or workspaces, and so many other things that we love. However, now we can be inspired by the beauty of spring. Yes, that is right. Spring has sprung! Moreover, life is returning to some sort of normalcy. So this year, let us make time for some fun. *"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring."* – **Lilly Pulitzer**

The birds and bees have all begun their springtime rituals. This past weekend, I celebrated my first hummingbird sighting. It was so exciting. By the time you are reading this, there will be thousands more. *"My favorite weather is bird-chirping weather."*

–**Terri Guillemets**

Hey, I even hear that the cicadas are anticipated this year. While I am not all that amused by them, my partner has been anticipating them since the announcement. I am sure that some of you are, too.

Anyway, this is our time. Time to get back outside and enjoy. *"Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"* – **Robin Williams**
Time for grills and barbecues with all the trimmings. Time to reconnect with nature. Time for drives down the parkway to see the

changing colors of the landscape. In addition, it is time for outdoor activities with our loved ones in a safe manner. I love water. So, the pool and/or the beach are among my favorite places to be.

Let us not allow this summer to get away from us without enjoying it. *"Spring is the time of plans and projects."* – **Leo Tolstoy**
Find your favorite outdoor space or create it. Like me, you may need to stock up on allergy medicine so that you can enjoy it all. Still, it's worth it. Maybe it is a walk in the woods or an outside café. Maybe you like to go to the doggy park and backyard-movie nights. Whatever it is, find some time for others and yourself this spring.

There is something refreshing about getting out into nature.

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter." – **Rachel Carson**

Plant a garden or decorate with flowers. Set up a birdbath if you dare. Whatever you choose, I am sure it will be fabulous!

In the words of **Audrey Hepburn**, *"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."* **TM**

Top 10 Adventure Spots to Consider When You're Thinking about Finally Leaving Your House

Yes, the snow is melting, the temperature's rising, the birds are chirping! It's time to be outside and to run wild. Goodness knows we've been cooped up long enough, we deserve it! So I know you're going to say, "Dagnabbit"—which is, of course, a thing you would say—"it's been so long, I don't remember how to have fun outside anymore!" Well, lucky for you, I've compiled a list of ten totally real and not at all fictional adventure spots* to consider when you're thinking that it's time to leave the house.

1. Pacific Playland is a great place to spend your summer nights! It's got all the rides you'd want—a Ferris wheel, roller coasters, and a drop tower.

The bright lights are also a big draw to the park, especially to the hungry locals who are really happy to greet new, living, brain-having guests. And for everyone's safety, make sure to follow the rules.

2. Not to be confused with another theme park in

Florida, the real Disneyland has more sparking wires and loose nails than you might remember. With rides like Mr. Todd's Wild Death Coaster, Gabe Jr., the Grease Fire of the Caribbean, and just right next to it, Cinderella's Magical Pile of Used Mattresses, there's plenty to indulge your sense of wonder! Better get there soon, before the inevitable grease fires destroy the park!

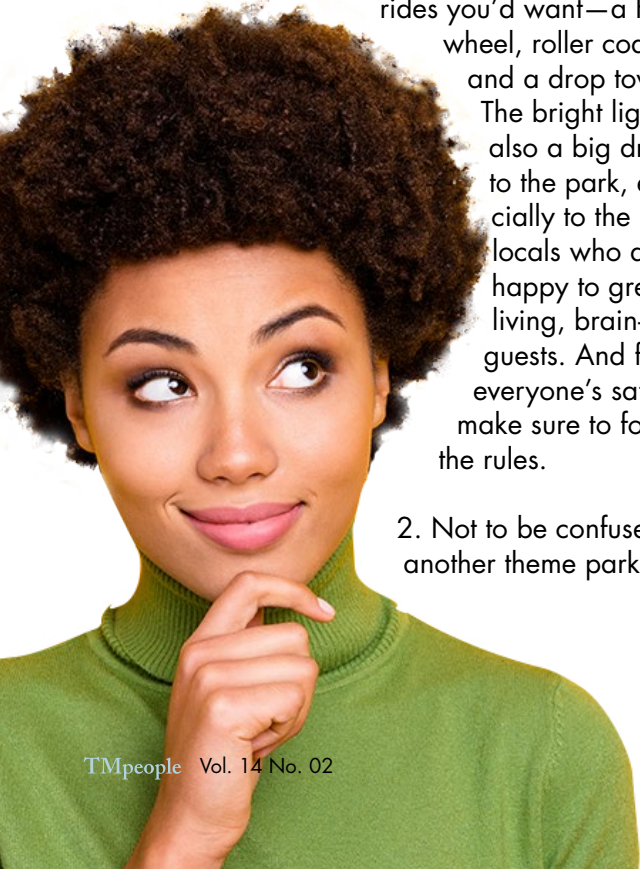
3. Have you ever wanted to be in a Western and live your wildest frontier fantasy? Well, Westworld might be the place for you. Filled with expansive landscapes and friendly hosts, there's plenty to do here! Have a drink at the local saloon, ride a horse, or flee a quick-draw gone bad caused by sentient robots trying to overthrow their human programmers. It's just like the cowboys did!

4. At Adventureland, it's always summer! You may not win a giant [expletive] panda, but

you will walk away with memories of contrived youths waxing poetic about Lou Reed and angsty young adults airing out their hormonal misadventures while you're playing rigged games in the midway.

5. Horrorland is where all your dreams come true! (Nightmares count as dreams, right?) There's the relaxing coffin ride down a river (hope you're not claustrophobic), and the Doom Slide (you'll never stop! no really, it goes on forever). And just wait till you see the aptly named Pit of Death. But the best part? Admission is free!

6. If you're headed to a boardwalk this summer, you're in luck. They're a great place for families to relax by the water, eat the finest corndogs the beach has to offer, and to check out some amazing attractions. Find yourself at Shaman's Vision Quest and laugh at all of the different versions of yourself you



see in the mirrors. It's fun, it's disorientating, it's a pathway to an underground world! If you're handy with scissors and know you can pull off a red jumpsuit, you'll definitely want to check it out.

7. Itchy and Scratchy Land is the vacation your family will never forget. For the kids, it has rides and games. And for the parents, it has over 100 bars and saloons and a world-class chemical dependency center! It's the theme park of the future, where nothing can possi-blye go wrong!


8. Sometimes, the journey is the destination. And with Happy World Land, you'll get that in spades! After a short 48 hours in the car, just take a quick two-mile walk from the parking lot to the entrance, where you can hop on the Tooth Ferry and check out all the park's rides, like the Stairway to Heaven, which is next to the Bullet Train to Heck, and much, much more. Then, quickly hop off because you're ready to go home! You

want to leave something for your next visit, don't you?

9. Sometimes the best adventures are the ones right in your hometown. Check out your local traveling carnival. They've got tons of rides, with very particular height restrictions that are there for your safety, not for humiliating you in front of your crush. Make sure to check out the games, you'll never know when your biggest wish might come true. (I'm assuming your biggest wish is to become a man-child, play with children's toys all day, and give your mother a lifetime of psychological and emotional trauma.)

10. This last park is where great ideas come to life with very few checks on man's hubris! Imagine seeing a majestic brontosaurus walk right by you while you're collaborating with sexy scientists. Sure, you'll never use an out-house again for fear of unexpected T-Rex visits, but that's not a huge loss. Welcome to Jurassic Park.

If this list doesn't get you excited to be outside this summer, then . . . maybe think about taking a staycation.

*Yeah, these were totally fictional. In order, these are references to Zombieland, Bojack Horseman, Westworld, Adventureland, One Day at Horrorland, Us, The Simpsons, Tiny Toon Adventures, Big, and Jurassic Park. 



Does The Devil Wear Nike?

NEW YORK – In what turned out to be a very short-lived lawsuit, Nike scored a victory at the end of March in a trademark dispute involving shoes, a musician, an art collective, and satanic symbols. The issue involved shoes called “Satan Shoes,” which an art collective called MSCHF developed in connection with musician Lil Nas X to promote the release of a new music video. The shoes were Nike Air Max 97’s, which still featured the Nike “Swoosh” logo (Reg. No. 0977190 and others); however, the shoes had been modified to add Lil Nas X’s name, MSCHF, a satanic pentagram symbol, and even a drop of human blood. Nike sued, claiming that the “Satan Shoes” were likely to cause confusion by having consumers think that Nike was the source of these particular shoes. Nike also raised a trademark dilution claim by citing calls for consumer boycotts of Nike products based on the association of the shoes with the Devil. The defendants raised free speech claims as well as a defense based on the “first-sale doctrine,” which basically allows anyone to sell unmodified branded merchandise, such as your kid’s slightly worn but outgrown shoes, at a garage sale without committing trademark infringement. Nike argued that the addition of the defendants’ names, the Satan symbol, and the drop of blood were modifications that removed the “Satan Shoes” from the

first-sale doctrine. A few days after filing the lawsuit, Nike was granted a temporary restraining order against further sale of the shoes, but did not get an order demanding recall of the shoes. Instead, the parties settled the case, including a voluntary recall, meaning consumers may, but don’t have to, return them to Nike. However, Nike is absolved of any responsibility for product defects related to the shoes. Only 666 of the shoes were made. All but one pair were sold within minutes for \$1,018 a pair, the price being a reference to Luke 10:18: “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”



WHAT IS MARCH WITHOUT A LITTLE MAYHEM?



ALEXANDRIA – The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) filed a cancellation proceeding (No. 92076376) in February seeking to cancel a trademark owned by a Richmond urology center that owns a registered mark for VASECTOMY MAYHEM for medical services (Reg. No. 6143370) related to, you guessed it, vasectomies. It turns out that the medical clinic noticed that vasectomy procedures tended to increase during March when men could recuperate on the couch by watching college basketball nearly 24/7. The NCAA owns several trademark registrations for MARCH MADNESS (Reg. No. 2425958) and even MARCH MAYHEM (Reg. No. 4376829), which are related to the Division 1 men’s and women’s basketball tournaments. The NCAA claims that the VASECTOMY MAYHEM mark is likely to cause consumer confusion by having consumers think that the medical procedures are associated with, related to, or sponsored

by the NCAA and the tournaments. The NCAA also alleged that the urology clinic used basketball references and imagery in connection with promoting the services under the mark. The case was filed in early February before this year's tournament started. The Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) entered a notice of default in late March. This isn't the first time the two parties have had trademark issues with each other. The clinic originally used the mark VASECTOMY MADNESS, but the case was resolved through assignment of the mark to the NCAA. In 2019, the clinic filed to register VASECTOMY MAYHEM, which was registered in September 2020.

LETTUCE TURNIP THE BEAT TURNED DOWN BY NINTH CIRCUIT

SAN FRANCISCO – The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held in late January that the owners of a mark LETTUCE TURNIP THE BEET (Reg. No. 4297108 and others) cannot stop others from selling clothing or other products featuring the phrase because it fails to function as a mark. Despite the mark previously obtaining “incontestable” status, the Ninth Circuit stated that the doctrine of incontestability under the Trademark Act does not apply to marks that are deemed to identify a functional purpose



of the goods. In this case, LTTB, LLC, which owned the slogan, had sued the website “Redbubble,” an online print-on-demand website where consumers can put slogans or designs on various types of products and have them shipped. The District Court held for Redbubble by saying that the mark was functional in that consumers were likely to purchase LTTB's products because the mark is aesthetically pleasing as used on the goods and not because consumers associate LETTUCE TURNIP THE BEET as a source identifier for LTTB's goods. LTTB had presented evidence that clothing featuring the slogan had been worn by celebrities, such as musician Jason Mraz and people featured on the television shows *Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles* and *The Real Housewives of New York*, for example. Nevertheless, the appeals court held that this evidence did not raise an issue of fact as to whether consumers would associate LTTB as the source of the goods.

NEW NAME ANNOUNCED FOR PANCAKE MIX AND SYRUP



CHICAGO – A new name for a pancake mix and syrup brand formerly known as “Aunt Jemima” was revealed in mid-February. Quaker Oats, which owned the “Aunt Jemima” brand for over 95 years, announced that the new name of the pancake products is “Pearl Milling Company.” The “Aunt Jemima” brand was retired by the company after calls were made in social media in recent years that the mark and imagery associated with it was racist and needed to be changed. The products will still feature the same trade dress, namely, the red colored box and pancake images, but the packaging now sports a new logo of the building operated by Pearl Milling Company, where the product originated in 1888. Quaker Oats acquired the Aunt Jemima brand in 1925. The company that originally developed the mix was based in St. Joseph, Missouri and was located near the house where the outlaw Jesse James was shot and near the building where the Pony Express left the Missouri River to transport mail to the west. The “Aunt Jemima” brand is not the only food brand to get a new, modern image in 2020. Late last year, “Uncle Ben's” rice was rebranded as “Ben's Original” and “Eskimo Pie” was changed to “Edy's Pie.”



COFFEE TRADEMARK DISPUTE INVOLVES A CASE OF THE JITTERS



DENVER – What goes with pancakes and syrup – why coffee, of course, and coffee is the subject matter of a new trademark lawsuit filed in March between a Colorado cold-brew coffee company and a California-based coffee company. In this case, the California company, Three Beans, LLC, is seeking a declaratory judgment holding that its use of the wording “No Jitters” and “No Crash” as used on its cold-brew coffee products does not infringe seven trademark registrations owned by Quokka Brew, LLC for marks that include, among others, NO JITTERS (Reg. No. 6119035), JITTERLESS COFFEE (Reg. No. 6118770), and CRASHLESS COFFEE (Reg. No. 6041389). Three Beans filed the lawsuit after receiving a cease-and-desist letter from Quokka. Three Beans alleges that the terms “no crash” and “no jitters” and “jitterless” or “crash-less” are merely descriptive terms that cannot be owned by anyone, particularly for coffee and energy drinks. While most coffee contains

caffeine, a compound that is a stimulant, consuming too much of it can cause consumers to get the “jitters,” a state of hyperactivity or nervousness. However, some coffee and energy drinks have been developed to deliver the caffeine with no negative side effects, namely, no jitters or, in some cases, no extreme tiredness after the caffeine hit wears off. Three Beans says these terms merely describe a feature or characteristic of coffee products that minimize or eliminate these side effects. In addition to a judgment of non-infringement, Three Beans is also seeking to cancel the Quokka marks. The case is in its early stages.

HYUNDAI LOSES APPEAL INVOLVING ITS GENESIS BRAND

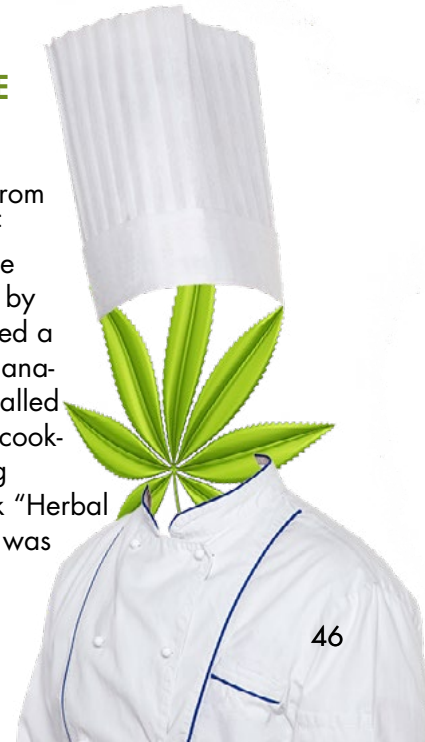


ALEXANDRIA – The TTAB has affirmed a decision in an ex parte appeal that refused registration of the mark “Genesis House” (Serial No. 79254538), filed by Hyundai Motor Company. Hyundai had planned to use the mark in connection with restaurant, food, and hospitality-related services associated with a new-car showroom in New York City for its high-end Genesis brand cars. The problem was the pair of registered marks for Genesis Steakhouse & Wine Bar (Reg. Nos. 5309010 and 5337814) in Houston for

restaurant, hotel, and food preparation-related services. Although the Board conceded that the term “Genesis” is a relatively weak mark in connection with food, the Board noted that even weak marks are entitled to protection against registration for similar marks for identical services. Furthermore, despite the fact that one of the registered marks contained a tree design element and different disclaimed wording, the Board noted that the dominant element in both marks was the term “Genesis,” which gave the same connotation in both instances as “the beginning” or something “new.” The Board also noted that these similarities outweighed the differences, thus tipping the scale in favor of a finding of likelihood of confusion. The decision was announced in mid-April. Christina Riepel of LO 124 was the examining attorney.

POT CHEF LOSES CASE TO POT MAKER

SAN FRANCISCO – In another trademark case from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in mid-March the court affirmed a decision by a district court that involved a dispute between a marijuana-infused cooking service called “The Herbal Chef” and a cookware manufacturer selling cookware under the mark “Herbal Chef,” holding that there was



was no likelihood of confusion between the marks. The basis of the decision was that “The Herbal Chef” was merely descriptive of a feature or characteristic of the marijuana-infused cooking services and therefore unenforceable. The court noted that “herbal” is a common slang term for “marijuana” and when combined with the term “chef” directly described the purpose of the services. It rejected the plaintiff’s claim that the mark was suggestive and required a mental leap because the mark was a subtle play on the initialism “THC” (tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana), a key ingredient in the foods prepared. Chris Sayegh, a professional chef, founded the company to offer catering and private meals infused with cannabis. In 2018, it sued AFG Distribution, the cookware manufacturer. Of particular note in this case was that the Ninth Circuit approved of the district court’s reliance on the USPTO’s examining attorney’s decision (Deborah Lobo, LO 109) that the mark was merely descriptive of The Herbal Chef’s services. It should be noted that mere descriptiveness under Section 2(e) (1) of the Trademark Act was not the only basis for Lobo’s refusal, which also included likelihood of confusion issues with one of AFG’s registrations for bakeware (Reg. No. 5045124) as well as unlawful use under Sections 1 and 45 of the

45 of the Trademark Act, which prohibits the registration of marks for goods and services that violate the federal Controlled Substances Act. Marijuana is still a federally prohibited substance, notwithstanding the fact that many states, including California where the plaintiff is based, have legalized the use and consumption of marijuana. However, these separate grounds did not appear to be the basis for the judgment against Sayegh’s company. The significance of this case goes to show that courts do read our Office actions and sometimes are persuaded by them.



DESCENDANT OF BOURBON MAKER DENIED USE OF FAMILY NAME FOR COMPETING PRODUCT

LOUISVILLE – A trademark battle over the name of a bourbon is in the beginning stages in Kentucky. Heaven Hill Distilleries, which sells bourbon under the mark J.W. DANT (Reg. No. 0320981), is suing an upstart distillery for trademark infringement over use of the “Dant” surname in connection with its bourbon product. Although the case was filed in late March, the backstory dates to 1836 when John Wallace Dant began making bourbon in the state. The company was family owned until 1943, when it was sold to a corporate distiller. The brand eventually ended up with Heaven Hill Distilleries in 1993. In 2019, Log Still Distilleries of Gethsemane, Kentucky, a company founded by the three-times great grandson of J.W. Dant, began selling bourbon under the mark DANT CROSSING, with a tag line “reviving the Dant legacy one barrel at a time.” Despite Dant being a surname, including the surname of a founder of the defendant company, Heaven Hill claims that there is no “family exception” that allows relatives to use a surname that has acquired distinctiveness in someone else. Heaven Hill says that Log Still’s use of the Dant family name will likely cause consumer confusion as to the source of the bourbon product.



YAKIMA TRIBE SEEKS TO STOP WINERIES FROM USING YAKIMA ON WINE PRODUCTS



SPOKANE – In other news regarding alcoholic beverage marks, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Nation have filed a lawsuit against several wineries in Washington State that have used the term “Yakima” in connection with wine products. The Yakima Valley of Washington State is a large wine-producing area. However, the Yakima Tribe filed suit in late January seeking to stop the wineries from using the Yakima name as well as the name of a 19th century Tribal chief, Kamiakin, on wine and alcoholic beverages. Kamiakin, the Tribe says, was opposed to the consumption of alcohol. One of the wineries used a label that depicts Indians on horseback, which the Tribe claims is intended to depict the Yakima people, thus causing consumers to believe the goods are associated with the Tribe. The Yakima Confederation claims that the winery marks of Sheridan Vineyards, Dineen Vineyards, and St. Hilaire Cellars include either the term “Yakima” or “Kamiakin” in connection with the wine products and that such usage infringes marks the Tribe owns as well as violates the Indian Arts and Crafts Act by the misappropriation of Tribal intellectual property. The Tribe passed a resolution in 2020 that bars the use of “Yakima” for business purposes without the Tribal Council’s approval. **TM**

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Minari

Directed by Lee Isaac Chung



Nomadland

Directed by Chloe Zhao



This year's two best picture Oscar favorites include Minari and Nomadland. Both movies were filmed in middle America and include somber themes and are a testament to independent living. Minari and Nomadland present a world of isolation and self-reliance reflected in the austere cinematography of sparse spaces and the singularity of the stories. The pacing in both films is deliberate, and while there aren't many surprises, the acting is superior.

Minari (a Korean herb) begins when a family of four Korean-Americans arrive in Arkansas from California to live in a trailer and start a farm. Jacob (Steven Yuan), the father of the family, pursues his American dream of self-sufficiency and success with his wife Monica (Yeri Han). Facing various setbacks and needing assistance in raising their kids, Jacob and Monica have the grandmother move in to help raise the family while adjusting to life as Arkansans (the movie was



actually filmed in rural Tulsa). The best part of the movie is the relationship between the grandmother (Yuh-Jung Youn) and her grandson (Alan Kim), which enlivens every scene they are in. Minari presents vignettes of daily life, some better than others, and while nothing overly dramatic ever happens, it is a study of family life, with its ebbs and flows. **TM**



Nomadland

Directed by Chloe Zhao



Nomadland also suffers from a sour and dour beginning and also features a series of vignettes. We find Fern (Frances McDormand) living in her van, mixing with the locals, working off-beat jobs, moving from place to place and trying to make a life out of things. In many ways the movie reminded me of *Five Easy Pieces*, with the United States being a significant protagonist. The movie has a documentary-like patina, with explanations as to how to live on the road, fix things, and get temporary jobs. *Nomadland* features real-life characters like Bob Wells and Charlene Swankie, who delve into this culture where everyone supports each other in all aspects of daily living. As the movie kept meandering, your faithful reviewer stayed with it wondering how it became the prohibitive favorite to win the Academy Award for best picture. Sure enough, the second half of *Nomadland* has more varied and intense landscapes, the story becomes centered, and a resulting



poignant message is craftily delivered. Fern develops a friendship with Dave (David Strathairn), also a traveler, and both find work in the Badlands National Park, which is beautifully captured and adds to the grandiosity and meaning of the film. It is through this relationship that we learn and understand what motivates Fern and her place in the universe. **TM**