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February 23, 2021

Mr. Drew Hirshfeld

Commissioner for Patents, performing the functions and duties of the Under Secretary  
of Commerce for IP and Director of the USPTO

Mailstop: Comments – Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Hirshfeld:

The National Association of Patent Practitioners (NAPP) is a nonprofit trade association founded in 1996 to provide networking, education, collegial exchange, benefits, and a collective voice in the larger IP community, so patent practitioners can flourish and achieve the highest levels of competence and professionalism in their practice.

NAPP endorses various comments of Christopher Turoski, submitted Feb. 23, 2021, in response to the USPTO's request for comments on ways of promoting diversity in the corps of IP attorneys and agents who represent inventors.

In particular, NAPP endorses the suggestion that the USPTO support increased visibility and availability of patent agent career paths that avoid the burdensome time and financial commitments of a traditional Juris Doctorate (J.D.) degree program. NAPP further endorses the suggestions to open up the Patent Drafting Competition and the Law School Clinic Certification program to all those persons eligible to pursue a patent agent registration, not just students seeking J.D. degrees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Krueger', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Dr. Daniel J. Krueger, Esq.  
NAPP President