

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Seattle skyline, featuring the Space Needle and various skyscrapers. In the foreground, there is a row of dark green evergreen trees. The bottom of the page has a dark blue background with white text and a decorative blue wave graphic at the very bottom.

2026

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Message from the President

Dan Smith President

This here is a Rainbow Trout that Dan caught!



Dear NAPP Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

Welcome to the 2026 NAPP Annual Meeting and Conference in Seattle! On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to welcome you for another outstanding gathering of patent professionals from across the country.

Each year, the NAPP Annual Meeting and Conference serves as a place where practitioners at every stage of their career can come together to learn, exchange ideas, and strengthen the future of our profession. Whether this is your first NAPP conference or you are a longtime attendee, we are excited to have you as part of this growing and engaged community.

This year's program reflects the evolving landscape of patent practice and the increasing importance of collaboration, innovation, and professional development. Our conference committee has assembled an exceptional lineup of speakers and sessions designed to provide practical insights, meaningful discussion, and valuable takeaways you can immediately apply in your practice.

In addition to the educational programming, I encourage you to take advantage of the many networking opportunities throughout the conference (including Wednesday's dinner and Thursday's happy hour). Some of the most valuable moments at NAPP happen between sessions — during conversations with peers, mentors, sponsors, exhibitors, and new connections who understand the unique challenges and opportunities within the patent profession.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to our conference planning committee, board members, sponsors, exhibitors, and speakers. Their dedication and support make this event possible and continue to strengthen the NAPP community year after year.

NAPP's mission remains focused on supporting and advocating for patent practitioners while fostering professional excellence and meaningful engagement within our industry. As we continue to grow, your participation, ideas, and involvement play an important role in shaping the future of our organization.

Thank you for being part of NAPP. I look forward to connecting with you this week and hope you leave this conference inspired, informed, and energized for the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Dan Smith

Conference Events & Social Activities

Pacific Northwest Patent Cocktail Reception and Dinner

 Wednesday, July 22, 2026 5:00 pm

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Join **NAPP** for an **exclusive** networking opportunity and to celebrate the rich culture of the Pacific Northwest. This cocktail reception and dinner is included in your registration fee and will be held at Seattle University College of Law.

Happy Hour at Seattle University and Seattle Harbor Cruise

 Thursday, July 23, 2026 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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Join **NAPP** for light bites and drinks on the Seattle University patio to network with sponsors, connect with colleagues, and enjoy the beautiful Seattle weather.

Those that signed up for tickets in advance may join the Harbor Cruise Tour that starts at 7:45 pm. Your experience includes:

- 1.5-hour cruise around Elliott Bay, Alki Point, and into Puget Sound during golden hour
- 1 drink ticket provided and cash bar available afterwards. Must wear name tag and bring drink ticket to redeem for the complimentary beverage
- Panoramic and up-close views of the Seattle skyline, shipping port
- Sweeping views of the Olympic Mountains and Puget Sound
- Cruise Departs from Pier 54 (Seattle Waterfront)

The poblano enchiladas are highly rated here

Lunch at Koko's Restaurant and Tequila Bar

 Friday, July 24, 2026 at 12:30pm



Before heading home from the conference, join fellow **NAPP** attendees for a casual group lunch at Koko's Restaurant and Tequila Bar. Enjoy great food and one last opportunity to connect with colleagues before departing. Guests will order from the regular menu and pay individually. We hope you can join us!

Please communicate with **NAPP** Staff that you plan to attend.



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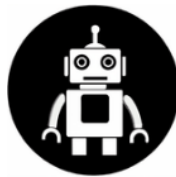
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2026 NAPP AMC Agenda

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
7:00 AM	Registration Opens	
8:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Nuts & Bolts Session – Ex Parte Reexamination	Jon Hobbs, Lissi Mojica, Jason D. Eisenberg, Kirby Drake (Facilitator)
11:30 AM	Lunch & Exhibitors Open	
12:30 PM	Conference Begins	
12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	An Introduction to Standards Essential Patents	Devin Brennan
1:15 PM – 2:00 PM	<i>In Re Blue Buffalo</i> and Functional Language Murkiness	Jennifer Bales & Mike Locklar
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Break	
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Patenting from In-House: Getting Patents with Jury Appeal	Greg Kavounas
3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Break	
3:30 PM – 4:15 PM	Marketing Your Invention: An “On Sale Bar” Update	Justin Krieger
4:15 PM – 5:00 PM	Patent Practice Essentials in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia	John Landells
5:00 PM	Cocktail Reception & Visit with Sponsors	
6:00 PM	A Pacific Northwest Patent Dinner	

Schedule is subject to change



2026 NAPP AMC Agenda

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
7:00 AM	Registration Open / Breakfast at Seattle University	
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Using Petitions to Keep from Getting Stuck	David Boundy
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM	Patents and Congress	Peter-Anthony Pappas
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Unicorn Patents: The Power Law Curve of Patent Valuation	Kip Werking
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Lunch & Board Remarks	
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	NAPP Annual Meeting	
1:30 PM - 1:45 PM	Break	
1:45 PM – 2:30 PM	Professional Responsibility and Practice Before the USPTO	Dahlia Girgis
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	What a Difference a Year Makes: Changing Examiner Metrics and Impact on Your Practice	Lee Eubanks
3:00 PM – 3:45 PM	Navigating Change at the USPTO: Practitioner Resources, and Strategies for Effective Patent Prosecution	Sean Hunter
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM	Break	

Schedule is subject to change



2026 NAPP AMC Agenda

Thursday, July 23, 2026 (Continued)

4:00 PM – 4:45 PM	Strategies for Writing Winning Pre-Appeal and Appeal Briefs	Srini Chakravarthi
4:45 PM – 5:15 PM	Questel Presentation: LLM Hallucinations for Attorneys	Brendan Lillis
TBD	Board Meeting – Election of Officers	
5:15 PM – 6:30 PM	Happy Hour & Reception at Seattle University School of Law	
7:45 PM	Boat Tour (Board at Pier 54 at 7:20 PM)	

Schedule is subject to change

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2026 NAPP AMC Agenda

Friday, July 24, 2026

Time	Session	Speaker(s)
7:00 AM	Registration Open / Breakfast at Seattle University	
8:30 AM – 9:15 AM	Examiner Typology: A Humorous Look at Some Types and Stereotypes	Gary O'Neill
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM	Updated Prosecution Strategies for a Rapidly Changing Patent Office	Tom Cecil
10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	AI, Patents, and Ethics	Tammy Pennington Rhodes
11:00 AM – 11:45 AM	Effective Examiner Interviews	Bruce Young
12:00 PM	Conference Concludes	
12:30 PM	Optional Group Lunch at Koko's	

Schedule is subject to change

July 24th is National Tequila Day!

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NAPP AMC 2026 Speakers



Jennifer Bales

**Partner, Macheledt
Bales LLP**

Presentation Title: *In Re
Blue Buffalo* and Functional
Language Murkiness



To view all speaker bios, please
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David Boundy

Partner, Pierson Ferdinand LLC

Presentation Title: Using Petitions to Keep from
Getting Stuck

Now this is a great bowtie!



Devin Brennan

Co-founder, Principal, Flare IP PLLC

Presentation Title: An Introduction to Standards
Essential Patents



Tom Cecil

Owner, Cecil Law PLLC

Presentation Title: Updated Prosecution Strategies for
a Rapidly Changing Patent Office



Srini Chakravarthi

Partner, Slater Matsil, LLP

Presentation Title: Strategies for Writing Winning Pre-Appeal and Appeal Briefs



Jason Eisenberg

Director, Chair Reexamination, Reissue, and Supplemental Examination Practice, Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC

Presentation Title: Nuts and Bolts: Ex Parte Reexamination



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Sean Hunter

Director, Office of Patents Stakeholder Experience (OPSE), USPTO

Presentation Title: Navigating Change at the USPTO: Emerging Practice Trends, Practitioner Resources, and Strategies for Effective Patent Prosecution



Greg Kavounas

Retired

Presentation Title: Patenting from In-House: Getting Patents with Jury Appeal



Justin Krieger

Partner, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Presentation Title: Marketing your Invention: an “On Sale Bar” Update



John Landells

Partner, FB Rice (Australia)

Presentation Title: Patent practice essentials in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia

John is from New Zealand, home of the Kiwi!



Brendan Lillis

**Subject Matter Expert,
SaaS Qthena, Questel**

Presentation Title: LLM Hallucinations for Attorneys



Michael Locklar

Principal, Ewing Jones

Presentation Title: In Re Blue Buffalo and Functional Language Murkiness



Lissi Mojica

Managing Director, Answers IP

Presentation Title: Nuts & Bolts Session – Ex Parte Reexamination



Gary O'Neill

**Managing Director, Examiners Edge
Patent Agency**

Presentation Title: Examiner Typology: A Humorous
Look at Some Types and Stereotypes



Peter-Anthony Pappas

**Director of Intellectual Property Policy
U.S. Senate, Committee on Judiciary,
USPTO**

Presentation Title: Patents and Congress

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Tammy Pennington Rhodes

Principal, Supercharger

Presentation Title: Intersection of AI, Ethics and the USPTO



Kip Werking

Of Counsel, Frontier IP Law

Presentation Title: The Power Law Curve of Patent Valuation



Bruce Young

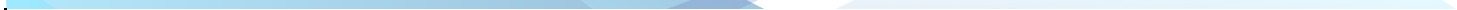
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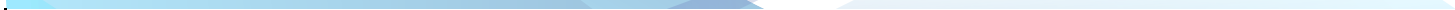
Presentation Title: Effective Examiner Interviews

Did you know?

Seattle University became one of the first coed Jesuit colleges in 1931. Located in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood (known locally as "Pill Hill" due to the many medical institutions in the area), the campus is home to the Chapel of St. Ignatius, which earned its designer Steven Holl a national Honor Award from the AIA.









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