

Japan Patent Office



Name: ONO Yota
Position: Commissioner, Japan Patent Office

1989 Bachelor's degree, Faculty of Law, University of Tokyo
1989 Joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) as a member of the General Affairs Division of the Japan Patent Office
1993 Studied at the Columbia University in the City of New York
2004-2007 Director of the New York Office, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
2007-2008 Director of the International Energy Strategy Promotion Office, Secretariat of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy
2008-2010 Director of the International Affairs Division, Secretariat of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy
2010-2012 Dispatched to the International Nuclear Energy Development of Japan Co., Ltd. (public-private exchange program)
2012-2014 Director of the Trade Insurance Division, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau
2014-2015 Director of the Trade Finance and Economic Cooperation Division, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau
2015-2017 Deputy Commissioner for International Affairs, Secretariat of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy
2017-2018 Director-General, Natural Resources and Fuel Department, Secretariat of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy
2018-2020 Counselor of the Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Finance (Deputy Vice Minister of the Customs and Tariff Bureau/International Bureau)
2020-2021 Director-General for Energy and Environmental Policy, Secretariat of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (Concurrently) Deputy Director-General for Energy, Environment and Innovation Policy, Minister's Secretariat
2021-2024 Senior Managing Director, Japan Finance Corporation
2024- Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office (Current Position)



Name: TAMURA Kiyoko
Position: Director-General , Trial and Appeal Department, Japan Patent Office

April 1990 Joined the Japan Patent Office (Medical Science Division, Patent Examination Department (Chemistry, Life Science and Material Science))
April 1994 Examiner
October 1995 Administrative Officer, Administrative Affairs Division
December 1998 United States Patent and Trademark Office
October 2002 Administrative Judge, Trial and Appeal Department, JPO (the 22nd Board of Appeal)
October 2004 Senior Examiner, Organic Chemistry Division, Patent Examination Department (Chemistry, Life Science and Material Science)
October 2005 Judicial Research Official, Tokyo District Court
January 2009 Associate Managing Examiner, Medical Science Division, Patent Examination Department (Chemistry, Life Science and Material Science)
April 2010 Director, Pharmaceutical Compounds Sub-Division, Patent Examination Department (Chemistry, Life Science and Material Science)
July 2013 Director, Biotechnology Division, Patent Examination Department (Chemistry, Life Science and Material Science)
July 2015 Director, Examination Standards Office, Administrative Affairs Division
July 2017 Chief Administrative Judge, the 24th Board of Appeal
July 2019 Director of the Board of Trial and Appeal, the 25th Board of Appeal
January 2022 Executive Chief Administrative Judge, Trial and Appeal Department
July 2024 Director-General of Trial and Appeal Department



Name: MORIFUJI Atsushi
Position: Executive Chief Administrative Judge, Trial and Appeal Department, Japan Patent Office

April 1992 Joined the Japan Patent Office (Motive Machinery Division, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology))
April 1996 Examiner
April 2008 Administrative Judge, Trial and Appeal Department, JPO (the 10th Board of Trial and Appeal)
October 2009 Senior Examiner, Logistics Division, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology)
April 2010 Associate Managing Examiner, Textile Processing and Packaging Machinery Division, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology)
April 2014 Director in technical affairs, Automatic Control Division, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology)
July 2015 Director, Motive Machinery Division, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology)
July 2016 Director, Logistics Division, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology)
July 2018 Senior Director, Living Appliance Division, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology)
July 2019 Deputy Director-General, Automatic Control Division, Patent Examination Department (Mechanical Technology)
July 2020 Director of the Board of Trial and Appeal, the 14th Board of Trial and Appeal
April 2021 Judicial Research Official, the Intellectual Property High Court
April 2024 Director of the Board of Trial and Appeal, the 14th Board of Trial and Appeal
July 2024 Executive Chief Administrative Judge (current position), Trial and Appeal Department
In addition, he worked at the General Coordination Division, Policy Planning and Coordination Department, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Budget and Accounts Division, Policy Planning and Coordination Department (Deputy Director), Japan Patent Information Organization (Director of Investigation and Research), IP Promotion Division, Policy Planning and Coordination Department (Director of Patent Information Policy Planning), and KIT Toranomon Graduate School, Kanazawa Institute of Technology (visiting professor).

United States Patent and Trademark Office



Name: Scott Boalick

Position: Chief Administrative Patent Judge, Patent Trial and Appeal Board, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Educational Background

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center
M.S.E. in Systems Engineering, University of Pennsylvania
B.S.E. in Electrical Engineering, University of Pennsylvania

Professional Experience

Mar 2019~ Chief Administrative Patent Judge, USPTO – PTAB
May 2016~Mar 2019 Deputy Chief Administrative Patent Judge, PTAB
Sept 2014~May 2016 Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge, PTAB
Aug 2011~Sept 2014 Lead Administrative Patent Judge, PTAB
Apr 2007~Aug 2011 Administrative Patent Judge, PTAB
2004~2007 Patent Attorney, Department of the Navy, Naval Surface Warfare Center.
2000~2004 Patent Attorney, Fish & Richardson, Washington D.C.
1999~2000 Law Clerk to the Honorable Alvin A. Schall of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
1992~1996 Radar Systems Engineer with Technology Service Corp
1987~1991 Officer, United States Navy



Name: Michael Tierney

Position: Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge, Patent Trial and Appeal Board, United States Patent and Trademark Office

Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge Michael P. Tierney was appointed to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) on July 31, 2000. Vice Chief Judge Tierney joined the PTAB as an administrative patent judge in the Chemical Section, where he handled ex parte appeals of chemical cases. Later, Vice Chief Judge Tierney worked as a member of the Interference Trial Section, where he worked on interferences, reexaminations, and supervised two patent attorneys working on ex parte appeals. As part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) implementation of the America Invents Act (AIA), Vice Chief Judge Tierney led the PTAB's comprehensive effort on trial rulemaking. He worked closely with USPTO executive officials, trial judges, the patent community, and other members of the public to develop the trial rules. Vice Chief Judge Tierney has given numerous presentations to educate the patent community on the statutory provisions, proposed rules, and final rules for the AIA administrative trials.

Prior to his appointment to the PTAB, Vice Chief Judge Tierney served as an associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, where his practice concentrated on patent litigation, opinions, and prosecution. Additionally, earlier in his career, Vice Chief Judge Tierney worked at the USPTO as a patent examiner, where he primarily examined applications for chemical compositions.

Vice Chief Judge Tierney received both a Juris Doctor degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Washington.

European Patent Office



Name: Ingo Beckedorf

Position: Chair of the Legal Board of Appeal, Boards of Appeal, European Patent Office

Deputy of the President of the Boards of Appeal; Chair of the Legal Board of Appeal and deputy Chair of the Enlarged Board of Appeal; Head of Legal Services.

German state diplomas in law, master of European laws, and doctorate in European law. Former German judge at the Hanseatic Higher Regional Court (Court of Appeal), legal counsel to the Court's President and to the Constitutional Court Hamburg. Former press officer and deputy head of the European Parliament Office in Germany. Author of numerous books and articles on EU law, competition law and patent law; co-editor of Benkard, Europäisches Patentübereinkommen (European Patent Convention), 4th edition, 2023, C.H. Beck München; lecturer and conference speaker on German and EU law, and in particular on patent law.