

collection to the USPTO by mail. The USPTO estimates that approximately 3% (16,818 items) of the 560,615 items will be submitted to the USPTO by mail. Due to the unique materials, including a diskette or CD and cover letter, required for Customer Number Upload Spreadsheet submissions, the USPTO estimates that the average first-class postage cost for the 1,000 spreadsheet submissions will be \$2.73; at a total cost of \$2,730. The remainder of the mailed items (15,818) will be sent by first-class postage at a rate of \$1.42 with an estimated cost of \$22,461. Therefore, the total estimated postage cost for this collection is approximately \$25,191 per year.

The total (non-hour) respondent cost burden for this collection in the form of filing fees and postage costs is estimated to be \$32,066 per year.

#### IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 27, 2014.

**Marcie Lovett,**

*Records Management Division Director, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2014-21039 Filed 9-3-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### United States Patent and Trademark Office

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information

under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

*Title:* Patent Examiner Employment Application.

*Agency Approval Number:* 0651-0042.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Burden:* 8,051.5 hours annually.

*Number of Respondents:* 16,103 responses per year.

*Avg. Hours per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 30 minutes (0.5 hours) to complete the employment application, depending upon the applicant's situation.

*Needs and Uses:* The Monster Hiring Management (MHM) online application system creates an electronic real-time candidate inventory that allows the USPTO to review applications from potential applicants almost instantaneously. Given the immediate hiring need of the Patent Examining Corps, time consumed in the mail distribution system or paper review of applications delays the decision-making process by several weeks. The MHM system results in increased speed and accuracy in the employment process, in addition to streamlining labor and reducing costs.

*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Required to obtain or retain benefits.

*OMB Desk Officer:* Nicholas A. Fraser, email: [Nicholas\\_A\\_Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov).

Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through the Information Collection Review page at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov).

Paper copies can be obtained by:

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include "0651-0042 copy request" in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records Management Division Director, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before October 6, 2014 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to [Nicholas\\_A\\_Fraser@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov), or by fax to 202-395-5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

Dated: August 27, 2014.

**Marcie Lovett,**

*Records Management Division Director, USPTO Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2014-21044 Filed 9-3-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before November 3, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include "0651-New comment" in the subject line of the message.

- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Michael Easdale, Office of Patent Quality Assurance, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-3533; or by email to [Michael.Easdale@uspto.gov](mailto:Michael.Easdale@uspto.gov) with "Paperwork" in the subject line.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

##### I. Abstract

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) designed and developed the Patents Ombudsman Program in response to customer feedback that the prosecution of patent applications does not always proceed in accordance with established procedures. In some situations, the patent applicants, attorneys, and agents have felt that examination has stalled and their efforts to move their applications forward through the normal channels have not been effective. The objectives

of the Patents Ombudsman Program are: (1) To facilitate complaint-handling for pro se applicants and applicant's representatives whose applications have stalled in the examination process; (2) to track complaints to ensure each is handled within ten business days; (3) to provide feedback and early warning alerts to USPTO management regarding training needs based on complaint trends; and (4) to build a database of frequently asked questions accessible to the public that give commonly seen problems and effective resolutions.

The USPTO Ombudsman survey is a key component of the process evaluation, providing a program monitoring system and identifying potential opportunities for program enhancement. This survey is being conducted by the USPTO's Ombudsman Program and will be developed, administered, and summarized by USPTO personnel. A survey is the only way the USPTO can gain consistent, reliable, and representative information from the customers choosing to use the Ombudsman Program.

There are no statutes or regulations requiring the USPTO to conduct this usage and satisfaction measurement. The USPTO will use the survey

instrument to implement Executive Order 12862 of September 11, 1993, Setting Customer Service Standards, published in the **Federal Register** on September 14, 1993 (Vol. 58, No. 176).

## II. Method of Collection

Electronic email submission to the USPTO.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0651—New.

*Form Number(s):* No form numbers.

*Type of Review:* New collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households; businesses or other for-profits; and not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 1,100 responses per year. A final respondent pool from approximately 3,000 inquiries would likely be around 1,800 unique customers. Assuming a 60% response rate, 1,100 of the 1,800 unique users will respond which should ensure adequate representation across all Technology Centers.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take the public approximately 5 minutes (.083 hours) to submit the information in this collection, including the time to gather the necessary information, prepare the

appropriate form or document, and submit the completed request to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 91.67 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$29,608.33. The USPTO believes that both professionals and para-professionals will complete these surveys, at a rate of 75% of the current professional rate of \$389 per hour and 25% of the para-professional rate of \$125 per hour. The professional hourly rate used for the calculation is the median rate for attorneys in private firms as published in the 2013 AIPLA Economic Survey. This report summarized the results of a survey with data on hourly billing rates. The para-professional hourly rate comes from 2013 report published by the National Association of Legal Assistants.

The hourly rate for professionals, calculating 75% of \$389, totals \$291.75, while the hourly rate for the para-professionals, calculating 25% of \$125, totals \$31.25, for a combined hourly rate of \$323. The USPTO estimates that the respondent cost burden for this collection will be \$29,608.33 per year (1,100 responses \* .083 hours \* \$323).

Item	Estimated time for response (minutes)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Ombudsman Survey .....	5	1,100	91.67
Totals .....	.....	1,100	91.67

*Estimated Total Annual Non-Hour Respondent Cost Burden:* \$0. There are no capital start-up, maintenance, postage, or recordkeeping costs associated with this information collection.

## IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB

approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: August 27, 2014.

**Marcie Lovett,**

*Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2014-21048 Filed 9-3-14; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### United States Patent and Trademark Office

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35).

*Agency:* United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

*Title:* Substantive Submissions Made During the Prosecution of the Trademark Application.

*Form Number(s):* PTO-1553, 1581, 2194, 2195, 2200, 2202.

*Agency Approval Number:* 0651-0054.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Burden:* 63,981 hours annually.

*Number of Respondents:* 292,706 responses per year.

*Avg. Hours per Response:* The USPTO expects that it will take the public approximately 5 to 30 minutes (0.08 to 0.50 hours) to gather the necessary information, create the document, and submit the completed request, depending upon the type of request and the method of submission (electronic or paper).

*Needs and Uses:* This collection of information is required by the Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. 1051 *et seq.*, which provides for the Federal registration of trademarks, service