

unwarranted invasion of personal privacy of the nominees; and premature disclosure of the Committee's recommendations would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of the Medal Program.

The Acting Chief Financial Officer/ Assistant Secretary for Administration, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, United States Department of Commerce, formally determined on October 17, 2018, pursuant to section 10(d) of the FACA, that the meeting may be closed because Committee members are concerned with matters that are within the purview of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6) and (9)(B). Due to closure of this meeting, copies of any minutes of the meeting will not be available. A copy of the determination is available for public inspection at the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Dated: October 24, 2018.

Andrei Iancu,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-23609 Filed 10-26-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; USPTO Websites Customer Satisfaction Surveys

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.

Agency: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

Title: USPTO Websites Customer Satisfaction Surveys.

OMB Control Number: 0651-New. *Form Number(s):*

- None.

Type of Request: Regular.

Number of Respondents: 100,000 responses per year.

Average Hours per Response: 8 minutes per response.

Burden Hours: 13,333.33 hours annually.

Cost Burden: \$0.

Needs and Uses: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) wishes to conduct customer satisfaction surveys on its websites. This collection will allow for continued use of a data-driven and a statistically valid approach to understanding customer satisfaction

with Agency websites. The objective is to help the USPTO become more citizen-centric and achieve higher levels of public trust and confidence. The USPTO will use the ForeSee surveys in order to collaborate effectively with the public and meet Administration mandates. These surveys will assist the Agency in its efforts to be open and collaborative.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profits; not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: On occasion.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

OMB Desk Officer: Nicholas A. Fraser, email: Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov.

Once submitted, the request will be publicly available in electronic format through reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Further information can be obtained by:

- *Email:* InformationCollection@uspto.gov. Include "0651-New" in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Marcie Lovett, Records and Information Governance Division Director, Office of the Chief Technology 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 November 28, 2018 to Nicholas A. Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, via email to Nicholas_A_Fraser@omb.eop.gov, or by fax to 202-395-5167, marked to the attention of Nicholas A. Fraser.

Marcie Lovett,

Records and Information Governance Division Director, OCTO, United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2018-23553 Filed 10-26-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2018-0062]

Request for Comments on Motion To Amend Practice and Procedures in Trial Proceedings Under the America Invents Act Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: This Request for Comments seeks public input on certain practices

and procedures that the Patent Trial and Appeal Board ("PTAB" or "Board") of the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("Office" or "USPTO") proposes regarding motions to amend filed in *inter partes* reviews ("IPR"), post-grant reviews ("PGR"), and covered business method patent reviews ("CBM") pursuant to the provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act ("AIA") providing for trial proceedings before the Office. Specifically, the Office seeks input on a proposed amendment process that would involve a preliminary non-binding decision by the Board that provides information to the parties regarding the merits of a motion to amend, and an opportunity for a patent owner to revise its motion to amend thereafter. In addition, the Office seeks input on a proposed pilot program implementing the new amendment process. The Office also seeks input regarding whether the Office should continue to allocate the burden of persuasion regarding patentability of substitute claims as set forth in a recent informative Board decision, as well as any suggestions the public may have as to motion to amend practice before the Board generally.

DATES: *Comment Deadline Date:* Written comments must be received on or before December 14, 2018, to ensure consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the internet addressed to: TrialRFC2018Amendments@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by postal mail addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Board, Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of "Acting Deputy Chief Administrative Patent Judge Jacqueline Wright Bonilla or Vice Chief Administrative Patent Judge Michael Tierney, PTAB Request for Comments 2018."

Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the Office prefers to receive comments by electronic mail message to more easily share all comments with the public. The Office prefers the comments to be submitted in plain text, but also accepts comments submitted in portable document format or DOC format. Comments not submitted electronically should be submitted on paper in a format that facilitates convenient digital scanning into portable document format.

The comments will be available for public inspection at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, located in Madison East, Ninth Floor, 600 Dulany Street,