

or step-plus-function construction, as the invocation of 35 U.S.C. 112(f) affects claim scope. Drafting claims with limitations that comply with 35 U.S.C. 112(f) can be beneficial to applicants by allowing them to recite a function in a claim and rely on the specification for the corresponding structure, material, or acts that perform the function and equivalents to the disclosed structure, material, or acts. This technique permits the claim drafter to avoid specific identification of the means or step for performing a claimed function in the claim itself by offering a shorthand that can point to a more robust description of the means or step in the specification.

When a patent examiner determines that, under the broadest reasonable interpretation of a claim, a limitation invokes 35 U.S.C. 112(f), the limitation must be limited to the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as performing the entire claimed function and equivalents to the disclosed structure, material, or acts. As a result, 35 U.S.C. 112(f) limitations will, in some cases, be afforded a narrower interpretation than a limitation that is not crafted in means-plus-function format. This is an important distinction when searching for and applying prior art. The memorandum highlights the special considerations for the examination of claims with 35 U.S.C. 112(f) limitations.

The memorandum also reminds patent examiners that the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (9th Edition, Rev. 07.2022, February 2023) includes the latest examination guidance concerning 35 U.S.C. 112(f) in sections 2181–2187. The memorandum to patent examiners provides a summary of important points related to examining claims having 35 U.S.C. 112(f) limitations and provides the specific MPEP sections noted for more thorough information on each topic. The memorandum addresses: (1) the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 112(f); (2) claim interpretation and the importance of a clear record; and (3) adequate support, specifically to satisfy the requirements of definiteness, written description, and enablement.

Additionally, the memorandum explains that refresher training on 35 U.S.C. 112(f) is available to patent examiners. Training is also available to the public at [www.uspto.gov/patents/laws/examination-policy/examination-guidance-and-training-materials](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/laws/examination-policy/examination-guidance-and-training-materials).

Feedback on 35 U.S.C. 112(f) guidance is welcome. Instructions for

submitting feedback are provided in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

**Katherine K. Vidal,**

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

[FR Doc. 2024–05798 Filed 3–19–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–16–P**

## COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

### Agricultural Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) announces that on April 11, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Central Daylight Time), the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC or Committee) will hold an in-person public meeting at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel in Overland Park, KS, with options for the public to attend virtually. At this meeting, the AAC will discuss topics related to the agricultural economy and recent developments in the agricultural derivatives markets.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on April 11, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Central Daylight Time). Members of the public who wish to submit written statements in connection with the meeting should submit them by April 18, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will take place at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel, 6100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. You may submit public comments, identified by “Agricultural Advisory Committee,” through the CFTC website at <https://comments.cftc.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments through the Comments Online process on the website. If you are unable to submit comments online, contact Swati Shah, Designated Federal Officer, via the contact information listed below to discuss alternate means of submitting your comments. Any statements submitted in connection with the committee meeting will be made available to the public, including publication on the CFTC website, <https://www.cftc.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Swati Shah, AAC Designated Federal Officer, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC; (202) 418–5042; or [aac@cftc.gov](mailto:aac@cftc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting will be open to the public with seating on a first-come, first-served

basis. Members of the public may also listen to the meeting by telephone by calling a domestic or international toll or toll-free number to connect to a live, listen-only audio feed. Call-in participants should be prepared to provide their first name, last name, and affiliation.

*Domestic Toll-Free Numbers:* 833–568–8864 or 833–435–1820.

*Domestic Toll Numbers:* 1–669–254–5252 or 1–646–964 1167 or 1–646–828–7666 or 1–669–216–1590 or 1–415–449–4000 or 1–551–285–1373.

*International Toll- and Toll-Free Numbers:* Will be posted on the CFTC’s website, <https://www.cftc.gov>, on the page for the meeting, under Related Links.

*Call-In/Webinar ID:* 160 831 3224.

*Pass Code/Pin Code:* 031806.

Members of the public may also view a live webcast of the meeting via the <http://www.cftc.gov/> website. The meeting agenda may change to accommodate other Committee priorities. For agenda updates, please visit <https://www.cftc.gov/About/AdvisoryCommittees/AAC>.

After the meeting, a transcript of the meeting will be published through a link on the CFTC’s website, <http://www.cftc.gov>. Persons requiring special accommodations to attend the meeting because of a disability should notify the contact person above.

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. 1009(a)(2).)

Dated: March 14, 2024.

**Robert Sidman,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 2024–05819 Filed 3–19–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6351–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans

**AGENCY:** White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans, Office of the Secretary, Department of Education.

**ACTION:** Announcement of an open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the agenda for the April 4–5, 2024, open meeting of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans (PAC) and provides information to members of the public about how to attend the meeting and submit written comments related to the work of the PAC.