



USPTO 21st Century Strategic Plan

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Need For Change

- **Increased Workload**
- **Increased Complexity**
- **Quality Issues**



Appropriations Language

- 5 year Plan
- Need process changes to increase efficiency
- Cannot hire way out

- **NEW STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPED**



Quality

- **Pre-employment Testing**
- **Certification of Examiners prior to GS-13**
- **Re-certification of Primary Examiners**



Quality (continued)

- Increase Case Reviews
- Second pair of eyes
- Post grant Review



E-Government Strategy

- **TM October 2003**
- **Patents October 2004**
 - **Electronic File Wrapper**
 - **RFA Partnerships**
 - **Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence**
 - **E-Access through PAIR**
- **International Cooperation**
 - **Compose Once – File Many**



Timelines

- **Separate filing and examination fees**
 - 10% dropout rate
- **Rocket Docket**
- **Outsource Classification**
 - PG Pub
 - Reclassification
 - PCT



Timelines

- Searches from other IP Offices
 - Bi-lateral agreements
- Searches from CSS

- Goal – 18 Month Pendency by 2008



Challenges

- **Fee Legislation**
 - **Need consensus**
 - **Oversight Hearing Criticisms**
 - **Diversion**
 - **Claim Fees**
 - **Deferred Examination**
 - **Higher Fees – Compare EPO/JPO**



Challenges

- **Appropriation Bill**
 - '03 Supplemental
 - Senate Mark
 - Likely CR

- **Business as Usual not an Option**



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Thank You