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Hello WSPLA Members:

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve access to the patent system in our community, we hope you will consider volunteering with the USPTO Patent Pro Bono Program. The University of Washington School of Law, in partnership with the USPTO, provides all the initial screening to make sure your time and skills are put to good use. Please read further for more information from the USPTO Patent Pro Bono Team.

The WSPLA Board

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Greetings from the USPTO Patent Pro Bono Team!

Recently, Senators Patrick Leahy and Thom Tillis introduced the bipartisan *Unleashing American Innovators Act*. This bill highlights the Patent Pro Bono Program as a way to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in the patent system. Accordingly, we anticipate an increased need for volunteer practitioners.

Your members who are patent practitioners are uniquely positioned to help financially under-resourced inventors and small businesses file and prosecute patent applications. So, please ask your membership to help those who could not otherwise afford to do so engage in our innovation economy.

Patent practitioners can volunteer through their local patent pro bono program. Please see <https://www.law.uw.edu/academics/programs/casrip/wa-patent/information-for-attorneys> or [www.uspto.gov/probonopatents](http://www.uspto.gov/probonopatents) for more information on how to volunteer. The local program screens applicants using criteria that include: (1) household income; (2) knowledge of the patent system; and (3) possession of an actual invention (not merely an idea) to ensure that each inventor or small business is a good candidate for assistance.

We welcome the opportunity to speak to your organization about the Patent Pro Bono Program. Continuing legal education credits may be available. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

As a courtesy, we ask that you forward this email to the members of your organization.  
We believe that together we can make the Patent Pro Bono Program a lasting success!

Thank you,

The USPTO Patent Pro Bono Team  
Office of Enrollment and Discipline  
USPTO

[www.uspto.gov/probonopatents](http://www.uspto.gov/probonopatents)

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