NAPP's 20th Annual Meeting & Conference
Schedule At-a-Glance (schedule subject to change)

Thursday, July 28 USPTO Day

7:30 AM    5:00 PM    Registration Desk Open
8:00 AM    8:45 AM    Breakfast
8:45 AM    9:00 AM    Opening Remarks

9:00 AM    10:00 AM   The USPTO's Vision for Patent Quality
Commissioner Andrew Hirshfeld
This session will cover the role of the USPTO in the patent quality discussion, and the adaptation of office processes, programs, and initiatives for examiners and applicants in the interest of raising the bar of patent quality.

10:15 AM    11:15 AM   USPTO Quality Measurement
Chief Statistician Martin Rater
This session will cover the challenges of Office of Patent Quality Assurance to measure patent and examination quality; the processes and statistical techniques currently utilized by the office; and outreach to the patent community in this endeavor.

11:30 AM    12:00 PM   USPTO Ombudsman's Office
Ombudsman's Office Director Anthony Knight
This session will cover the role and resources of the Office of the Ombudsman that are available to avoid roadblocks and promote the efficiency and quality of patent examination and prosecution. Additionally, this talk will include a discussion of the most common issues that we are receiving calls on and tips to either avoid or work through these issues.

12:15 PM    1:15 PM    Lunch
*Generously Sponsered by: Mike Caldwell- Anaqua*

1:30 PM    2:30 PM    Patent Quality in the Trenches
Timothy Callahan; Gregory Vidovich, TC Director; Jacqueline Stone, TC Director
This session will cover the experiences of patent examiners, supervisors, and technology center directors in the adaptation of day-to-day examination practice to promote patent quality.

2:30 PM    2:45 PM    Coffee Break
*Generously sponsored by: Claim Masters*

2:45 PM    3:45 PM    Design Patent Quality Issues
Joel Sincavage
This session will cover the distinctive challenges for design patent examiners and applicants in the context of patent quality.

4:00 PM    5:00 PM    Patent Quality Ethics
OED Deputy Director William Griffin
This session will cover ethics-related issues, generally and in the context of patent quality, that are the current focus of attention of the Office of Enrollment and Discipline.

5:15 PM    6:15 PM    Welcome Reception (USPTO Museum)
Dinner on Own
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Saturday, July 30  Practice Integration Day

8:00 AM  12:00 PM  Registration Desk Open
8:00 PM  8:45 AM  Breakfast
8:45 PM  9:00 AM  Opening Remarks

9:00 AM  10:30 AM  Patent Drafting Best Practices
Panel: Jeff Wendt; Gary Maze; Richard Kirkpatrick
This panel session will cover patent drafting strategies (including drawings) to present high-quality patent applications to the USPTO and other patent offices as well as defend those patents in post-grant proceedings and litigation.

10:45 AM  12:15 PM  Patent Prosecution Best Practices
Panel: Ernie Beffel; Charles Bienerman; Kerry Culpepper; Steven Greenberg and Mike Caldwell
This panel session will cover patent prosecution strategies to advance patent prosecution and secure high-quality, enforceable patents for client applicants and inventors.

12:30 PM  1:15 PM  Lunch & 20 for the 20th Networking

Generously Sponsored by: Larry Hilton- Dominion Insurance
Guest Speaker: Chris Karel- RWS inovia

1:30 PM  2:30 PM  International Practice Issues
David Dickerson
This panel session will cover international patent practice strategies to secure patents in non-U.S. jurisdictions in coordination with U.S. patent practice.

2:30 PM  2:45 PM  Coffee Break
Generously sponsored by: Patent Designs

2:45 PM  3:45 PM  Practice Management Issues (docketing, client development)
Panel: Bruce Young, Priya Cloutier
This panel session will cover the management of patent practice, including securing and advising clients and docket management, to maintain and elevate our standards of patent quality.

4:00 PM  5:00 PM  Case Hypotheticals
Panel: Lisa Adelson; Kip Werking; Jerry Miller
This concluding panel session will cover the review of a few hypothetical creative works by a panel of intellectual property practitioners, the availability of various forms of protection for various aspects of such works, and the identification and handling of issues that may arise, including the dynamic state of the law of patent quality standards.

5:00 PM  Closing Remarks