

at 1 p.m. and adjourn at approximately 4 p.m. (EST) at the International Civil Rights Center, 134 S. Elm Street, Greensboro, NC, 27401. The purpose of the meeting is for the Committee to discuss its report on disparate discipline of minority youth by public school districts.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments. The comments must be received in the Southern Regional Office by August 14, 2010. The mailing address is Southern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 61 Forsyth Street, Suite 18T40, Atlanta, GA 30301. Persons wishing to e-mail their comments may do so to pminarik@usccr.gov. Persons that desire additional information should contact Peter Minarik, Regional Director, Southern Regional Office, at (404) 562-7000 (or for hearing impaired TDD 913-551-1414).

Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least ten (10) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Southern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Persons interested in the work of this advisory committee are advised to go to the Commission's Web site, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or to contact the Southern Regional Office at the above e-mail or street address.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission and FACA.

Dated in Washington, DC, June 18, 2010.

Peter Minarik,

*Acting Chief, Regional Programs
Coordination Unit.*

[FR Doc. 2010-15262 Filed 6-23-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Availability of Conservation Seat and Diving Operations Seat for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

AGENCY: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce (DOC).

ACTION: Notice and request for applications.

SUMMARY: The ONMS is seeking applications for the following vacant seats on the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council: Conservation and Diving Operations. Applicants are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the protection and management of marine resources; and possibly the length of residence in the area affected by the sanctuary.

Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve three-year terms, pursuant to the council's Charter.

DATES: Applications are due by August 2, 2010.

ADDRESSES: Application kits may be obtained from Jennifer Morgan, NOAA—Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 4700 Avenue U, Bldg. 216, Galveston, TX 77551 or downloaded from the sanctuary Web site <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Morgan, NOAA—Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 4700 Avenue U, Bldg. 216, Galveston, TX 77551, 409-621-5151 ext. 103, Jennifer.Morgan@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Located in the northwestern Gulf of Mexico, the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary includes three separate areas, known as East Flower Garden, West Flower Garden, and Stetson Banks. The Sanctuary was designated on January 17, 1992. Stetson Bank was added to the Sanctuary in 1996. The Sanctuary Advisory Council will consist of no more than 21 members; 16 non-governmental voting members and 5 governmental non-voting members. The Council may serve as a forum for consultation and deliberation among its members and as a source of advice to the Sanctuary manager regarding the management of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1431, *et seq.* (Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program)

Dated: June 14, 2010.

Daniel J. Basta,

Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2010-15095 Filed 6-23-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-C-2010-0053]

Notice of Enforcement Policy Symposium on Combating Counterfeiting in the 21st Century

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

ACTION: Notice of public symposium.

SUMMARY: To focus on the United States Government enforcement policy regarding counterfeit goods involving health and safety concerns and the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) efforts at home and abroad combating counterfeiting, the USPTO and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) are co-hosting an enforcement policy symposium on combating counterfeiting in the 21st century. A three panel program is planned for the symposium addressing counterfeiting through regulatory procedures, criminal procedures, and training/public awareness. There are a limited number of seats allocated for members of the public who wish to attend and observe the symposium. Requests to attend the symposium are required and must be submitted by electronic mail through the Internet to: elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov. Requests to attend the symposium should indicate the following information: (1) The name of the person desiring to attend; (2) the person's contact information (telephone number and electronic mail address); and (3) the organization(s) the person represents, if any.

Dates and Times: The symposium will be held on Wednesday, July 14, 2010, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The deadline for receipt of requests to observe the symposium is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 7, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The symposium will be held at the USPTO, Madison Auditorium, Concourse Level, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elizabeth Shaw, Office of External Affairs, by phone 571-272-8494, by facsimile to 571-273-0121, by e-mail at elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov or by mail addressed to: Mail Stop OIPPE, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, ATTN: Elizabeth Shaw.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Enforcement Policy Symposium on Combating Counterfeiting in the 21st

Century will consist of three panel discussions focused on the challenges and opportunities presented, changes in the intellectual property enforcement landscape, and interagency cooperation. A panel on regulatory authority will address enforcement policy involving counterfeiting and the regulatory response. A second panel on criminal procedure will involve a discussion of enforcement policy involving the investigation and prosecution of counterfeit goods involving health and safety concerns. A third panel on the United States Government's domestic and international training efforts relating to counterfeiting and public awareness is the final panel. Government agencies that provide enforcement training and public awareness programs will be featured.

Should there be time during the symposium, questions from members of the public in attendance may be addressed.

The USPTO plans to make the symposium available via Web cast. Web cast information will be available on the USPTO's Internet Web site, <http://www.uspto.gov>, before the symposium.

Dated: June 18, 2010.

David J. Kappos,

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

[FR Doc. 2010-15307 Filed 6-23-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2010-0048]

Expansion and Extension of the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice in the **Federal Register** providing an additional temporary basis (the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan) under which a small entity applicant may have an application accorded special status for examination if the applicant expressly abandons another copending unexamined application. The Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan allows small entity applicants having multiple applications currently pending before the USPTO to have greater control over the priority

with which their applications are examined while also stimulating a reduction of the backlog of unexamined patent applications pending before the USPTO. The USPTO is expanding the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan to permit all applicants to participate by eliminating the small entity status requirement and adding a few new requirements in view of the expansion. The program is also being extended until December 31, 2010, or the date that 10,000 applications have been accorded special status for examination under the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan, whichever occurs earlier. These changes allow more applicants to take advantage of the program.

DATES: Effective Date: The changes in this notice are effective on June 24, 2010. The Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan became effective on November 27, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pinchus M. Laufer, Office of the Associate Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, by telephone at 571-272-7726; or via e-mail addressed to Pinchus.Laufer@uspto.gov; or by mail addressed to: Box Comments Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The USPTO published a notice in the **Federal Register** providing an additional temporary basis (the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan) under which a small entity applicant may have an application accorded special status for examination if the applicant expressly abandons another copending unexamined application. *See Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan*, 74 FR 62285 (Nov. 27, 2009), 1349 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Off.* 304 (Dec. 22, 2009) (hereinafter "*Backlog Reduction Notice*"). The Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan allows small entity applicants having multiple applications currently pending before the USPTO to have greater control over the priority with which their applications are examined while also stimulating a reduction of the backlog of unexamined patent applications pending before the USPTO. The USPTO indicated that the program would last for a period ending on February 28, 2010, but may be extended for an additional time period thereafter. *See Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan*, 74 FR at 62287, 1349 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Off.* at 306. The USPTO extended the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan until June 30, 2010. *See*

Extension of the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan, 75 FR 5041 (Feb. 1, 2010), 1351 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Off.* 202 (Feb. 23, 2010). The notice stated that the USPTO may further extend the procedures set forth in this notice to all applicants (on either a temporary or permanent basis), or may also discontinue the procedures set forth in this notice after June 30, 2010, depending upon the results of the Patent Application Backlog Reduction Stimulus Plan.

The *Backlog Reduction Notice* required *inter alia* that the application for which special status is sought is a nonprovisional application that has an actual filing date earlier than October 1, 2009, in which the applicant has established small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27. The program is being expanded to permit all applicants to participate by eliminating the small entity status requirement and adding a few new requirements in view of the expansion. The modifications set forth in this notice will apply to any petitions that are filed on or after the publication date of this notice. This will permit more applications to qualify for the program and result in a greater reduction of the patent application backlog. Applicants may obtain special status for examination for as many as fifteen applications under this program.

Effective immediately, the USPTO will accord special status for examination to a patent application that has an actual filing date earlier than October 1, 2009, if the new requirements set forth in this notice are satisfied, and the conditions set forth in the *Backlog Reduction Notice* published on November 27, 2009, other than the small entity status requirement, are also satisfied. In view of the expansion, the following new requirements are added to the program: (1) The letter of express abandonment filed in the copending nonprovisional application must also include a statement that the applicant has not and will not file a new application that claims the same invention claimed in the expressly abandoned application (the phrase "same invention" has the same meaning as used in the context of statutory double patenting under 35 U.S.C. 101); (2) the applicant has not received special status for more than fourteen other applications under this program; and (3) the petition under 37 CFR 1.102 must also: (i) Include a specific identification of the relationship between the applications that qualifies the application for special status (*e.g.*, identifying, by name, a common inventor, assignee or owner); (ii) identify, by application number if