

From: Bill.Bunker
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2015 3:04 PM
To: WorldClassPatentQuality
Cc: Bill.Bunker
Subject: Proposal 6 - in person interviews

Dear Patent Office,

I was able to attend at least part of the patent quality summit at the PTO in March. I appreciated that it was well thought out and much preparation had gone into it. I made comments at the summit on proposal 6: in person interviews; however, I wanted to reiterate my points in this email.

I am in favor of Proposal 6 and would use it and support it. I would support a modest fee associated with this program – probably it would have to be less than \$1000, perhaps around \$500.

However, I would not use the program a lot because it is inherently inefficient – it provides for only a single interview with a single examiner in a single application (although I'm sure related applications being examined by the same examiner could probably be combined into the single interview, but that is the exception and not the rule).

Thus, I would propose a pilot program with additional options for in person interviews:

- Be able to request – for a fee – that the examiner come to the PTO main campus in Alexandria. This is much more efficient for those practitioners, such as myself, that office far away from Washington DC and therefore schedule multiple interviews at the PTO in a single trip
- Be able to request – for no fee – that the interview be held in person in Alexandria with the examiner's SPE or another primary examiner in DC with the examiner on the phone or via webex. I have done this many times – when the SPE would cooperate – and I find it very effective. And there does not appear to me to be any cost involved.

In order to fund travel expenses, I would support a fee for all in person interviews, but that fee would have to be fairly nominal such as \$100 - \$300. FAI program in person interviews could require a nominal fee; however I feel that Track 1 interviews, in person, should not involve an additional fee.

Thank you for your time.

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