

Training Time Proposals

NTEU believes that the current need to increase the inventory of unexamined classes – and our shared interest in preserving jobs -- presents us with a unique opportunity to redouble our training efforts in ways that will provide immediate benefits to the examining attorneys, the Office, and most importantly, our customers. We believe, however, that a temporary deviation from the current training model is imperative at this time to encourage broad participation in a wide array of training initiatives. Only by taking examining attorneys out of examination by providing adjustments for such activities, can we ensure that the inventory of classes will be adequate to keep us all employed for the duration of the filing downturn.

Under the current model, examining attorneys do not receive production adjustments for training hours unless they exceed twelve hours of training in the current quarter. Many examining attorneys, therefore, elect to forego training opportunities because they would be responsible for producing the balanced disposals (BDs) represented by those hours. If examining attorneys were provided with production adjustments for training hours, they would undoubtedly take advantage of many more training opportunities.

NTEU believes the following activities provide lasting value to the organization, should be considered training, and should be encouraged through the use of production adjustments.

Office-Wide Activities:

Legal training seminars

TEALE refresher courses

ID/Class training

Specimen training

Non-legal training that benefits the organization (e.g., Customer Service Training, Computer Training)

Individual Activities:

Study Modules – these could address many of the subjects listed in other sections

ID/Class online interviews on classes

Studying TQR Materials (e.g., tips, guides, TEALE materials, excellent actions)

TMEP review

Reading TTAB case summaries or other valuable reading about developments at the TTAB

Law Office Level Activities:

Preparing legal presentations

Making presentations to Law Offices

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Preparing and disseminating information to law offices such as tips on searching, evidence gathering, examination aides or little-known aspects of trademark law

Attending weekly case meetings

Assisting in development and updating of Law Office web pages – these pages offer an invaluable method of maintaining and updating information and putting it at the examining attorneys' fingertips

Activities Outside The Office:

INTA meetings

CLE courses

Conferences that relate to trademarks

NTEU is available at a moment's notice to meet with management to flesh out the details of any and all of the proposals above and the appropriate adjustments given for them.