

UNITED *for* PATENT REFORM

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America's Top Innovators and Main Street Businesses Welcome Announcement of New PTO Director

The following statement may be attributed to the United for Patent Reform coalition:

The industry trade associations, hundreds of small and medium-sized businesses, and innovative companies who hold thousands of patents, welcomed the news that the White House has chosen a new Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Andrei Iancu, a widely-respected patent litigator, has been chosen to fill this important role.

America's patent system plays a critical role in the development of new technologies and growth of our economy. However, abusive patent litigation tactics continue to undermine the patent system and put a serious drain on the US economy. This abuse thrives on poor quality patents, which make it easy to threaten inventors and businesses with broad, baseless claims. Rather than wasting resources to fight frivolous patent lawsuits, America's companies would much rather invest in creating jobs and bringing new products to market.

In recent years, the USPTO has made important strides in improving patent quality. Chief among them was the implementation of vital post-grant review procedures, including the Inter Partes Review (IPR) program as created by Congress through passage of the America Invents Act of 2011. As Congress intended, the IPR program has helped improve patent quality by allowing the PTO to take another look at patents of questionable validity, which are the primary fuel of patent litigation abuse.

Mr. Iancu will be taking over the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at a critical time. In 2016, for the first time ever, the majority of U.S. companies sued by patent trolls - 63% - were small businesses. American businesses of all sizes have come to rely on IPR and other tools to deter litigation abuse and weed out invalid patents. We look forward to working with Mr. Iancu in continuing to support these essential programs that improve patent quality and foster a system that encourages innovation.

About United for Patent Reform

United for Patent Reform is a broad coalition of diverse American businesses—from national Realtor, construction, and technology businesses to Main Street retail shops, automobile manufacturers, hotels, grocers, convenience stores, and restaurants—pursuing comprehensive solutions to abusive patent litigation. For more information, visit www.UnitedforPatentReform.com and follow us on Twitter at [@U4PatentReform](https://twitter.com/U4PatentReform).