Intellectual Property Alert:  
USPTO Announces Expedited Patent Appeal Pilot Program

By Paul M. Rivard

June 16, 2015 — Yesterday, the United States Patent and Trademark Office announced the “Expedited Patent Appeal Pilot” to provide a temporary basis for an applicant to have an ex parte appeal to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board accorded special status (advanced out of turn). To take advantage of the pilot program, the applicant would need to withdraw an appeal in another application in which an ex parte appeal was also pending before the PTAB.

According to the USPTO, the pilot program will allow applicants with multiple ex parte appeals currently pending “to have greater control over the priority with which their appeals are decided and reduce the backlog of appeals pending before the Board.”

The pilot program starts on Friday, June 19. It will continue until 2,000 appeals have been accorded special status or until June 20, 2016, whichever occurs earlier.

Please click here to read the Federal Register notice announcing the program.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this Intellectual Property Advisory, please send a message to Chris Hummel at chummel@bannerwitcoff.com

© Copyright 2015 Banner & Witcoff, Ltd. All Rights Reserved. The opinions expressed in this publication are for the purpose of fostering productive discussions of legal issues and do not constitute the rendering of legal counseling or other professional services. No attorney-client relationship is created, nor is there any offer to provide legal services, by the publication and distribution of this edition of IP Alert.