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March 29, 2017

USPTO FOIA Officer
United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request

To Whom It May Concern:

On or about March 23, 2017, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announced that Director Michelle Lee had “assembled a Working Group on Regulatory Reform” and that “[m]embers of this Working Group will also represent the USPTO on the Department of Commerce’s Regulatory Reform Task Force.” See announcement here:

<https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/uspto-working-group-regulatory-reform>

The announcement by the USPTO did not name the members of the Working Group/Task Force. Furthermore, the announcement stated that Nicolas Oettinger would lead this effort. However, pursuant to Executive Order 13777, Director Lee must name a Regulatory Reform Officer.

I have contacted the Office of the Chief Communications Officer and have been told that no information can be provided on who Director Lee has selected to serve on this Working Group/Task Force. I’ve also been told no information can be provided on whether Oettinger leading this effort means that he has, in fact, been named the Regulatory Reform Officer pursuant to Executive Order 13777.

Therefore, I request:

1. Any document (including written or electronic communications) written by or on behalf of the Director* relating to the selection of the Regulatory Reform Task Force contemplated by Executive Order 13777.
2. Any document (including written or electronic communications) written by or on behalf of the Director* relating to the selection of the Regulatory Reform Officer contemplated by Executive Order 13777.
3. Any document (including written or electronic communications) that lists, identifies or otherwise names the members of the Regulatory Reform Task Force contemplated by Executive Order 13777.
4. Any document (including written or electronic communications) that identifies the name of the Regulatory Reform Officer contemplated by Executive Order 13777.

5. Any document (including written or electronic communications) written by or on behalf of the Director* that notifies members of the Regulatory Reform Task Force that they have been selected to serve as contemplated by Executive Order 13777.

* The term "Director" is used in this request because Executive Order 13777 specifically directs each agency head to name a Regulatory Reform Officer and the Task Force. The USPTO has also announced that Director Michelle Lee has assembled the Task Force. The term "Director" should be interpreted for purposes of this request to mean anyone acting on her behalf, including anyone who may have been delegated authority to fulfill the Director's responsibilities under Executive Order 13777.

In the alternative, if the Office does not wish to go through the time and expense of searching for and collecting the documents requested in this FOIA request, I will consider the FOIA request fully satisfied if the Office provides the name of the person selected by the Director to be the Regulatory Reform Officer and the names of those who make up the Regulatory Reform Task Force.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this request.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. R. Quinn, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Eugene R. Quinn, Jr.