Ms. Kathi Vidal,  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property  
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
600 Dulany St.  
Alexandria, VA  

20 May 2024

By E-Mail
usptoinfo@uspto.gov

Dear Ms. Vidal,

Re: Political considerations and personal beliefs in the patent application examination procedure

We, the undersigned representatives of Intellectual Property professional organizations in Israel, including Israel Patent Attorneys Association (IPAA), the Israeli group of AIPPI and FICPI, write to express our appreciation for your recent communication to the USPTO Examiners regarding concerns of potential partiality in the examination process.

Your proactive approach and clear statement in the email sent to the examiners are reassuring and demonstrate the USPTO’s commitment to maintaining the highest standards of impartiality, objectivity, and adherence to the law. We particularly commend your swift action in addressing internal and external concerns and your commitment to fortifying the USPTO’s processes and internal quality checks.

While we are grateful for your timely and thoughtful response, we remain concerned about the potential influence that individual political views may have on the examination of patent applications of Israel Applicants.

We believe that measures should be taken to ensure that the specific patent application in question is examined based on without bias and in accordance with the guidelines and legal requirements applicable in the USPTO.

Also, the USPTO might undertake an effort to determine if applications by Israel Applicants or Inventors are, statistically, given worse treatment by USPTO examiners.

As representatives of the IP community in Israel, we emphasize the importance of maintaining trust and confidence in the patent examination process. We believe that addressing this matter promptly and transparently is essential to uphold the integrity of the USPTO and ensure fairness for all applicants.
We appreciate your leadership and look forward to your continued efforts in this direction and are eager to support any initiatives that help promote these goals.

Best regards,

Rimma Pugatsch Shendelzon, Chair of Israel Patent Attorneys Association (IPAA)
Asa Kling, President of the Israeli Group of AIPPI
Ran Vogel, Secretary of the Israeli Group of AIPPI
Ena Pugatsch, FICPI ExCo Israel delegate