**Rich Inn of Court**

**Program 1: Patent Trial and Appeal Board**

**September 16, 2015**

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Russell Slifer, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce and Deputy Director of the USPTO**

Russell Slifer is the Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Most recently, Mr. Slifer served as the Director of the Rocky Mountain United States Patent and Trademark Office, where he led efforts to foster business and technological innovation. His team promoted economic development and intellectual property knowledge throughout the Rocky Mountain region.  He encouraged increase cooperation between USPTO stakeholders, the patent and trademark applicants, the intellectual property bar, businesses, and the education community in the region.  In addition, Mr. Slifer advised the USPTO on a variety of policy matters.

Before joining the USPTO, Russ served as Chief Patent Counsel for Micron Technology in Boise, Idaho where he developed an effective worldwide patent portfolio strategy.  He was also a Principal at Schwegman Lundberg & Woessner in Minneapolis, advising a wide range of high-technology clients from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies on intellectual property matters.

Mr. Slifer has also held a number of leadership positions, including President of the Association of Corporate Patent Counsel and Board Member of the Intellectual Property Owners Association. Prior to his legal career, Mr. Slifer was a design engineer for Honeywell

Mr. Slifer received his Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University, as well as a J.D. from Northern Illinois University.

**Acting Deputy Chief Judge Scott Boalick**

Scott Boalick is the Acting Deputy Chief Judge of the Patent Trial and Appeal Board at the USPTO. He is a graduate, magna cum laude, of the Georgetown University Law Center and holds a Master of Science degree in Engineering in Systems Engineering as well as a Bachelor of Science degree, magna cum laude, in Engineering in Electrical Engineering from the University of Pennsylvania.

Prior to law school, Judge Boalick was a Radar Systems Engineer with Technology Service Corporation

from 1992 to 1996 and served as an officer in the U.S. Navy from 1987 to 1991. After graduating from law school, Judge Boalick served as a law clerk to the Honorable Alvin A. Schall of the United States Courtof Appeals for the Federal Circuit beginning in 1999.

Following his clerkship in 2000, he joined Fish & Richardson in Washington, D.C., as an Associate where his practice concentrated on patent prosecution, opinions, and litigation. Beginning in 2004, Judge Boalick served as a Patent Attorney with the Department of the Navy’s Office of the General Counsel at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Laboratory, and at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division.

**Lead Judge Grace Obermann**

Grace Karaffa Obermann is Lead Administrative Patent Judge at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board at the USPTO. She is a graduate, with honors, of the George Washington University School of Law, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from Rutgers University.  Judge Obermann began her career as a bench chemist for FMC Corporation, designing and executing the organic synthesis of insecticidal compounds.  After law school, she practiced as an associate at the law firm of Fish & Neave.  She subsequently served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Honorable Raymond C. Clevenger, III, at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Judge Obermann is a former Assistant Director of the United States Department of Justice, where she served as lead counsel for the United States in a diverse array of high-value IP infringement suits involving, for example, bombs, satellites, synthetic fuel, priority mail services, insurance products, and postage stamp art.  Most recently, she was engaged in the private practice of law with the firm of Davidson, Berquist, Jackson & Gowdey, LLP.

**Steve Baughman, Ropes & Gray**

Steve Baughman is a partner at Ropes & Gray in the Washington, D.C. office, where he recently returned after spending three years in Japan to open the firm’s office in Tokyo. For more than 20 years, Steve has worked with leading international companies to resolve their IP and technology-focused commercial disputes in a broad array of litigation, licensing, and counseling settings. These include patent and trade secret disputes—as well as trademark, copyright, and other complex commercial matters—presented in trial and appellate courts, domestic and international arbitration tribunals, and the International Trade Commission. Steve’s patent litigation matters have involved both utility and design patents.

Steve chairs the firm’s post-grant Patent Office invalidity challenge practice, and in connection with infringement disputes and litigation he is representing and advising clients on the new post-grant trial mechanisms that have become available as a result of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act of 2011, and to date has been counsel of record in more than 85 covered business method (CBM) and *inter partes* review (IPR) proceedings. Steve also conducts strategic *ex parte* patent reexaminations (and ongoing *inter partes* patent reexaminations). Steve is counsel on 15 of the first 25 petitions for covered business method patent review filed at the PTO’s new Patent Trial and Appeal Board, and on all four of the petitions submitted the day the transitional program for CBM patents became available, September 16, 2012, including the first petition on which the Board instituted trial, resulting in the first oral hearing before the Board, and the Board’s first final written decision in a post-grant trial – a victory for our client, SAP, recognized by *Managing IP* as “Milestone Case of the Year.” Steve has been counsel for petitioners in 8 of the first 9 CBM trials to reach final oral argument before the Board, and in 8 of the Board’s first 10 final written determinations on CBM petitions.  All of these resulted in wins for Steve’s clients, with the final written decisions resulting from these trials invalidating every challenged claim in each of the 6 patents they challenged. For his work in this field in 2013, Steve was named “IP MVP” by [*Law360*](https://www.ropesgray.com/~/media/Files/articles/2013/11/IP%20MVP%20Ropes%20%20Grays%20J%20%20Steven%20Baughman.ashx).

Serving clients like Fujitsu, Aisin AW, Motorola, Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd., Simmons Bedding Company, Orbital Sciences Corporation, Olympus, Spansion Japan Limited and other leaders in a wide range of industries, Steve has experience with diverse subject matter ranging from communications networks, semiconductors, and software to disk drives, satellites, and GPS tracking systems, and from financial services and business methods to e-commerce and video games. He is also experienced in media-related disputes and claims of plagiarism.

Whether they are facing off against industry competitors, patent trolls, or other opponents, Steve offers his clients experience in crafting and implementing efficient strategies for achieving real business goals. Steve also brings experience in working effectively across jurisdictions, with multiple counsel and large groups of codefendants.

For more information about Steve, please visit: <https://www.ropesgray.com/biographies/b/j-steven-baughman.aspx>.

**Scott McKeown, Oblon**

Scott A. McKeown is a partner at Oblon and a member of the firm's Management Committee. He co-chairs the Post-Grant Patent practice group focusing on post-grant counseling, litigation and related prosecution issues. He leads the Post-Grant Patent team responsible for electronics, wireless communications, software and computer-related inventions and business methods.

Mr. McKeown handles all aspects of post-issuance patent proceedings at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He specializes in administrative trials before the Patent Trial & Appeal Board (PTAB) as well as appeals to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC). Having successfully navigated USPTO post-grant patent proceedings in which more than half a billion dollars was at stake, he is lead post- grant counsel to some of the world’s most well-known innovators. He provides his clients comprehensive post-grant patent counseling including advice on USPTO post-grant proceedings concurrent with complex International Trade Commission (ITC) and district court litigations.

*The National Law Journal* has identified Mr. McKeown as one of their 50 “Trailblazers & Pioneers” in the area of intellectual property law. *Intellectual Asset Management* has identified him as a “thought leader” and one of the world’s leading patent practitioners for adversarial post-grant USPTO patent proceedings. *Managing Intellectual Property Magazine* has named Mr. McKeown their 2015 “PTAB Litigator of the Year.” Mr. McKeown has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America, and the *Legal 500* has honored him as a recommended patent attorney.

Mr. McKeown is a Professorial Lecturer in Law at the George Washington University Law School. He also is the editor of the well-known legal blog PatentsPostGrant.com. He lectures and writes extensively on post-grant patent proceedings at the USPTO and is also a member of the teaching faculty of the Practicing Law Institute (PLI). Mr. McKeown is the past Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA), Intellectual Property Law Section Committee 104 (Post Grant USPTO Proceedings).

A former electrical engineer, he has worked with a wide range of technologies, including computer software, wireless telecommunication protocols and network architectures, e-commerce applications, analog and digital signal processing, and consumer electronics. In the telecommunication arts, Mr. McKeown has worked extensively with IP routing and signaling protocols, ATM and wireless communication protocols. He also has a broad breadth of experience with OFDM systems, CDMA, TDMA, FSK, QAM and the 802.11 family of protocols.

In the consumer electronic arts, Mr. McKeown's practice has a strong focus in audio and video processing and display technologies, discs, signal compression and encoding schemes, recording medium formatting and construction, and many other related technologies.

For more information about Mr. McKeown, please visit: <http://www.oblon.com/professional/scott-mckeown>