

Become an IP attaché

Intellectual property (IP) attachés are IP experts and diplomats who directly assist U.S. businesses and advocate to improve IP policies, laws, and regulations abroad. The backgrounds of IP attachés are quite diverse. Most begin their careers as private or public sector attorneys, patent examiners, or trademark examining attorneys. Serving as an IP attaché can also be a valuable stepping stone in your career. **Read below to learn about the career paths of four former IP attachés.**

Four pathways to becoming an IP attaché:

Federal attorney • **Private firm attorney** • **Patent examiner** • **Trademark examiner**

Federal attorney

Private firm attorney

Patent examiner

Trademark examiner



Meet former IP attaché Deborah



Switzerland

Deborah Lashley-Johnson

Deborah Lashley-Johnson was working as an attorney for the International Trade Administration before her career interest and experience led her to become an IP attaché in Geneva.

In fact, the career satisfaction and excitement of raising her daughters in an international context led her to hold a second IP attaché post in Geneva.

Deborah is currently serving as a Senior Advisor to the USPTO Undersecretary in Alexandria, Virginia.

Federal attorney

Private firm attorney

Patent examiner

Trademark examiner



Meet former IP attaché Mike



Shanghai

Mike Mangelson

Mike Mangelson's experience with IP law at a private firm led him to become the ideal fit for the IP attaché role in Shanghai.

This fantastic international opportunity led him to his current role as co-China team lead with the USPTO, resulting in continuity of impact in the region.

Did you know?

Many pathways have led individuals with law degrees to serve as IP attachés, such as past work with non-profits, corporate firms, university teaching, and more. **Could you be the next one to serve?**

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Four pathways to becoming an IP attaché (continued)

Federal attorney

Private firm attorney

Patent examiner

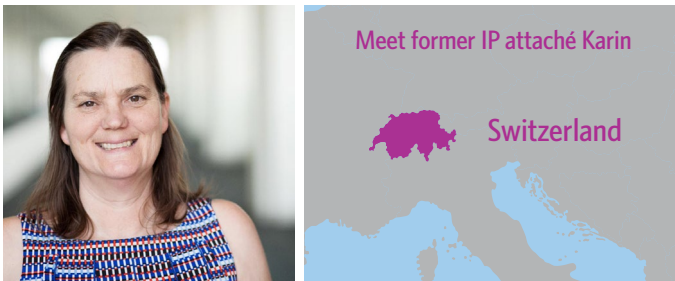
Trademark examiner

Federal attorney

Private firm attorney

Patent examiner

Trademark Examiner



Karin Ferriter

Karin Ferriter didn't know her career as a patent examiner would eventually lead her to serve as an IP attaché. After gaining experience as a patent examiner, she moved to being an attorney in the Office of Policy and International Affairs (OPIA).

Her "homegrown" talent and varied experience made her a great fit for the IP attaché role in Geneva when it became available. This opportunity led to her leadership role as Deputy Chief Policy Officer.

Michael Lewis

Michael Lewis' passion for the creative arts industry led him to become fascinated with IP exploitation, protection, and enforcement.

He joined the USPTO due to his desire to make a difference as a public servant. He knew an IP attaché role was one of the U.S. government's "crown jewels."

He cherished his time serving in Mexico, where he engaged with diverse people and cultures. He then continued a successful career in the private sector as Corporate Counsel at Nintendo of America. He is currently Vice President of IP Protection and Security at the Entertainment Software Association.



IP attachés and local staff with the headquarters-based IP Attaché Program team at the annual USPTO IP attaché consultations in Alexandria, Virginia. Amando Carigo/USPTO

What does an IP attaché do?

- The USPTO's IP attachés advocate for the benefit of U.S. stakeholders to improve policies, laws, and regulations that protect IP abroad, including:
 - raising issues with foreign government officials to explain why changes and improvements to policies, laws, and regulations would be advantageous to that country
 - training host government officials on IP law, enforcement, and administration
 - conducting public awareness programs on U.S. IP perspectives, and why IP should be protected, respected, and enforced
- IP attachés provide assistance across a broad range of IP from protection to preventing online piracy, to licensing issues and combating counterfeit trade
- The attachés also provide information to help U.S. stakeholders entering foreign markets or conducting business abroad, including:
 - how to navigate foreign laws and regulations
 - how foreign courts and governments work
 - how to protect and enforce IP abroad

This is a dream job if you:

- love to travel, meet new people, and can easily adapt to any new environment
- are a self-starter and problem solver
- have experience working with senior government officials
- get energized by challenging and creative work
- are a great communicator
- like forging new and meaningful business alliances on a global scale
- have a passion for public service—especially protecting U.S. innovation

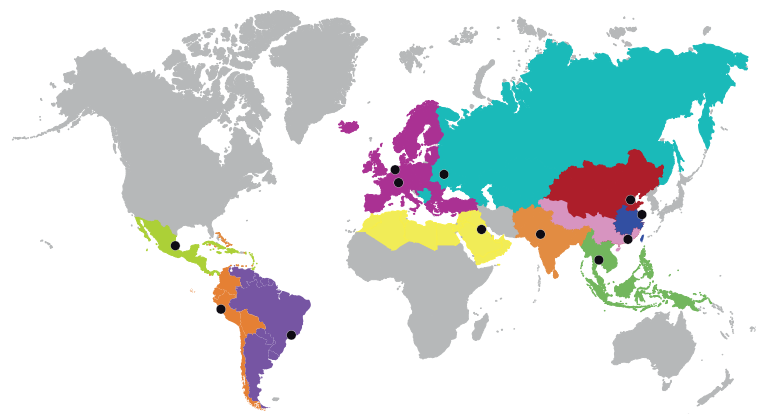
Qualifications

- U.S. citizenship
- Expertise in IP
- Law degree
- Foreign language fluency preferred



Where are IP attachés located around the globe?

- Belgium—Brussels
- Brazil—Rio de Janeiro
- China—Beijing
- China—Guangzhou
- China—Shanghai
- India—New Delhi
- Mexico—Mexico City
- Peru—Lima
- Switzerland—Geneva
- Thailand—Bangkok
- Ukraine—Kyiv
- United Arab Emirates—Abu Dhabi



Learn more

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