

President names POPA Past President Pam Schwartz to Federal Service Impasses Panel



President Biden has appointed Pamela Schwartz, the immediate Past President of the Patent Office Professional Association, as a Member of the Federal Service Impasses Panel, which is charged with resolving bargaining disputes between Federal agencies and their employee unions. Ms. Schwartz retired from the USPTO as a Primary Patent Examiner after over 30 years of Federal service.

Ms. Schwartz served as President of POPA from 2016 until her retirement in 2019 and Vice President of POPA from 2014-15. She was the union's Chief Negotiator for 15 years and led negotiations for most extensive telework program in the federal government resulting in a nationwide workforce of patent examiners. She led the union's negotiating team before the Federal Service Impasses Panel during four bargaining disputes which involved telework and arrangements for the relocation of the USPTO campus. She was awarded the Department of Commerce Silver and Bronze Medal Group Award on multiple occasions for her leadership in transitioning the USPTO to the Cooperative Patent Classification system leading to improved patent quality; for her service on a joint labor/management committee that developed a new method of crediting work that provided more time for patent examination per application; and for leading the union team in informal interest-based bargaining for the Post Grant Outcome Program.

Ms. Schwartz, who is both an attorney and chemical engineer, was also awarded Bronze Medal, Exceptional and Distinguished Career Awards for patent examination.

The Federal Service Impasses Panel is an independent agency that has the power to impose contract terms on Federal agencies and their unions when the parties are unable to reach a voluntary agreement during bargaining and mediation.