

United States Patent and Trademark Office CAREER SPOTLIGHT



FORWARD
THINKING

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Benefit/Feature Highlight: Settling in to Federal Benefits

It's common knowledge that federal employees have great benefits. But if you're coming into the government environment for the first time, some of the names, language and acronyms can be a bit of a hurdle. To get you prepped and ready to start receiving federal benefits, here's a quick guide to some of the lingo.

- **Standard Form (SF) 50:** This is your Notification of Personnel Action. It tells you the type of appointment you were hired on – which is the classification that will dictate your individual benefits eligibility.
- **Appointment:** There are two basic categories of appointment – permanent and Temporary. However, within each of those are several sub-categories. Once you know your appointment, you'll have the tools you need to register for all kinds of benefits.
- **FEHB:** This stands for Federal Employees' Health Benefits Program. As an eligible employee, you may elect health insurance coverage without medical examination, and without restrictions of age, current health or pre-existing conditions.
- **OHR:** This stands for the Office of Human Resources. The people in the OHR will be your resource for benefit information and process your benefits.
- **FEGLI:** A term-insurance policy with no cash value, the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program offers you a range of life insurance options that you can elect.

We hope this glossary helps you get started. You'll receive more information on your federal Benefits options, but if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the OHR at 571-272-6000.

Working and Living in D.C.: The Sounds of the City

The Washington area is lucky to be home to many concert venues, ranging from world-class halls to small clubs. A frequent stop on many national tours as well as home to a bustling local music scene, there's always a show to catch – especially in the warmer months. Here are a few venues to check out.

Wolf Trap – Vienna, VA. Wolf Trap is the nation's only National Park for the Performing Arts. Best known for its Filene Center, the park hosts a full schedule of performances throughout the spring and summer – from musical plays to symphonies to country and pop musicians. The Filene Center is beloved for its incredible acoustics and outdoor setting, but a lot of people prefer to set up a blanket and have a picnic on the lawn. Wolf Trap also houses restaurants and vending, hosts festivals and even welcomes artists throughout the winter in the Barns of Wolf Trap.

Old Town Alexandria. One of the more historical areas, Old Town offers a family-oriented scene with plenty of shopping and dining. Right on the river, you'll have your pick of great seafood restaurants. It's a perfect afternoon destination on a nice day.

Georgetown. The neighborhood grew up around the university, so it attracts lots of young people as you might imagine. In addition to college bars, it's also home to some very upscale dining -- like the historic 1789 and Hook, which is quickly becoming one of the city's premiere restaurants. It's also a great shopping destination, with all of the names you'd expect to find in a nice mall.

FROM PTO

As of July 31, the USPTO has received a total of 382,097 Utility, Plant, and Reissue (UPR) applications, of which 270,089, or 70%, have been filed electronically.

For the month of July, a total number of 218 new employees joined the USPTO, which 207 were hired as new Patent Examiners.

FAST FACTS

August is National Inventors Month, a month long event celebrating invention and creativity. National Inventors Month began in 1998 by the United Inventors Association of the USA (UIA-USA), the Academy of Applied Science, and Inventors' Digest magazine. Take a look at some of the famous events that happened in history in the month of August concerning patents and trademarks.

- On August 14, 1984 IBM released MS-DOS version 3.0. IBM first approached Bill Gates and Microsoft to discuss the state of home computers in 1980.
- On August 25, 1814, the British burnt Washington, D.C., however, the Patent Office was saved by the British Superintendent of Patents, Dr. William Thornton.
- Clara Barton became the first female federal employee to achieve equal status when she was hired by the Patent Office as a clerk on August 25, 1885.
- August 28, 1951, Oral B (the famous line of dental products) was trademark registered.

Invention Trivia:

A toy still popular today was invented at Yale University, on the East coast in the Forties, modified by a space enthusiast from the West coast in the fifties and renamed by a California manufacturing company president in the sixties. What is the name of this toy?

(Answer to this trivia will appear in the next issue).