

Call for Judges 2015



Summary

- **What:** Evaluate Patents for Humanity narrative submissions
- **Who:** Professionals in technical fields with patent experience
- **When:** Late 2015 / early 2016 (flexible schedule)
- **Time:** About 15 total hours over 6 weeks
- **Why:** To recognize those improving lives of the less fortunate

How To Volunteer

Please send your resume to patentsforhumanity@uspto.gov along with:

1. Your name and job title / position
2. Which categories (Medicine, Nutrition, Sanitation, Household Energy, Living Standards) you are interested in judging. If Medicine, also indicate whether you have experience with drugs and vaccines, medical diagnostics and devices, or both. We will do our best to accommodate preferences.
3. A brief one-paragraph statement of how you meet the qualifications below.

Please respond by Nov 6, 2015 for full consideration (late responses may be considered).

Background

Do you know that one fifth of the world's population doesn't have access to clean drinking water? Or that almost a billion of the world's poor don't get enough to eat every day? While tackling the world's challenges needs significant new research, much can be accomplished by applying current technologies to improve lives and raise standards of living.

This is your chance to help! [Patents for Humanity](#) needs volunteers to serve as judges. Patents for Humanity is the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's (USPTO) awards competition rewarding those who bring life-saving technologies to people in need.

Judging Process

The judging process is similar to academic peer review processes like grant review or academic publication.

Working independently, judges apply [non-technical criteria](#) to evaluate how the applicant used patented technology to benefit the impoverished. Applications are scored numerically in three areas with short comments. Judges exercise considerable independent discretion.

Applications compete in five categories:

- **Medicine** - any medical-related technology such as medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, or medical devices
- **Nutrition** - technologies which improve nutrition such as higher yield crops, more nutritious food sources, food preservation, storage, or preparation
- **Sanitation** - improving lives by addressing environmental factors such as clean water, waste treatment, air pollution, and toxic substances
- **Household Energy** - technologies providing power to energy-poor homes and communities for household needs like lighting, cooking, and heating

- **Living Standards** - technologies that raise living standards to empower people to escape poverty, such as literacy, education, communications, information delivery, access to markets, and microfinance

Each application receives multiple reviews by independent judges. The reviews are sent to a selection committee of Federal employees to recommend winners.

Commitment required

Judges agree to serve for one awards cycle. Each judge will review up to 20 applications of no more than 5 pages each. Judges are asked to provide numeric ratings in four areas and a few brief comments.

Judges work on their own schedule during the review period. They can do all their evaluations at one time or spread them out. Applications and review forms will be accessed online through the [application portal website](#). There are rules to recuse judging a particular application in case of conflict of interest.

Applications are due by Dec 4, 2015. Judging will run from approximately mid-Dec to mid-Jan to provide the most flexibility around the end of year, with concessions for the holidays.

Judges will participate in a short orientation seminar via webcast to be scheduled for late Nov / early Dec. After reviews are complete, judges also have the opportunity to provide follow-up comments to improve the process.

Qualifications

To serve as a judge, volunteers should demonstrate the following qualifications:

- 1) Subject matter expertise in science, engineering, economics, business, public policy, health, law, or a related field.
- 2) Demonstrated understanding of a broad range of mechanisms for developing and commercializing technology.

- 3) Experience with similar review processes such as grant applications or academic journal submissions.

Items 1 and 3 can be satisfied in many ways, including: a university teaching position, such as adjunct or part-time faculty; technology transfer officers; professional researchers; or other professional experience. Item 2 may be shown through activities that reflect commercialization experience or knowledge, such as: working in a technology transfer office, turning academic research into commercial products, working with startup companies that commercialize research, advising companies on market potential, engaging in market studies or analysis, obtaining investment capital to monetize patented technologies, or other activities with a commercial focus.

Additional experience that may be helpful:

- 4) Knowledge of humanitarian issues, especially the practical challenges presented with delivering goods and services to areas with inadequate transportation, electricity, security, government, or other infrastructure.