



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

May 04, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Randy Landreneau  
U.S. Inventor  
17440 Dallas Parkway  
Dallas, TX 75287

Re: ***Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. F-21-00090***

Dear Mr. Landreneau:

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) FOIA Office has received your e-mail dated Monday, April 12, 2021 requesting a copy of the following documents pursuant to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552:

1. Copies of all communications, documents, and records the PTO submitted to OPM pursuant to 5 CFR § 451.106(b) recommending awards for any of the fiscal years 2012-2020 inclusive, to any PTO employee working for PTAB. This request also covers any records the PTO submitted to OPM in support of such requests for approval, including those requested by OPM per 5 CFR § 451.106(h), and
2. Copies of all communications, documents, records, and approvals that the PTO received from OPM in response to, and with respect to PTO's requests identified in Request 1 above.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office identified no records responsive to your request.

The Agency did not pay out any individual award of greater than \$10k to PTAB Judges (*non-SES members*) during the period of 2012-2020.

The only awards over \$10K were performance based awards paid to Senior Executive Service (SES) members. Since these award was paid under our OPM Certified SES performance system, the agency does not require OPM's approval, as the SES guidelines for performance awards are different than GS/AD employees.

You have the right to appeal this initial decision to the Deputy General Counsel, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. An appeal must be received within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. See 37 C.F.R. § 102.10(a). The appeal must be in writing. You must include a copy of your original request, this letter, and a statement of the reasons why the information should be made available and why this initial denial is in error. Both the letter and the envelope must be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal."

You may contact the FOIA Public Liaison at 571-272-9585 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

The cost of this request was less than \$20.00 and is therefore waived. See 37 C.F.R. § 102.11(d)(4).

Sincerely,

**Dorothy G. Campbell**

Dorothy G. Campbell  
USPTO FOIA Specialist  
Office of General Law