

**2012 Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership
Nomination of Deborah S. Cohn
Commissioner for Trademarks
United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Biographical/Work History

Deborah Cohn was appointed to be the Commissioner for Trademarks for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) by the Secretary of Commerce in December 2011. In this capacity, she oversees all aspects of the USPTO's Trademark Organization including policy, training, operations and budget relating to trademark examination, registration and maintenance.

Ms. Cohn is an excellent example of a dedicated and highly accomplished Government official who has risen through the ranks of her Agency based upon her superior abilities and achievements. She joined the USPTO in 1983 as a trademark examining attorney and became a law office managing attorney in 1989. She has been a senior executive since 2000, when she was promoted to Group Director, supervising six law offices. In 2006, she was named Deputy Commissioner for Trademark Operations, with responsibility for overseeing the activities of the entire Trademark Organization, including the Agency's 400 trademark examining attorneys. As noted above, she became Commissioner for Trademarks in 2011.

Ms. Cohn has also been called upon by the USPTO to serve as Acting Chief Administrative Officer for the agency, once from October 2007 to April 2008, and again from May to September 2010. The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer is responsible for the agency's Office of Human Resources, Office of Administrative Services, and the office of the Senior Telework Advisor.

Ms. Cohn has proven expertise in labor negotiations, implementing trademark legislation and policy, legal examination, and leading the Trademark Organization to an electronic processing environment. Ms. Cohn has served as a U.S. delegate in international meetings at the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, and has lectured and spoken on trademark law to professional and bar groups on numerous occasions. In addition, she has been instrumental in the development and implementation of telework at the USPTO and led the effort to establish the office's first telework program in 1997. This program has served as a model for the Federal Government and has received numerous awards.

Ms. Cohn was awarded the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Executive in 2007, the Department of Commerce Bronze Medal in 1999 and 2000, and the Telework Exchange's Telework Driver Award in 2007. Ms. Cohn is a former Council of Excellence in Government fellow.

Ms. Cohn holds a B.A. degree from American University and a J.D. from the George Mason University School of Law. She is a member of the Virginia State Bar.