



DEBORAH STEPHENS

Deputy Chief Information Officer, United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO).

Deborah Stephens is the Deputy Chief Information Officer (DCIO) for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). She is the principal advisor to the Chief Information Officer (CIO), manages day-to-day OCIO operations, ensures value delivery across four product lines, and leads over 600 federal employees in their IT modernization efforts, guiding continual improvements to transform IT for maximum stakeholder value.

Ms. Stephens has served the USPTO for over 25 years in multiple key leadership roles. Prior to the OCIO, she was the Associate Commissioner for the Office of Patent Information Management, providing strategic direction and leading the improvement of information systems for patent applications. She has acted as Associate Commissioner for Patents and worked in the Office of the Under Secretary and Director of the USPTO.

A visionary leader, she is passionate about technology and driving change as the OCIO builds and delivers IT products and services for the mission with improved speed, efficiency and reliability. As DCIO, she has led an IT transformation and a strategic pivot to a new way of working and product-driven approach to scale enterprise value delivery and foster innovation for the mission. She is a transformative servant leader that understands that to deliver any change it has to happen one employee at a time. With this in mind, Ms. Stephens leads with empathy, and values her opportunity to work with each faithful public servant in OCIO to deliver innovative solutions for continuous mission support.

She earned a BA degree from George Mason University and a Master's in Human Resource Management from George Washington University. She has served as a national voice for women in technology and is a featured speaker at conferences nationwide. In 2023, she received the highly regarded Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership from the School of Public Affairs at American University. Ms. Stephens has volunteered her time for 18 years for the Girl Scouts of the USA.