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# WASHINGTON PRO BONO PATENT NETWORK

**ANNUAL REPORT  
SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION**

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OCTOBER 2022



# WASHINGTON PRO BONO PATENT NETWORK

The Washington Pro Bono Patent Network (the “Network”) matches financially under-resourced inventors in the State of Washington with volunteer patent attorneys who provide free legal assistance to prepare and file patent applications. The Network is operated by the University of Washington School of Law’s Center for Advanced Study and Research on Innovation Policy (“CASRIP”) with assistance from the United States Patent and Trademark Office (the “USPTO”). The Network launched in 2017 and, through partnership with our outstanding volunteer attorneys, has positively impacted the community.

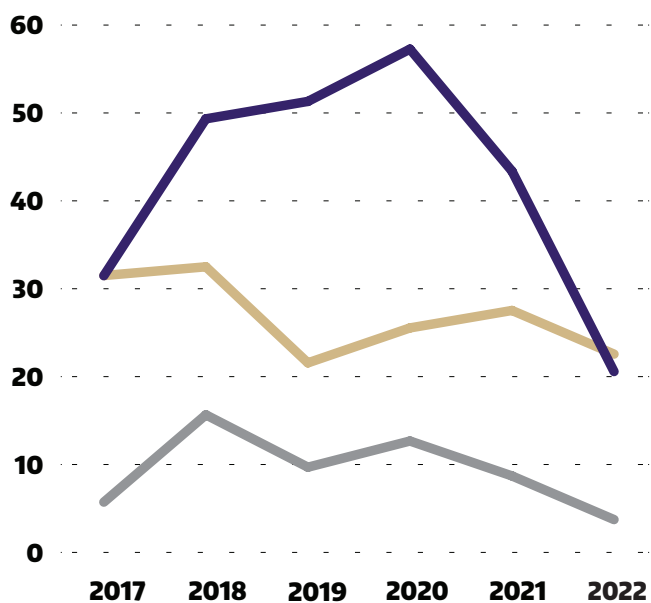
The total number of inventors that inquired about the Network increased steadily from 2017 to 2020, from 31 to 57, respectively. In 2018, the Network received 32 applications from inventors seeking to participate in the program. Although the total number of applicants decreased to 21 applicants in 2019, it increased to 25 applicants in 2020 and 27 in 2021. Of the inventors that applied to the Network each year, a subset was matched with volunteer patent attorneys. There were 5 inventors matched with attorneys in 2017, which increased to 15 inventors matched with attorneys in 2018. The number decreased to 9 inventors matched with attorneys in 2019. Twelve inventors were paired with attorneys in 2020, 8 inventors were paired with attorneys in 2021, and 3 inventors were paired with attorneys to date in 2022.

In the second quarter of 2020, the USPTO and the Network began collecting data on the gender of the inventors that applied to the Network each quarter. Across the ten quarters



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## INVENTORS THAT INQUIRED, APPLIED AND MATCHED WITH AN ATTORNEY

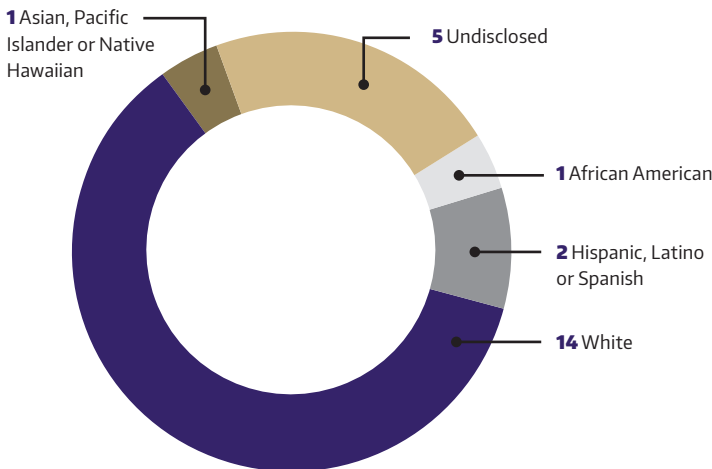


- Number of inventors who inquired about the network
- Number of applications the Network received
- Number of inventors who were matched with volunteer attorney

**GENDER OF APPLICANT BY QUARTER**

GENDER	'20 Q2	'20 Q3	'20 Q4	'21 Q1	'21 Q2	'21 Q3	'21 Q4	'22 Q1	'22 Q2	'22 Q3	TOT
Male	2	4	3	3	3	5	3	7	7	3	40
Female	1	0	2	1	8	1	2	4	3	1	23
Not Disclosed	3	4	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	11

**RACE OF APPLICANT, CUMULATIVE FROM 2ND QUARTER OF 2020 TO 3RD QUARTER OF 2022**



**TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTORNEYS THAT VOLUNTEERED TO PARTICIPATE EACH QUARTER**

YEAR	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
2017		N/A		17
2018	22	25	25	37
2019	38	46	47	48
2020	48	51	51	51
2021	54	51	51	51
2022	57	58	58	TBD

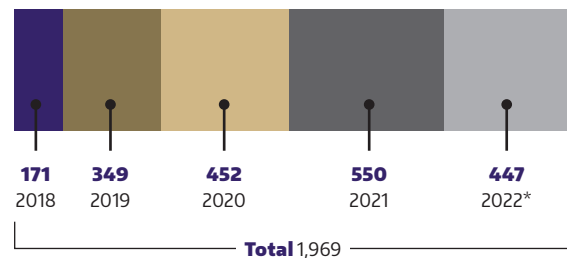
that this data has been collected, the Network has received applications from 40 inventors who self-identify as male, 23 inventors who self-identify as female, and 11 inventors who chose not to disclose. The Network has assigned 12 inventors who self-identify as male, 6 inventors who self-identify as female, and 5 inventors who chose not to disclose.

In the second quarter of 2020, the USPTO and the Network also began collecting data on the race of the inventors that applied to the Network each quarter. Across the ten quarters that this data has been collected, 50% of the inventors that applied to the program self-identify as White; 15% self-identify as Asian, Pacific Islander, or Native Hawaiian; 9% self-identify as African American or Black; 7% self-identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish; and 1% self-identify as two or more races. Approximately 18% of the inventors did not disclose their race. Of those that the Network placed with an attorney, 57% of the inventors self-identify as White; 5% self-identify as Asian, Pacific Islander, or Native Hawaiian; 5% self-identify as African American or Black; and 10% self-identify as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish. Approximately 24% of the inventors placed with attorneys did not disclose their race.

The total number of patent attorneys that volunteer to participate in the Network has significantly increased over the time that the program has been operational. The quarter with the largest total number of volunteers was the third quarter of 2022 with 58 volunteer attorneys.

After an inventor is accepted<sup>1</sup> into the Network and partnered with a volunteer patent attorney, the attorney will hold an initial consultation session and provide pro bono legal services.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF PRO BONO HOURS THAT ATTORNEYS PROVIDED PER YEAR**

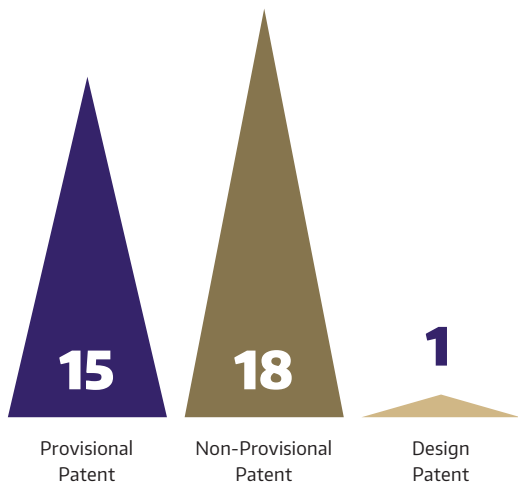


\*Only Q1-Q3 have been collected at time of this report.

<sup>1</sup>If an inventor applies but is not been accepted, it is most commonly for the following reasons: the inventor surpassed the Network's financial threshold, the inventor did not respond to the Network's initial communication and/or clarification questions, the inventor did not pay the application fee, the inventor did not submit all required documents, or there was a lack of invention or patentability issue.

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## TYPES OF PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED, CUMULATIVE THROUGHOUT PROGRAM

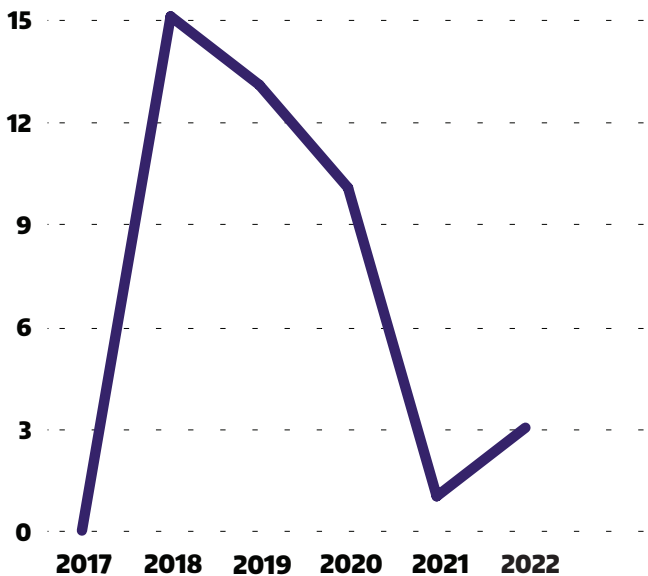


The Network’s volunteer patent attorneys have provided approximately 1,969 hours of pro bono legal services as of September 30, 2022. The Network was launched in 2017 and established its base of volunteers that year. From 2018 to 2020, the total number of volunteer hours quadrupled. The total number of volunteer hours surpassed prior years in 2021, and it continues to grow through 2022.

Over the course of working with the Network from the fourth quarter of 2017 through the third quarter of 2022, pro bono attorneys have helped inventors submit 16 provisional patent applications, 21 non-provisional patent applications, and one design patent application.

There is currently a backlog of three inventors who have been accepted to participate in the Network but are waiting for a volunteer attorney to accept their case. The “cumulative backlog” reflects the number of applicants who were approved for placement but were not matched with an attorney for legal services by the end of the quarter.

## CUMULATIVE BACKLOG OF INVENTORS IN NEED OF PRO BONO ATTORNEY COUNSELING



More information is available at [www.law.uw.edu/academics/programs/casrip/wa-patent](http://www.law.uw.edu/academics/programs/casrip/wa-patent). If you or your employer are interested in partnering with the Network, please reach out to [wapatent@uw.edu](mailto:wapatent@uw.edu).