Introduction

Have you ever wanted to find out more about the opposition procedure at the EPO? Why not join us online for Opposition Matters, a new event designed to give participants direct access to EPO examiners and European patent attorneys with years of opposition experience.

The first edition of this new event focuses on the hot topic of 2020: the introduction of inter partes oral proceedings by videoconference.

Opposition Matters follows in the footsteps of its sister events, Search Matters and Examination Matters, which have become key events for patent searchers and attorneys.

More information: epo.org/opposition-matters
Wednesday, 21 October 2020

09.00 Introduction to the online session for new users

09.15 Welcome
Christoph Ernst, Vice-President Legal and International Affairs, EPO
Xavier Seuba, Director, European Patent Academy, EPO
NN, epi

09.30 Oral proceedings by videoconference in opposition
Theodora Butkowskyj-Walkiw, senior expert, Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry, EPO
Julia Gwilt, European patent attorney, epi
– Presentation
– Moderated breakout sessions dealing with different issues
– Reports from the breakout groups

Breakout sessions
– Technical matters and tools for oral proceedings online
– Best practices in preparing for oral proceedings online
– Best practices in conducting oral proceedings online

Breakout sessions moderated by:
Theodora Butkowskyj-Walkiw, Frédéric Bockstahl, Gershom Sleightholme-Albanis, Antonio García y Garmendia, Angel Molina Silvestre

11.00 Panel discussion on oral proceedings by videoconference in opposition
Moderator:
Suzanne Herrera, Director, Operations, Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry, EPO
Panelists:
Theodora Butkowskyj-Walkiw, senior expert, Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry, EPO
Doris Thums, head of department, Opposition and Substantive Patent Law, Patent Law, EPO
Caroline Demoëte, head of department, Business Application Layer Operations, EPO
Julia Gwilt, European patent attorney, epi

11.30 Break

11.45 Inside the mind of an opposition division
John Yates, senior expert, Mobility and Mechatronics, EPO
Margarita García Martín, European patent attorney, epi

12.45 Exchange of feedback on the event and its format
Giovanni Arca, programme area manager Professional Representatives, European Patent Academy, EPO

13.00 End of day 1
Thursday, 22 October 2020

08.45  Introduction to the online session for new users

09.00  Auxiliary requests – when and how?
Alexandre Bitton, team manager, EPO
Margarita García Martín, European patent attorney, epi
– Presentation
– Moderated breakout sessions working in groups on pre-assigned exercises
– Reports from the breakout groups
– Conclusions

Breakout sessions
– Mobility and Mechatronics
– Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry
– Information and Communications Technology

Breakout sessions moderated by:
Christoph Wirner, Olivier Toffolo, John Yates, Sébastien Debesset,
Gershom Sleightholme-Albanis, Angel Molina Silvestre,
Theodora Butkowskij-Walkiw, Alexandre Bitton

11.00  Break

11.15  Opposition: how the Register can help you
Yolanda Sánchez García, European Patent Register product marketing manager, Patent Knowledge, EPO
Francis Leyder, European patent attorney, epi

12.00  Break

12.15  Hearing of witnesses by videoconference
Britta Kley, lawyer, Patent Law, EPO

12.30  Panel discussion on the hearing of witnesses by videoconference
Moderator:
Suzanne Herrera, Director, Operations, Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry, EPO
Panelists:
Frédéric Bockstahl, examiner, EPO
Britta Kley, lawyer, Patent Law, EPO
Caroline Demoëte, head of department, Business Application Layer Operations, EPO
Christian Rupp, European patent attorney, epi

13.00  End of online conference