

The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform
Commends Today's USPTO Rulemaking Announcement
and
Announces Its Agenda for Patent Reform

The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform (“21C”) is a diverse coalition of American manufacturers who rely on patents to protect their inventions, who develop and manufacture products protected by those patents, who license patents to and from others in furtherance of their business activities, and who assert, when necessary, their patents against infringers and/or defend against patents asserted against them.

21C agrees with U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Director Andrei Iancu that striking the right balance in USPTO patent review proceedings is key to their long-term success and to incentivizing American innovation. 21C strongly supports the notice of proposed rulemaking relating to the use of the Phillips standard for claim construction in such reviews that was issued today by the USPTO.

Kevin H. Rhodes, Vice President and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel of 3M Company, issued the following statement on behalf of 21C regarding today's USPTO proposed rulemaking: “21C commends the USPTO for this welcome step on the path to making Inter Partes Review and other review proceedings more balanced and fair for all participants. Today's announcement furthers the USPTO's mission to promote stable, reliable, predictable and high quality patent rights. Eliminating inconsistencies as to the interpretation and scope of issued patent rights will provide innovators with more confidence that their patents will secure the investments in commercialization and manufacturing needed to turn inventions into new products and businesses.”

21C believes that a strong U.S. patent system is essential to American innovation and is a key to the future prosperity of our country. To that end, 21C released today its “Agenda for Patent Reform” that emphasizes the importance of restoring high-quality, reliable U.S. patent protection as a centerpiece of our national innovation policy that should be a bi-partisan priority deserving of immediate attention from all three branches of government. With these objectives in mind, 21C recommends that Congress, the USPTO, and the courts focus their attentions on the attached Agenda for Patent Reform.

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