

Hon. Michelle Lee: Is She or is She Not Director of the PTO? (con'd)

Gene Quinn has personally investigated the ongoing mystery to discover that now, nearly a full month after Inauguration, the incumbent leader of the Patent Office continues to sign notices in her apparent capacity as Director of the Agency, while the Commerce Department refuses to say whether she officially remains in Office.

Is she or isn't she? Quinn asks whether “[i]f Michelle Lee remains Director of the USPTO why won't the USPTO or the Commerce Department simply answer this straight-forward, legitimate question?”

The PDF version of this note includes Mr. Quinn's latest investigation of the matter.

Regards,

Hal

*Report from Gene Quinn (February 17, 2017)**: “ By all outward appearances, Michelle Lee seems to still be Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. She is reportedly still showing up for work, and her signature remains on issued patents, which is relevant because by law (35 U.S.C. 153) the signature of the Director must appear on issued patents. Lee also signed the Federal Register Notice titled *Changes in Requirements for Affidavits or Declarations of Use, Continued Use, or Excusable Nonuse in Trademark Cases*, which is dated February 6, 2017, and which published on February 10, 2017.

“*** [T]he USPTO and now the Commerce Department refuse to say who is the Director or Acting Director and whether Michelle Lee has been held over by the Trump Administration. ... [S]ince Inauguration Day on January 20, 2017, the Department of Commerce leadership webpage has consistently listed the position of Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office as “Vacant.” ***”

* IPWatchdog, *Michelle Lee seems to be USPTO Director, but Commerce Department Declines Comment* February 17, 2017)(emphasis added).

