

JUSTIFICATION FOR NONMATERIAL/NONSUBSTANTIVE CHANGE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Law School Clinic Certification Program
OMB CONTROL NUMBER 0651-0081
January 2025

Background

The Law School Clinic Certification Program allows students enrolled in a participating law school's clinic to practice patent or trademark law before the USPTO under the direct supervision of a faculty clinic supervisor. Each clinic provides legal services on a pro bono basis for clients who qualify for assistance from the law school's clinic. By drafting, filing, and prosecuting patent and trademark applications, students gain valuable experience that would otherwise be unavailable to them while in law school. The program also facilitates the provision of pro bono services to trademark and patent applicants who lack the financial resources necessary for traditional legal representation.

Information collected from applications submitted by law schools for admission into the program is used to evaluate those law schools and determine whether they are qualified to be admitted as member law schools into the Law School Clinic Certification Program. These qualifications are re-evaluated through the law schools' provision of reports as well as their completion of the required biennial reapplication process.

Summary of Changes

The USPTO is updating a form to cover the Semi-Annual Law School clinic certification program reporting. The program now has eight questions to report activity related to their law school clinic.

Changes in Burden

This request will not result in any changes to the burdens associated with this information collection 0651-0081.

The total burden for 0651-0081 remains as follows:

- 925 respondents (unchanged)
- 1,241 burden hours (unchanged)
- \$46 non-hourly cost (unchanged)