

Filing Documents Using the New Patent Trial and Appeal Case Tracking System (“P-TACTS”)

By Rick Neifeld, October 11, 2022

The PTAB launched PRPS in 2012 to handle filings for the new AIA PTAB proceedings, primarily IPRs, PGRs, and CBMs.

After a few years, the PTAB replaced PRPS with PTAB-E2E.

Now, as of October 11, 2022, the PTAB has replaced PTAB-E2E with Patent Trial and Appeal Case Tracking System (“P-TACTS”). There was no transition period for filing in PTAB-E2E in case P-TACTS failed. In other words, the launch of P-TACTS was abrupt.

So this is a first review and testing of P-TACTS.

The hardest part of using P-TACTS is figuring out where to start.

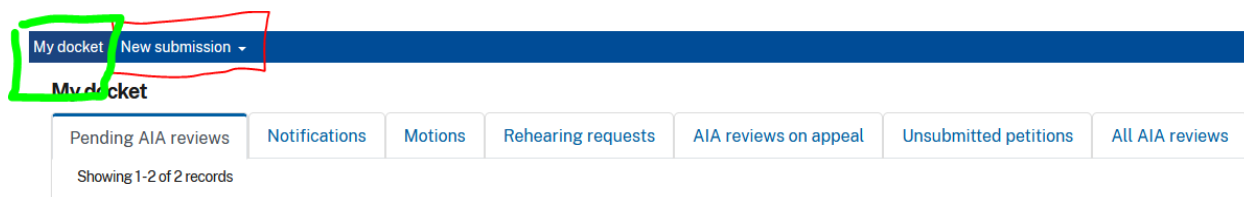
To access P-TACTS:

Navigate to <https://ptacts.uspto.gov/ptacts/ui/home>

Click “SignIn” and sign in to your <https://my.uspto.gov> account.

You should retrieve a URL: <https://ptacts.uspto.gov/ptacts/ui/my-docket/pending-aia-reviews>

Which shows the following title and tabs. Notice the “New Submissions” dropdown icon (which I enclosed in red) and the “My Docket” icon (which I enclosed in green)



The “New Submission” dropdown has two options: “Initiate a new petition”; and “Enter appearance as patent owner/respondent”

The URL for “Initiate a new petition” is: <https://ptacts.uspto.gov/ptacts/ui/initiate-petition/verification>

The URL for “Enter appearance as patent owner/respondent” is: <https://ptacts.uspto.gov/ptacts/ui/mandatory-notice/verification>

The “My Docket” Icon links to URL: <https://ptacts.uspto.gov/ptacts/ui/my-docket/pending-aia-reviews>

The images for each of these three URLs are shown below. Note that the “Enter appearance as patent owner/respondent” icon actually links to a page showing entry of **Mandatory Notices**, and not to a page specific to entry of appearance.

The screenshot shows the USPTO My Docket interface. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with "My docket" and "New submission" options. Below this, a green box highlights the "My docket" tab. Underneath, there are several tabs: "Pending AIA reviews", "Notifications", "Motions", "Rehearing requests", "AIA reviews on appeal", "Unsubmitted petitions", and "All AIA reviews". Below these tabs, it says "Showing 1-2 of 2 records".

Below the navigation bar, there is a green box highlighting the "Create new petition" button. To the right of this button is a large grey box containing the "Verification" section. This section has a heading "Verification" and a sub-heading "Verification". The text in this section reads: "You need to verify that the patent in question exists before you can create a petition. The petition requirements can be found on the Federal Register [link]". Below this text, there is a section for "Trial type *" with a dropdown menu that currently shows "Select a trial type".

On the left side of the "Create new petition" form, there is a sidebar with the following sections: "Petition information" (containing "Claims challenged" and "Petition documents"), "Relevant information" (containing "Real party" and "Additional real party"), and "Review".

Mandatory notice

Create initial mandatory notice

Verification

Petition information

Documents

Relevant information

Real party

Additional real party

Review

Verification

Verification for patent owner's initial appearance in the below case

Enter your patent number or application number or AIA review number *

Patent number or application number or AIA review number

Giving false or misleading information to the United States government is a crime. 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Clear

From the foregoing, it appears that the data entry flow and requirements remain the same for P-TACTS as existed in the prior PTAB-E2E filing system.

As of today, there is a P-TACTS Users Guide available. It notes the following differences relative to PTAB-E2E:

Lead counsel is the only user that can assign roles to other users.

Any backup counsel can submit documents.

After a petition is filed, lead counsel can add staff. Staff is a new role. Staff can submit documents. Staff are only visible to the users for party appointing them.

Mandatory notices are entered by using the URL for “Enter appearance as patent owner/respondent”.

The P-TACTS manual is currently available at this URL:

https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/p-tacts_user_guide_20221007.pdf

The relevant PTAB links are now on my firm's links page:

<https://www.neifeld.com/PrimaryLinks.html>