



February 10, 2016

Ms. Patricia Capers
Department of Commerce
US Patent and Trademark Office
MDW 5B79
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Ms. Capers:

We are writing to you regarding a potential unauthorized disposition of United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) records that occurred sometime before November of 2015. Mitchell Yockelson, an Investigative Archivist on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Archival Recovery Team, was in contact with your office on November 3, 2015, to follow up on a conversation he had with Paul Cymrot, owner of Riverby Books in Washington, DC. Mr. Cymrot informed Mr. Yockelson that he had recently purchased a large collection of patent application files from someone who he believed currently or formerly worked for USPTO.

Upon hearing of this allegation, Kate Flaherty, the Supervisor for Appraisal Team 3 in the Office of the Chief Records Officer, sent an email to you on November 5, 2015, advising you to look into the matter and follow the steps outlined in 36 CFR 1230. We are very concerned that an unauthorized disposition of federal records may have occurred and that additional records may be at risk.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), NARA is requesting that USPTO investigate this allegation and provide us with a response within 30 days of this letter. If USPTO determines that an unauthorized disposition has occurred, please submit a report to NARA as described in 36 CFR 1230.14.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and*
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001

www.archives.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laurence A. Brewer".

LAURENCE BREWER
Acting Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government