

Patent Quality: Key Points

Efforts should focus on two types of improvements

PRODUCT QUALITY

Do issued patents satisfy statutory requirements?

Do issued patents accomplish policy objectives of the patent system?

PROCESS QUALITY

Did examination result in the correct disposition of application?

Is process for reaching final outcome efficient and free from unnecessary cost, errors and delay

Best Practices: Open Communication

Early and often communication between Applicant and Examiner

Facilitates understanding and resolution of key issues

Examiner contacts Applicant for clarification before first Office Action

Applicant requests interview before filing response to first Office Action



Best Practices: Clear Documentation

Complete and understandable documents from Applicant and Examiner Leads examination along intended direction Applicant drafts clear specification with appropriate claim scope **Examiner issues clear and comprehensive Office Action**