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Team

PQI and The Clearing House

The Patent Quality Initiative is the product of thought leadership provided by The Clearing House Payments Company. The Clearing House has a 161-year tradition of furthering the interests of the commercial banking industry in the United States and helping chart the course of America's financial industry.

PQI supports better patent quality for all intellectual property stakeholders, including consumers, businesses of all sizes, universities and inventors.

Sean Reilly

Mr. Reilly is General Counsel of PQI and Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel of The Clearing House Payments Company, where he directs intellectual property issues. He is a registered patent attorney whose principal responsibilities include advising members of The Clearing House's senior business team on vital cybersecurity, intellectual property and technology law issues and transactions. Mr. Reilly coordinates with industry executives and senior lawyers from the nation's leading banks on technology law issues and initiatives of concern to the financial services industry. Before joining The Clearing House, Mr. Reilly was in private practice and worked at the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a patent examiner.

Paul Saltzman

Mr. Saltzman is President of The Clearing House Association and Executive Vice President and General Counsel of The Clearing House Payments Company. He oversees the legal, compliance and litigation functions for the organization's payments business and leads the strategic agenda and operations of The Clearing House Association, a not-for-profit, membership-based business league. The Association is the advocacy leader for the largest commercial banks in the United States and has been recognized for its development of a research and data-driven approach to legislative and regulatory advocacy.

Dave Fortney

Mr. Fortney is Senior Vice President, Product Development and Management for The Clearing House. He is responsible for defining strategy, identifying synergistic opportunities and overseeing the development of new products for the company. Currently, Mr. Fortney is leading The Clearing House's initiative to develop, pilot and launch a secure digital-payments tokenization system. He has deep expertise in conceptualizing and growing innovative e-finance ventures for financial institutions, financial-technology providers and emerging payments companies.

Jill Hershey

Ms. Hershey is Executive Management Director and Head of Government Affairs for The Clearing House Association. Ms. Hershey oversees all Federal and State affairs strategy and outreach. Prior to joining The Clearing House, she held several senior positions at financial-services trade associations including the Bond Market Association, SIFMA, and most recently the Financial Services Roundtable where she focused on regulatory reform advocacy. Previously, Ms. Hershey spent nearly 10 years on Capitol Hill working as a senior policy aide for two members of the House of Representatives as well a Senator who served on the Senate Banking Committee and the Senate Finance Committee.

Rob Hunter

Mr. Hunter is Executive Managing Director and Deputy General Counsel of The Clearing House Payments Company. He serves as the senior lawyer supporting The Clearing House's ACH, wire transfer, and check-image payment networks that clear and settle approximately \$2 trillion daily. Mr. Hunter is also actively involved in counseling payments executives on numerous industry-wide product development initiatives in a variety of payments-related areas, including mobile payments, electronic bill payment, medical payments, and other initiatives. Mr. Hunter also serves on the Board of Advisors for the Wake Forest Journal of Business and Intellectual Property Law and is a frequent speaker and writer on payments, technology and business law issues.

Al Wood

Mr. Wood is Executive Vice President, Technology and Operations for The Clearing House Payments Company. He oversees information technology and operations for The Clearing House's payments products. He has been with The Clearing House for more than 30 years in a progression of technology-related positions. During his career, Mr. Wood has served in a leadership capacity in the development of many of the innovations that currently exist in TCH payment systems. Prior to joining The Clearing House, Mr. Wood was a systems engineer for Burroughs Corp (Unisys).

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