



AUTM Board Member Heidi Nebel Appointed to USPTO Patent Public Advisory Committee



December 21, 2021 – Heidi Nebel, Managing Member and Chair of the Biotechnology & Chemical practice group at McKee, Voorhees & Sease, PLC., a boutique patent firm located in Des Moines, Iowa and a Member of AUTM’s Board of Directors, has been appointed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office’s (USPTO) Patent Public Advisory Committee, which is composed of private-sector IP executives to help advise the USPTO on patent operations.

Nebel has been involved with AUTM for more than 25 years, having served on the Central Region Planning Committee, the Crop Productivity Partnering Forum Planning Committee, as a Coordinator of the Plant Special Interest Group at the 2019 AUTM Annual Meeting, and in supporting diversity initiatives for women inventors and entrepreneurs. She has presented on current issues more than 25 times at AUTM meetings and represents more than 40 technology transfer institutions both in the US and abroad as Intellectual Property counsel.

“Heidi was selected by her peers to serve on the AUTM Board because of her unique experience within our evolving profession, and her input has been critical to our Association,” said AUTM CEO Stephen J. Susalka. “Heidi will likewise provide an important technology transfer perspective to help guide the USPTO.”

In 2018, Nebel was appointed by the US Secretary of Agriculture to serve on the USDA PVP Advisory Board. She was also part of the litigation team that handled the United States Supreme Court case *JEM v Pioneer*, which confirmed utility patent eligibility for plant varieties.

The Public Advisory Committees for the USPTO were created through the Patent and Trademark Office Efficiency Act statute in the [American Inventors Protection Act of 1999](#). The committees review the policies, goals, performance, budget, and user fees of the patent and trademark operations, respectively, and advise the director on these matters. Nebel will serve on the USPTO Advisory Committee for a three-year term.

About AUTM

AUTM is the nonprofit leader in efforts to educate, promote and inspire professionals to support the development of academic research that changes the world and drives innovation forward. Our community is comprised of more than 3,000 members who work in more than 800 universities, research centers, hospitals, businesses and government organizations around the globe. To learn more about AUTM, visit www.autm.net.

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