

# F O R E W O R D

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*James E. Rogan  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*

**T**he importance of intellectual property (IP) in today's global economy cannot be overstated. Perhaps more than ever before, the work of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is central to the economic well-being of our Nation – and the world. It is a great privilege and honor to serve as the Director of the USPTO, and I look forward to the many opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

I was confirmed by the Senate for this position during the preparation of the fiscal year 2001 Performance and Accountability Report, and I believe this report demonstrates that the USPTO has accomplished much of which to be proud. I particularly want to commend Commissioner Nicholas Godici for all the fine work he has done as Acting Director during the past year. Nick has done an outstanding job of leading the agency during a period of considerable transition and challenge, and I know I speak for the entire IP community in saying that we all are grateful for his tremendous service.

The theme of this year's report is "e-Government – Technology Advancing Technology." This is a fitting choice because the USPTO is a leader in providing high-quality, on-line governmental services to its customers. The report that follows provides a detailed accounting of these efforts and our other activities in the intellectual property arena. I hope you find it informative, and I look forward to reporting to you next year on our successes in further improving the quality and timeliness of our products and services.