Abstract: This Seminar will present an overview of the entire life cycle of a U.S. patent, which spans a period of over 20 years. A patent begins with an invention, followed by “prosecution” of the patent before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The middle of a patent’s life is generally quiet, only marked by payment of maintenance fees and occasional license agreements, but can be more tumultuous if the patent is litigated in court. Finally, the life of a patent does not end with its expiration, because damages for infringement may be collected for up to six years afterward. Many of the same issues arise several times over a patent’s life, but they may often be approached differently by the inventor, the Patent Office, business competitors, and the courts.

Andrea Pacelli is an associate with the law firm of King & Spalding LLP in New York City. He received a PhD in electrical engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of Milan, Italy, in 1998, and a law degree from Fordham University, magna cum laude, in 2008. He is a member of the New York and New Jersey bars, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Since 2004 he has been involved in patent litigation, licensing and prosecution, with a particular emphasis on the semiconductor industry. Prior
to his legal career, Dr. Pacelli held technical and academic positions at Stony Brook University, Bell Laboratories, and Tower Semiconductor, Israel.