

Untitled

From: David St. John-Larkin [e-mail address redacted]  
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 5:24 PM  
To: SatelliteOffices  
Cc: [e-mail address redacted]  
Subject: Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066; Nationwide Workforce Program.

Dear Director Kappos and the USPTO Satellite Office Team:

Please accept this letter of support, on behalf of Merchant & Gould, P.C. and its Denver office, as a strong endorsement of a proposed USPTO satellite office in Denver, Colorado.

We opened our Denver office in 1998 initially to support the rapidly growing electronics, software, and telecommunications industries in Colorado. Since 1998, we've steadily grown our Denver office with attorneys and technical staff capable of handling these matters, while also increasing our capabilities for handling Colorado's recent growth and investment in the clean/renewable energy, defense, space, and biotechnology industries.

While other law firms around the country have experienced serious downturns in the past few years, our law practice, particularly in Denver, has remained steady throughout. We attribute this success to the growth in many of the aforementioned industrial sectors, as well as growth in the number of highly-educated engineers and attorneys making a living in Colorado. In fact, the majority of our legal and technical staff moved to Colorado particularly in order to partake of our sunshine (some say more than 300 days cloudless days a year), mountains, recreational, and cultural activities. It is thus no coincidence that we boast excellent retention rates for legal and technical staff in our Denver office.

Our clients, both regional and national, benefit greatly from Colorado's community of inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs. Colorado was founded by entrepreneurs seeking their fortunes in the early Gold Rush days. While industries may have changed, this entrepreneurial spirit has never wavered. Yesterday's hard rock miners and oil and gas wildcatters are today's software developers and venture capitalists seeking to mine a different type of resource – intellectual property. Many of our clients choose Colorado specifically because of its ability to attract a highly-educated workforce of engineers and other talented executives, many of whom are drawn to Colorado because of its entrepreneurial spirit and natural beauty.

We firmly believe that opening a USPTO satellite office in Denver would have an immediate and lasting positive impact upon the Colorado community. First, in our experience, there is no substitute for human interaction with the USPTO. We often have in-person interviews with the USPTO in Washington, D.C. The ability to have this type of interaction in Denver would be invaluable for many attorneys who may not otherwise have clients willing to defray their time in Washington, D.C. Second, the USPTO often attracts younger, recent college or law school graduates, as well as foreign engineers, scientists and law school graduates. We believe the USPTO would have a ready pool of candidates to recruit for its Examiner Corps, and we believe that this pool of talent would greatly enrich Colorado's intellectual property community.

Sincerely,

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