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Via E-mail
satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

David J. Kappos, Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450

Dear Director Kappos:

As Chair of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP ("Kilpatrick Townsend"), I write on behalf of the firm to respectfully encourage the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") to open satellite offices that embrace the entire geography of the United States.

As you may know, Kilpatrick Stockton and Townsend and Townsend and Crew ("Townsend") decided to merge to form Kilpatrick Townsend about a year ago. About the same time that the USPTO must have been contemplating expansion, the former Kilpatrick Stockton firm realized that a nationwide footprint would benefit clients and secure the best attorneys wherever they might live. Beyond the Kilpatrick Stockton footprint in the East, we embraced offices in San Diego, the Bay Area, Seattle, and Denver that are situated to embrace the innovation community and rich pools of patent professionals.

One of our partners in the Denver office, Tom Franklin, has dedicated hundreds of hours over an eight year period to convince the USPTO that a physical presence outside the beltway was imperative to increase hiring, retention and overall examination quality. After unsuccessful attempts with the prior administration, the effort was renewed with Tom Franklin joining a team from his state's bar association. From the first encounter with you in the first month of your term, the team was immediately impressed with how quickly you recognized the value in a nationwide work force and marched forward toward opening the first satellite patent office in Detroit. Along with other reform at the USPTO, the addition of satellite patent offices will go far to support hiring and retention during the expansion of the examining corps with the highest quality engineers and scientists regardless of where they choose to live.

Thank you for providing stakeholders with the opportunity to comment regarding the site of the next USPTO satellite offices. We believe that expansion West might look like the Townsend footprint that organically grew to serve a similar constituency. Specifically, we believe the USPTO should seriously consider satellite offices in Denver, San Diego, the Bay Area, and Seattle.

In addition to the Townsend footprint suggesting premier locations for satellite offices, we would be remiss if we also didn't mention Atlanta as being a forerunner for a Southern satellite office. Our patent practice at Kilpatrick Stockton was organically weighted toward Atlanta to serve the thriving constituency there.

In conclusion, mirroring of how the patent service industry has evolved with law firms will serve the USPTO well in deciding where to open the next two offices. All of the above areas have been fruitful to the firm in recruiting and retaining the best talent while enjoying outreach to patent filers. We would be pleased to answer any further questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

William E. Dorris

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cc: Thomas D. Franklin