

From: Brooke Kelley [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2011 2:25 PM
To: SatelliteOffices
Subject: St. Paul /Minneapolis

I would like to suggest the Twin Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis as an area for the next satellite office.

To address that the location will, "increase outreach activities to better connect patent filers and innovators with the offices", I would point out that the region has a highly developed medical device, food science, chemical and defense industries exemplified by such companies as Medtronic, Cargill, 3M and Alliant Tech Systems. Further, the University of Minnesota is a regional incubator of new ideas and technology. The long winters are also an asset in keeping people occupied indoors in basements and garages working on laying the foundations of new inventions and industries.

To address that the location will, "enhance patent examiner retention", I believe that it's a great place to live. The cost of living is relatively low, the education systems are excellent, crime is low for a city of this size and the cities are often rated highly in standard of living and overall health studies. People come from around the world to attend the University of Minnesota and often stay despite the challenging weather and opportunities to move elsewhere. People quickly become comfortable in the area and decide to stay for the long haul.

To address that the location will, "improve recruitment of patent examiners", I can give an example of the qualified workforce available from the strong post-secondary education systems in the region and highly trained workforce currently employed in local industry. Further, the area is a modern immigration hub for displaced populations from around the world including SE Asia, East Africa and Eastern Europe. Many families move here with refugee status and create vibrant communities as they integrate into the local population. Second generation members of these immigrant communities are often motivated to attend college yet stay close to their communities after completion of their education.

I would suggest the location to be in the downtown St. Paul area. The city has a large supply of office buildings and will be soon connected to downtown Minneapolis and the airport via light rail.

Lastly, the increase in Federal employment opportunities in the area can be a bonus to the region in general. The unbiased hiring policies of the Federal Government can only help close the poverty gap between white and minority citizens. The Twin Cities are an open and welcoming community. While barriers to opportunities are declining, more examples of professional people of color are desperately needed in the area.

Sincerely,

Brooke G. Kelley, PhD