January 30, 2012

Mr. David Kappos
Under Secretary for Intellectual Property
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Department of Commerce
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC  20554

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

On behalf of the California State University, we would like to express our support for a satellite patent office in Silicon Valley. The region is known internationally as the epicenter of innovation. Silicon Valley tech companies are the world leaders in hardware, software, social media, biotechnology and clean energy innovation. The region has a tremendous stake in the timely processing of patent applications. Venture capitalists greatly prefer to back entrepreneurs who have patents in hand. The speed with which innovative ideas translate into jobs is directly related to the efficiency of the patent office.

Silicon Valley and the bay area are consistently ranked as one of the best places to live and work. Home to many world class universities known for cutting-edge research as well as innovative teaching, there is no better location to recruit and retain talented patent examiners who receive excellent and focused education in our classrooms and labs. These future employees will directly help achieve USPTO’s critical stated goals to improve recruitment of patent examiners and enhance their retention rates.

With the U.S. Patent and Trademark office ready to establish three satellite offices as required by the America Invents Act, we urge you to carefully consider Silicon Valley as an ideal location for one of the offices.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Charles B. Reed
Chancellor