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BOSTON COLLEGE

OFFICE FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND LICENSING

January 17, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Undersecretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: PTO-C-2011-0066 "Nationwide Workforce Program"

Dear Mr. Khan,

Section 23 of the America Invests Act requires the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to establish three satellite offices to carry out its responsibilities. I am writing to encourage the USPTO to select Boston, Massachusetts as one of the locations for a satellite office.

Boston is the regional hub of New England, particularly when it comes to high-risk, innovative technologies. The Boston area is one of the largest clusters of colleges, universities and hospitals that generate intellectual property as part of their research mission. These research institutions graduate significant numbers of well-trained technical experts that could be of benefit to the USPTO. Additionally, Boston is also the home of 11 law schools with prestigious day and evening programs that provide courses and concentrations in intellectual property law. There is a ready-made work force of technical and legal experts that could assist the USPTO in enhancing the quality of patent examination, while at the same time addressing two of the goals of Section 23 ("enhancing patent examiner retention" and improving recruitment of patent examiners").

Boston College would benefit from a satellite office directly, since BC engages the USPTO in patent prosecution on innovations arising from its research program. The location of the local office would enhance examinations and make face-to-face interviews more economically feasible. Indirectly, BC would benefit by being able to provide additional local employment opportunities to our science and legal graduates. The USPTO could not find a better place to recruit talented patent examiners. As an aside, New England workers are loyal, with the region having the lowest employee "quit rate" in the nation.

I urge you to carefully consider Boston as the location for the next satellite USPTO office

Yours sincerely,


Catherine L. Ives, Ph.D.
Director