

Untitled

From: Chris Nichols [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 10:02 AM
To: SatelliteOffices
Subject: Comment on Satellite Office Location - New Orleans

I believe that New Orleans, Louisiana would be an excellent location for a new USPTO satellite office.

This location will increase outreach activities to better connect with patent filers and innovators in the oil, gas, and chemical industries. A large segment of the nation's oil and gas refineries and chemical plants are located in Louisiana and along the Gulf Coast region. In addition, Louisiana is home to many of the largest offshore oil and gas production companies in the nation as well as one of the largest shale plays, Haynesville, in the country. As America moves towards energy independence, Louisiana and the rest of the Gulf Coast region will continue to lead the nation by providing new innovations to increase production while also protecting the environment. For at least these reasons, a satellite office should be located in New Orleans because it is close to many of the key players and industry innovators in the oil, gas, and chemical industries.

Examiner retention would also be greatly increased if a satellite office is located in New Orleans. New Orleans is also one of the most unique and fascinating cities in the world. Steeped in a history of influences from Europe, the Caribbean, Africa and beyond, it's a brilliant mosaic of culture, food and music. Moreover, it is one of America's most culturally and historically rich destinations. A city with such a unique culture and lifestyle would be an excellent way to recruit and retain patent examiners. In addition, New Orleans is located near some of America's finest engineering schools and oil, gas, and chemical plants and production facilities which would give the USPTO access to a large talent pool. The weather in New Orleans is rather mild, which is another major attraction to any potential new hires – no more shoveling snow in the winter or battling ice storms. Furthermore, New Orleans also has a low cost of living compared to other cities in the south region. Such a low cost of living would improve recruitment and retention of Examiners because their salary would go further. For at least these reasons, a satellite office should be located in New Orleans.

Another major plus for locating a satellite office in New Orleans is that it would go a long way towards revitalizing one of America's truly great cities. New Orleans has proven resilient as they have rebounded from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and Gustav as well as the Deep Horizon oil spill. Adding a satellite office in New Orleans would hasten the recovery that has already taken place as well as should the US's commitment to the New Orleans and Gulf Coast region.

In closing, I believe locating a satellite office in New Orleans would increase outreach activities to better connect patent filers and innovators with the offices, enhance patent examiner retention, and improve recruitment of patent examiners. As a former patent examiner and current patent attorney, I, for one, would certainly return to the USPTO as a patent examiner if a satellite office was located in New Orleans. My time as an examiner was invaluable training for my current role as a patent attorney, and I would relish to the opportunity to return to my former job if an office was located nearby.

Regards,

Chris Nichols