



January 30, 2012

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

Via e-mail to: Azam Khan [azam.khan@uspto.gov]

RE: Docket Number – PTO-C-2011-0066
Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Mr. Khan:

Section 23 of the America Invents 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 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as one of the sites.

Nuance Communications, Inc. is a publically traded Massachusetts based company with fiscal year sales of approximately \$1.4 billion dollars, which is a leading provider of voice, language and imaging solutions for businesses and consumers around the world. Its technologies, applications and services make the user experience more compelling by transforming the way people interact with devices and systems. Every day, millions of users and thousands of businesses experience Nuance's proven applications. For more information, please visit www.nuance.com.

Massachusetts consistently ranks first or second in the number of patents per capita (60 patents per 100,000 people in 2008).

Massachusetts' economy has as one of its primary basis, technology innovation in a highly diverse concentration of IP-related sciences and technologies including software, biological sciences, pharmaceuticals, nanotechnology, optics, communications and others. In addition, to its top-ranked technology universities and colleges, the state also houses numerous law schools within the Boston area which provides a fertile recruiting ground for high potential patent examiners.



Nuance, as with other Massachusetts based companies would benefit from the local availability of USPTO personnel and facilities. We have invested considerable monies in developing and acquiring a world class patent portfolio, along the active prosecution of significant number of pending cases, over the last several years. As part of these efforts, Nuance conducted a training seminar in speech recognition technologies for patent examiners last year and regularly conducts in person interviews for numerous cases. The combination of educational, and both private and public sector entities provides an unique opportunity to for the USPTO to advance the useful arts by enabling the USPTO to develop an additional pipeline of qualified personnel in conjunction with a local economy with a technology based foundation.

For these reasons, we hope you will consider a Massachusetts USPTO satellite office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leanne J. Fitzgerald", written in a cursive style.

Leanne J. Fitzgerald
Associate General Counsel-Intellectual Property