

Untitled

From: Melanie Barnett [e-mail address redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2012 6:30 PM  
To: SatelliteOffices  
Subject: Silicon Valley needs a USPTO satellite office

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the USPTO satellite office program.

I am a senior research scientist in microbiology/molecular biology/genomics at Stanford University and am also studying to take the Patent Bar exam.

I strongly believe that the second USPTO satellite office should be located in the San Francisco Bay area because:

1. About one quarter of all patents granted to US entities are to applicants based in California.
2. California leads the nation for innovation in diverse fields: biotech/pharma, agriculture, computers/high-tech, green technologies, oil/gas industry, aerospace)
3. The SF Bay area has the infrastructure necessary to support a satellite office, including three international airports
4. California universities consistently make lists of top US research universities (Stanford, University of California, Caltech)
5. A high proportion of SF Bay area residents are college graduates and/or employed in scientific, technical and legal fields. Also, due to a higher (than the US average) unemployment rate, there are many well-educated, highly trained people seeking positions.
6. The cost of living here may be high, but the quality of life is EXCELLENT. (Beautiful climate, gorgeous scenery, fabulous food, healthy living, fantastic colleges, arts, and cultural diversity) I know many talented people who would never consider leaving the Bay area. If I should lose my grant-funded research position, I'd rather work in patent prosecution than relocate. In my opinion, the USPTO wouldn't have any problem finding qualified patent examiners in the Bay area. I'd certainly consider a position with the USPTO!

Sincerely,

Melanie Barnett

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Melanie J. Barnett, PhD  
Dept. of Biology  
Stanford University  
Stanford, CA 94305  
[phone redacted]  
[e-mail address redacted]