



A Welcome Message

As Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), I want to welcome you to our brand-new regional office in Denver, Colorado.

As part of the USPTO's nationwide workforce initiative, the Rocky Mountain Regional Office marks the beginning of an important chapter in the agency's 200-plus year history. Expanding our operation beyond the Washington D.C. area demonstrates our commitment to recruit and retain the nation's top professionals and to ensure the intellectual property system continues to fuel the national and global economy.

We are excited about the opportunities our office in Denver will bring to this community. Some interesting facts about the office:

- The office will create approximately 130 jobs for highly skilled professionals and bolster the local IP community.
- The office will help reduce the backlog of patent applications at headquarters. The faster patents are issued, the quicker entrepreneurs can create jobs.
- The Patent Trial and Appeal Board judges in the office will help reduce the inventory of trial and appeal cases at the USPTO. The office has a hearing room that provides a new venue to our stakeholders from which to participate in Board proceedings.
- The USPTO will use the office to conduct outreach with inventors, patent applicants, and our user community throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

Again, welcome to our newest regional office in Denver!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle K. Lee".

Michelle K. Lee

*Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office*

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



A History

Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, of the U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1787, called upon the government's legislative branch to "promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing for limited times to inventors the exclusive right to their respective discoveries."

The Patent Act of 1793 created the first patent board and made Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson responsible for issuing patents, a duty that the State Department performed until the Patent Act of 1836 created the first autonomous Patent Office. Since then, the Patent Office has continued to evolve, including the addition of Trademarks to its mission and title, as well as its move to the Department of Commerce in the early 20th century.



On Sept. 16, 2011, President Obama signed the Leahy Smith America Invents Act (AIA) into law, marking the most sweeping overhaul of the nation's patent laws and infrastructure in a half century. The new law promotes innovation and job creation by improving patent quality and rights, providing a sustainable funding model for the agency, and establishing USPTO satellite offices for the first time in history. In addition to the new office in Denver and the Elijah J. McCoy office in Detroit (which opened in 2012), additional USPTO satellite offices are planned for Dallas and for Silicon Valley in California.



**United States
Patent and Trademark Office**

Office of the
Chief Communications Officer
571-272-8400

Advancing an Innovation Economy Built to Last

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Regional Offices

Selection Criteria



**United States
Patent and Trademark Office**
Office of the
Chief Communications Officer
571-272-8400

Comments and subsequent analysis focused on the criteria outlined by Congress in the AIA

- The ability to conduct outreach to the patent applicant community;
- The ability to recruit top talent at the USPTO;
- The ability to retain top talent at the USPTO;
- The potential economic impact on the selected communities; and
- The geographic diversity of selected offices.

Stated goals of backlog reduction and improved quality are captured in sub-measures within the above categories. The team also considered operational feasibility and cost to the agency. Further, the ability to employ U.S. veterans was considered in this recommendation.

The Dallas area provides the USPTO with a southern, central time zone hub from which to operate. The region is exceedingly rich in engineering talent, patent applicants, and patent grants. Dallas boasts an above average population of potential veteran employees.

The Denver area provides the USPTO with a mountain time zone hub from which to operate. Empirical evidence demonstrates that Denver is a sought-after place to live and work with relatively low cost-of-living—a critical combination for the recruitment and retention of top talent. Further, the economic impact of a USPTO satellite office in the Denver region is projected to be disproportionate relative to most other cities. Denver also boasts an above-average population of potential veteran employees.

Silicon Valley provides the USPTO with a Pacific time zone hub in the heart of California's most vibrant innovation center. Silicon Valley, and the areas that surround it, contain many of the USPTO's top filers as well as legions of start-up and small tech companies that depend on the USPTO. Further, Silicon Valley's great quality of life and abundant population of engineering talent will provide fertile recruiting grounds for the agency. The USPTO recognizes the challenges of retention in a hyper-competitive market, and will work to construct a concept of operations for the three offices that recognizes such challenges.

USPTO Rocky Mountain Regional Office Questions and Answers



Why is the USPTO establishing new offices?

The Leahy-Smith America Invents Act signed into law by President Obama requires the USPTO to establish three regional offices. These new offices will improve personal interaction between the USPTO and America's innovators.

Why is recruitment and retention of patent examiners vital to the U.S economy?

Recruiting and retaining patent examiners is vital to reducing the patent application backlog, ending long delays, and ensuring that American innovations get to the marketplace faster, creating new industries and jobs to help stimulate our nation's economic recovery.

What factors contributed to Denver's selection as a USPTO regional office?

The criteria included, but were not limited to, occupational clusters; the number of patent attorneys and agents currently in the region; the number of patent applications by state; access to universities; transportation infrastructure; the ability to support departmental objectives and increase collaboration between Department of Commerce bureaus and offices; and economic factors related to hiring and retention including the percentage of engineers in the workforce, unemployment rates and other factors.

What does success look like for the Denver regional office?

Production- New hires should hit production targets on pace with experienced examiners at the USPTO's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

Human Capital- At least 25 new hires per quarter in the first year. Attrition shall be less than or equal to levels of attrition at the Alexandria HQ.

Operations- Management will also monitor success of operational activities, including but not limited to the success of the training program, IT connectivity and support tools, and costs.

Community Outreach- The USPTO will use the Denver office to conduct outreach in Denver, the state of Colorado, and throughout the Rocky Mountain region.

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Office of the
Chief Communications Officer
571-272-8400



USPTO Rocky Mountain Regional Office Fact Sheet



- The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Rocky Mountain Regional Office is located in the Byron G. Rogers Federal Building in the Denver, Colorado, central business district. The building is home to multiple federal agencies in downtown Denver and offers convenient access to downtown and suburban sites through the metro region's array of public transportation options.
- The office will house patent examiners, Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) judges, and outreach officials in a 45,000 square foot space. Nine PTAB judges had been working in the temporary location that opened in Lakewood, Colorado, in January 2013. All of them are now working in the permanent office. Approximately 120 new hires are expected in the upcoming year, including 100 examiners, twelve additional judges, and support staff.
- Russell Slifer, who has practiced intellectual property law for the last 20 years, will serve as Regional Director for the Denver office. For the past eight years, Russ was the Chief Patent Counsel for Micron Technology in Boise, Idaho. He also was a design engineer for Honeywell and spent more than nine years in private practice in Minnesota helping high technology clients—including individual inventors, universities, and Fortune 100 companies—build patent portfolios to protect their innovations. Russ is active in the legal and innovation communities.
- The office allows the USPTO to create new high-skilled jobs, while also working closely with the Rocky Mountain Region's vast array of innovative industries to expedite the patent examination process, advance cutting-edge ideas to the marketplace, empower entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, and identify their unique needs as they navigate the world's strongest intellectual property system.
- These satellite offices are critically important to the regional IP communities. Government officials and regional stakeholders collaborated closely over multiple months to bring these satellite offices into existence.
- The USPTO announced in July 2012—when opening its first-ever satellite office in Detroit, Michigan—plans to create three more satellite offices across every continental U.S. time zone. The offices reflect the agency's mission to promote and foster American innovation in the global marketplace while placing agency resources and personnel directly within regional communities. Personnel operating out of temporary offices in Texas and California are expected to move into their permanent locations in Dallas, Texas, and San Jose, California, in 2015.
- In selecting the location for the permanent Rocky Mountain Regional Office, the USPTO worked with the General Services Administration (GSA) to identify a location that would have a strong economic impact on the region, engage a broad tapestry of businesses throughout the Rocky Mountain community, be the most cost-effective, and draw strong talent to a top-ranked work environment. The goal was to find space comparable in size and function to the Detroit satellite office. The Rogers Building met all federal regulations for leasing space as well as the USPTO's unique needs to provide examiners and judges robust information technology resources and offer the public conveniently accessible services.
- The historic facility, renovated by the GSA, includes new design and construction to improve the structural elements and all major building systems. The building upgrades are expected to reduce energy use by more than 80 percent and attain LEED Platinum certification.
- The high-performance green building project continues GSA's legacy of outstanding public architecture by providing a balance between historic significance and current needs and aesthetics. The Byron G. Rogers building sustainable and cost-effective building design renovations create a superior workplace for federal employees, increased security and safety for tenants and visitors.

