

Untitled

From: Peter Wang [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 10:19 PM
To: SatelliteOffices
Subject: Silicon Valley as a satellite USPTO site

Dear USPTO:

I respectfully submit that somewhere in the San Francisco Bay Area, home of "Silicon Valley", should be a satellite USPTO site. To address the specific purposes:

1) "increase outreach to ... patent filers and innovators" -- this region probably has the highest concentration of technology inventors in the entire United States.

2) "enhance patent examiner... quality of life" -- on the plus side, this region is a highly desirable place to live, with high average household income, outstanding weather and cultural life, as well as being highly multi-ethnic. On the minus side, its desirability means generally higher costs of living.

3) "improve recruitment of patent examiners" -- there is an abundance of both science/technology and legal graduates from world-class universities such as Stanford and Univ. of California (as well as several other institutions). On the science/tech side, I can personally attest that there are many post-graduate students that are very interested in alternative job prospects besides the academic path; I think many would find a patent examiner career to use their technical knowledge but also appeal to their idealistic side.

4) "decrease the number of patent applications awaiting examination" -- It seems likely to me that any expansion of USPTO capacity, regardless of location, will give this result. There may be some benefit to turnaround based on location only if face-to-face meetings with inventors are required (since this region has a high percentage of the inventors).

5) "improve the quality of patent examination" -- the key is my answer to point 3, attracting and retaining highly qualified examiners, the large pool of tech-savvy people in this area is an enormous plus for that. But further, the large pool of expertise will also be a great resource for informal (and formal) consultation by USPTO.

Sincerely,
- Peter Wang, MD/PhD
Stanford University
(and residing in Menlo Park, CA)