

January 18, 2012

Mr. David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director, United States Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Via Email

Re: Colorado Satellite Patent Office

Dear Director Kappos:

It is with pride and confidence we submit this letter in support of a Colorado satellite Patent Office.

Sheridan Ross PC is an intellectual property boutique law firm. Intellectual property is all we do. We have continuously provided intellectual property legal services to Colorado, the Rocky Mountain region, nationally and internationally since our founding in 1954.

Speaking with experience, we can state that Colorado comprises a vibrant and technologically diverse entrepreneurial business community. The technology base includes telecommunications, software development, defense, launch and space vehicles, manufacturing, biotechnology, medical instrumentation, etc., among many others. In addition, Colorado also has a substantial and highly regarded educational support structure. We have four top tier universities: Colorado School of Mines, the University of Colorado, University of Denver and Colorado State University, that offer quality science, engineering and technology degrees, along with a number of other 4 year universities and colleges, including Adams State College, Colorado Mesa University and Western State University. Colorado also has two highly rated law schools at the University of Colorado and Denver University Sturm College of Law.

Our clients, as well as our law firm, benefit from this environment. Because Colorado offers a well educated population, as well as a healthy recreational lifestyle, businesses are attracted to and stay here. This also enhances the ability to attract and maintain employees from outside of Colorado. A majority of our employees are not native Coloradans, but they have no desire to relocate from Colorado. This is not surprising considering that Denver ranks high in quality of life factors that are important to retaining a highly-skilled workforce and is consistently ranked as one of the best places to live in the US. We firmly believe if a satellite office is placed here in Colorado, the USPTO will similarly be able attract and retain high quality and dedicated employees.

As you know, we live in a globally competitive world and science, engineering and technology are fundamental to the continuing success, influence and stature of the United States. The development and protection of intellectual property is a critical ingredient to our nation's on-going success and our clients recognize it is also central to their success. Most, if not all, of our

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clients would confirm the importance of intellectual property in the advancement of their industries and their particular businesses. While this may be obvious to large businesses who operate at the international and national level, it is equally true for mid-sized, smaller and start-up businesses.

To many of our clients, the U.S. Patent Office is akin to a black box; they don't know or see how it works. Having a branch office in the Denver area can alleviate the mystery. Clients would not only have an opportunity to visit but, depending upon the examination group, they may be able to personally attend examiner interviews, which can be a tremendous thing for not only the client, but the examiner as well. Additionally, our clients would greatly benefit from US Patent Office outreach activities, including educational opportunities that would be presented at the Colorado office.

In summary, we are very pleased with the passing of the America Invents Act and firmly believe that it takes a positive step toward patent reform by expanding the USPTO through establishing satellite offices to make it more accessible, efficient, and timely. A Colorado patent office would serve the key USPTO goal of achieving better outreach and improving engagement with the patent community. It will also promote a core USPTO objective of reducing application pendency and improve patent quality as a result of the USPTO to attract and retain highly qualified patent examiners in Colorado.

Sincerely,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.



Bruce A. Kugler
President

BAK/RRB/gb

Sincerely,

SHERIDAN ROSS P.C.



Robert R. Brunelli
Vice President and Corporate Secretary