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connecticut || intellectual || property || law || association

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January 30, 2012

Via Email (satelliteoffices@uspto.gov)

Mr. Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
PO BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Response to Request for Comments: Nationwide Workforce Program
Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066

Dear Mr. Khan:

I write to express the Connecticut Intellectual Property Law Association's support for the State of Connecticut's proposal to host a satellite office of the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Our organization has been actively serving the intellectual property community in Connecticut since 1946. We are an organization of approximately 200 intellectual property attorneys and patent agents and meet regularly to promote the profession, its welfare, honor and dignity and the best interests of the public we serve. Our members serve the diverse technology companies of Connecticut in the life sciences, chemical, electronic, software, financial services, aerospace, medical device and advanced manufacturing industries. We represent solo inventors, large conglomerates and organizations of all sizes in between.

We provide educational opportunities to the local intellectual property bar and have been fortunate to host Under Secretary Kappos and other distinguished USPTO speakers who have traveled to Connecticut to present important topics to our organization on several occasions. Each year in the Spring, we cosponsor a day of patent practice CLE programs along with three other intellectual property bar organizations in the Northeast. Connecticut has a robust and active intellectual property bar.

The Northeast region is home to many significant technology industries and approximately 10,000 patent practitioners (about 25% of all U.S. patent practitioners). A USPTO satellite office in Hartford could improve the level of service provided to practitioners and inventors in Connecticut and neighboring states. Further, greater Hartford enjoys a very high quality of life that would prove to be attractive to patent examiners, trademark examining attorneys and staff who would ultimately be assigned to a USPTO satellite office here. The USPTO would be able to draw from the exceptional technical talent pool in the area.

Situated at the crossroads of a dynamic and productive region of the country, Hartford, Connecticut is a compelling choice for a USPTO satellite office. In 2010, Connecticut ranked 8th among all states in the number of patents per 100,000 workers (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). As importantly, Hartford is at the center of patent activity in the

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Mr. Azam Khan
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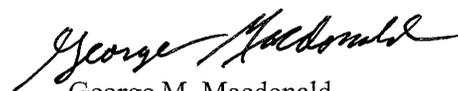
Northeast and New England, and can access New York and Boston more conveniently than either can access each other. Additionally, the University of Connecticut School of Law is located in Hartford and its *Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Law Clinic* is one of the original six USPTO patent pilot programs. We have sponsored several students in attending our events and are fortunate to count several recent graduates of the program as members. The program is a valuable asset for the region and the profession.

Connecticut has a proud history of innovation and patent activity that continues to this day. Connecticut's economy is diverse and includes not just mature industries, but several robust clusters of entrepreneurial companies working in many different advanced technology areas.

Our world class colleges and universities are responsible for cutting-edge research and development and are an engine of entrepreneurial activity in the state. Among states, Connecticut ranks third in the percent of our population with advanced degrees, according to the US Census Bureau. Twenty four of our colleges, universities, and research institutions offer engineering degrees. Overall, Connecticut has one of the highest rates of educational attainment in the US.

I have no doubt that Hartford can meet the needs of the USPTO and the inventors and entrepreneurs of the Northeast. Accordingly, I commend the proposal by Connecticut to host such an office and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



George M. Macdonald
CIPLA President

c: The Honorable David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (by mail)
Dan DeSimone,
Director Washington DC Office of Governor Dannel P. Malloy (by email)