



# STETSON UNIVERSITY

January 30, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos  
Under Secretary for Intellectual Property  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: PTO-C-2011-0066 Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Office for the Nationwide Workforce Program**

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

Stetson University College of Law offers this additional letter in support of a satellite patent and trademark office in the Tampa Bay area. Tampa Bay is the state's central connector, vertically and horizontally, from both an economic and technological standpoint. With projected growth, we are poised to move beyond our current ranking as the 19<sup>th</sup> most populous region in the nation. Tampa is also the 14<sup>th</sup> ranked port authority in the nation and the highest ranked port in Florida relative to cargo volume. As you are well aware, international trade is inextricably intertwined with the practice of intellectual property, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's enforcement options play an important role for intellectual property owners.

Founded in 1900, Stetson is Florida's first law school and has been educating outstanding lawyers and leaders for more than 111 years. Stetson has campuses in Tampa as well as across the bridge in the St. Petersburg area and offers students the choice of full-time or part-time evening study. Stetson was one of the state's first schools to recognize the increasing importance of intellectual property, long ago expanding its offerings beyond the typical uniform survey class offered by most law schools, into separate classes focusing on the unique particulars germane to each intellectual property subject area. Stetson regularly offers classes on domestic and international intellectual property, as well as classes focusing on litigation and practice specifics.

Stetson Law also moved beyond the standard mold on internship offerings. One of our most successful placement programs has been in the area of intellectual property law. There is likely no intellectual property law practice in the region, be it big firm or boutique, that has not utilized Stetson interns in the field placement program or otherwise hired Stetson Law grads as practitioners. Stetson intellectual property attorneys are also well represented in Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, and beyond. For example, the placements include past and present patent examiners at the USPTO in Virginia.

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Stetson Law's student composition regularly includes engineers, scientists, doctors, and others who seek out Stetson's superior training to complement their distinguished backgrounds. We provide the necessary link in their education to launch outstanding careers in intellectual property. We have taught individuals who have worked as patent agents at the USPTO prior to law school as well as those who have gone on to become patent and trademark examiners in the office after graduation.

Stetson Law fully endorses the comments of President Genshaft and Mayor Buckhorn regarding both the appeal and viability of a USPTO Satellite Office in the Tampa Bay region and looks forward to seeing such an office established in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.C. Gardner', written in a cursive style.

Royal C. Gardner  
Interim Dean  
Professor of Law and Director  
Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy