



# Georgia Institute of Technology

Office of the President

January 30, 2012

Mr. David J. Kappos  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Madison West Building  
600 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Under Secretary Kappos,

It was a pleasure to meet you several weeks ago at the NACIE meeting in D.C. and I was encouraged by the tremendous progress you are making at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). As we discussed when we met, I wanted to express my strong support of Atlanta as a future location for one of the regional U.S. Patent and Trademark Offices.

Atlanta offers unparalleled commercial and research strengths and opportunities for the growing Southeast, and would be an ideal home for the USPTO. As the commercial capital of the Southeast, Atlanta is home to twelve Fortune 500 companies, including The Home Depot, United Parcel Service (UPS), Delta Air Lines, and The Coca-Cola Company. Along with these and a number of innovative industries, companies, and institutions that drive the region's economy, Atlanta hosts more than 145,000 private-sector firms. These, in addition to Atlanta's institutions of higher education, which include the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), Emory and the Atlanta University Center (Morehouse, Spelman, et al.) are crucial in attracting new and innovative businesses every year.

Institutions like Georgia Tech play a key role in developing a talented and diverse workforce and in producing the innovative research crucial to the enhancement of the economy of the Southeastern United States. As one of the premier research universities in the country, Georgia Tech houses one of the best engineering schools in the world, consistently ranking in the top five in the U.S. according to *US News and World Report*. As an international leader in the study and execution of commercializing research, transitioning technology, and supporting advanced technology companies, Georgia Tech has helped to move technologies and discoveries to the marketplace in a rapid and efficient manner.

I strongly believe that Georgia Tech and its partners could foster even more technological success working in close proximity to a regional USPTO in Atlanta. Finally, as I mentioned when we met in D. C., Georgia Tech and Emory University are embarking on a joint program to offer a Juris Master's (J.M.) degree<sup>1</sup> in the area of "intellectual property" with an anticipated start date of January of 2013. This degree program could serve as the source of a number of individuals who are uniquely qualified for positions in the USPTO.

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As you consider various potential locations for the future regional locations for the USPTO, I would urge you to strongly consider Atlanta. It is rapidly becoming a regional hub for innovation and commercialization in the U.S.

In the event you would like to visit to see firsthand all of the commercial and research activities the city produces, I would invite you to contact our representative in Washington D. C., Robert Knotts at [knotts@gatech.edu](mailto:knotts@gatech.edu) or (202) 756-3670. He would be happy to work with your staff to arrange a visit.

Many thanks for your consideration; I look forward to seeing you in Atlanta sometime in the near future

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.P. Peterson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

G.P. "Bud" Peterson  
President

xc: Governor Nathan Deal  
Mayor Kasim Reed  
Mr. Sam Williams  
Mr. Robert Knotts

<sup>1</sup> <http://shared.web.emory.edu/emory/news/releases/2011/11/emory-law-launches-juris-masters-degree.html>