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January 27, 2012

David Kappos  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Department of Commerce  
Madison Buildings  
600 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

On behalf of the City of Atlanta Intellectual Property (IP) community, the IP Section of the Atlanta Bar Association respectfully requests your consideration of Atlanta for one of the two remaining satellite office locations of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

As representatives of the Atlanta IP community, we think that a USPTO satellite office would be very successful in our city for many reasons. Regarding technological and scientific innovation, Atlanta is home to numerous research-driven organizations staffed with a highly-skilled workforce. For example, 6,385 patents were granted to applicants located within the Atlanta Metropolitan region between 2006 and 2010 alone. Still further, some of the most active patent-filing organizations maintain a strong presence in Atlanta, such as Hewlett-Packard, General Electric, Siemens, AT&T, Alcatel-Lucent, Lockheed Martin, Kimberly-Clark and the Georgia Tech Research Corporation. These entities also take advantage of Atlanta's low cost of doing business. In fact, Forbes Magazine recently ranked Atlanta above Detroit, Austin, Dallas, Houston and Washington DC in providing a low cost environment for conducting business.

This innovation community also benefits from a close proximity to our three nationally-recognized research universities. Specifically, Emory University, Georgia Tech and Georgia State University offer some of the nation's best programs in engineering, medicine, science, law and business. Of interest, TI:GER is a program that matches Georgia Tech Ph.D candidates and MBA students with Emory University law students to gain experience with developing and commercializing new innovation. Further, the Georgia State University law and business schools have gained a national reputation for their collaborative focus on corporate intellectual property business strategy.

Atlanta additionally attracts businesses, both permanently and temporarily, because of the high-quality infrastructure. In fact, the innovation community is able to take advantage of one of the most extensive broadband internet networks in the nation as well as the nation's most conveniently accessible airport. On a daily basis, flights arrive and depart our airport from cities around the region, nation and the globe. And those arriving to the airport can access the train (MARTA) at the airport station and arrive in Atlanta's primary business districts within minutes.

Finally, a main reason why residents and businesses find Atlanta so appealing is the high quality of life. Not only is the cost of living about 30% lower than Washington DC according to Salary.com, but our residents enjoy a favorable climate and the famous Southern charm. Additionally, Atlanta has numerous public parks, several professional sports teams, respected art galleries and performing arts theatres, and a thriving restaurant scene intermingled within the variety of unique neighborhoods. And, if residents wish to take a quick getaway for a weekend, Atlanta is ideally located within a two hour flight of the majority of the nation's largest metropolitan areas.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons above, the IP Section of the Atlanta Bar Association genuinely appreciates the opportunity to submit this request for consideration of Atlanta for one of the two remaining satellite office locations of the USPTO. And while we recognize that many cities are vying for this great honor, we hope that the above reasons sufficiently convey to you why we believe careful consideration should be given Atlanta during the selection process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Brian Shortell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

D. Brian Shortell, JD, PhD  
Chair of the IP Section of the Atlanta Bar Association