



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY at NEW ORLEANS
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
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January 30, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

Dear Mr. Khan,

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO)-Small Business Development and Management Institute (SBDMI) would like to express our support for the United States Patent and Trademark Office to locate a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. SBDMI knows that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO, support Departmental objectives including Commerce Connect, and increase collaborations among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states of the Austin and Atlanta Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration regions. The USPTO satellite office itself will provide a positive impact to the greater New Orleans region still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

The purpose of the SBDMI is to provide high-quality technical assistance to small and emerging businesses in the Greater New Orleans Area and the surrounding parishes through one-on-one counseling, seminars, workshops, entrepreneurial training classes, and business outreach and support activities. Additionally, the SBDMI provides hands on learning through small business development activities with our clients, and the College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA) faculty and students in entrepreneurship. We work closely with many small businesses that are focusing on technology and would benefit from assistance and guidance from patent and trademark knowledge and support. Clearly, the location of a USPTO office within greater New Orleans will help our organization accomplish its goals, allow for increased workflow, stimulate the development of higher quality technologies, and greatly enhance the commercialization of those technologies throughout our region.

A USPTO satellite office in any location within the greater New Orleans area would provide easy access to our organization and any organization from Texas to Florida. In addition, with rapidly growing infrastructure, excellent tax incentives for businesses, and high quality of life indicators, the greater New Orleans region is a logical choice for a USPTO satellite office.

SBDMI looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Beaulieu, Director