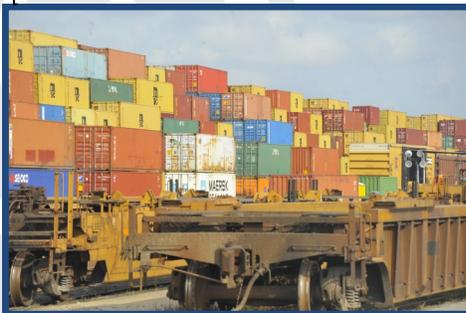




New Orleans: Hub of Innovation



January 30, 2012

January 30, 2012

Mr. David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Kappos:

Over the past six years, the New Orleans region has experienced unprecedented growth and positive momentum unlike any other city in the country. New Orleans has dramatically transformed the educational system, enhanced its infrastructure, and reshaped the business environment. These steps have proven to be the catalysts for success. The historic revitalization happening in New Orleans provides an exciting opportunity for the U.S. Patent and Technology Office to contribute to this economic renaissance.

I was pleased to learn that the United States Patent and Trademark Office will be expanding into new markets as part of the Nationwide Workforce Program. The ability to reduce the backlog of patent applications with more regional offices will be a key driver to enhancing entrepreneurship and innovation across the country. The City of New Orleans can be key regional partner in this effort and offers many distinct advantages as you consider locations for your next satellite office. Leveraging the lower business costs, high quality of life and reduced cost of living, the region has become and continues to expand as a laboratory for innovation in the country.

We are pleased to provide comments in response to your federal registry notification requesting information on potential cities and regions for future locations of satellite offices. For additional information, please contact my Director of Strategic Partnerships, Brooke Smith, at besmith@nola.gov.

Sincerely,



Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu

Section 1: New Orleans is Ideally Suited to Connect the Patent Applicant/Inventor to the Examiner

USPTO Endeavors to Reduce Application Backlog and Improve Application Process

Beginning in fiscal year 2007 and continuing today, the USPTO has embarked on an aggressive campaign to reduce the number of pending applications awaiting examination and to optimize the application process to improve efficiency.

In its 2007-2012 Strategic Plan, and reiterated again in the 2011-2015 Strategic Plan, the USPTO proposes to mitigate the application backlog and improve examination efficiency by, among other important options, closing the time and space gap between the applicant inventor and examiner by establishing satellite offices around the United States. By deploying skilled examiners into the innovation communities throughout the country, satellite offices will greatly enhance the applicant's access to the examiner and allow the examiner's ability to focus on a manageable inventory of pending and new applications.

On January 11, 2012, the USPTO added examination capacity by confirming that its first ever satellite office will be Detroit. Among other factors considered for the selection of the satellite office, the Detroit location appears to be conveniently located to mitigate application backlog and facilitate efficient examination of inventions in the manufacturing-intense Midwestern United States. This report focuses primarily on data from the south or Southeastern United States, usually comprising the states of AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MO, MS, OK, TN, and TX. When appropriate, data from New Orleans and LA are compared with established and emerging innovation hubs as well.

During the USPTO's first five-year initiative to reduce application backlogs, the Midwestern region has seen considerable volume in patent awards, which is an indication of the significant queue of inventions awaiting review and examination.

PATENTS GRANTED PER STATE 2007-2012

Illinois	25,321
Indiana	9,691
Iowa	4,678
Kentucky	3,565
Michigan	23,049
Minnesota	20,220
Ohio	21,252
Wisconsin	13,403
TOTAL	121,179

SOURCE: <http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/search-adv.htm>

During the same period there has been a similar volume of patent activity in the Southeastern United States. As in the rest of the U.S., there was a surge in patent awards in 2006, which was particularly observed in the southeast, and which has occurred at a steady pace since then. The comparable number of patents in the Midwestern and Southeastern regions of the United States demonstrates the beneficial impact a USPTO office would have in the region.

PATENTS GRANTED PER STATE 2007-2012

Alabama	2,688
Florida	19,779
Georgia	11,805
S. Carolina	4,291
Tennessee	5,871
Arkansas	1,156
Louisiana	2,252
Mississippi	1,187
Texas	42,857
Missouri	6,605
Oklahoma	3,251
TOTAL	101,742

SOURCE: <http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/search-adv.htm>

PATENTS ATTORNEY PER STATE 2012

Alabama	123
Florida	933
Georgia	813
S. Carolina	207
Tennessee	243
Arkansas	1,156
Louisiana	135
Mississippi	26
Texas	2910
Missouri	6,605
Oklahoma	151

Source: www.uspto.gov

New Orleans is a Central Innovation Center in the Economically Dynamic Southeastern United States

States in the Southeast continue to experience positive economic growth and are increasingly viewed as the preferred region for business development and entrepreneurial activity.

Leading corporate decision makers indicate that seven of the top ten states in which to do business are in the South¹, and seven of the top ten states for economic growth potential are in the South.²

New Orleans is an Innovation Center

Already home to a thriving creative culture, New Orleans is a rich environment of innovation and entrepreneurship. In the six years since Hurricane Katrina, the rate of entrepreneurship in New Orleans has spiked dramatically and outpaced the national average and that of “weak city” metros (similarly old industrial cities in the United States). Since 2006, New Orleans residents have been more likely to start a business than weak city metros and the U.S. as a whole.

Third-party analysis of New Orleans’ promising economic and innovation position further suggest rising local demand for patent and trademark services:

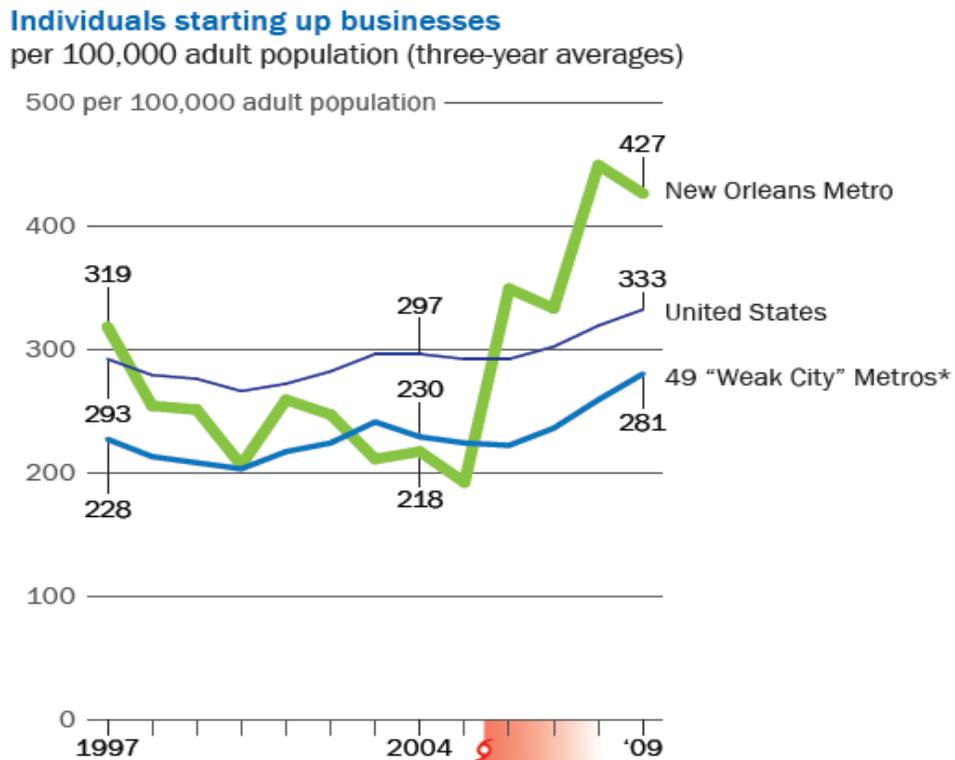
- New Orleans is the “coolest startup city in America” [*Inc.com*]
- New Orleans was ranked #1 on the list of “America's Biggest Brain Magnets” for attracting people under 25 with college degrees [*Forbes*]

¹ Chief Executive Magazine, 2011 *Best/Worst States for Business*, <http://chiefexecutive.net/best-worst-states-for-business>

² Business Facilities Magazine, 2011 Rankings Report, http://businessfacilities.com/BFJulyAug11_state_rankings_noAds.pdf

- New Orleans was named the #1 Metro for IT Job Growth in the USA [*Forbes*]
- New Orleans was named “America’s Best City for School Reform” [Thomas B. Fordham Institute]
- Louisiana placed 6th on the State Entrepreneurship Index [University of Nebraska]
- Greater New Orleans was named One of 10 Places Where Digital Media Has Clustered [*Southern Business & Development*]
- New Orleans placed 10th on a “Next Cities” ranking of the Best Places to Live and Work for Young Professionals [Next Generation Consulting]
- New Orleans was named An American “Fast City” [*Fast Company*]

The August 2011 *New Orleans Index at Six* published by the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center used Federal Reserve data to indicate that, “Entrepreneurship has spiked post-Katrina, from 218 individuals starting businesses out of every 100,000 metro area adults in 2003-05 to 427 in 2008-10, and remains well above the national average of 333.”



Source: New Orleans Index at Six. Brookings Institute, GNO Community Data Center, August 2011.

Louisiana and New Orleans Economic Renaissance

Louisiana and New Orleans feature prominently as emerging leaders in the fast growing Southeastern region of the U.S. Despite significant economic and human loss suffered as a result of four major hurricanes and the largest oil spill in U.S. history, the City of New Orleans and State of Louisiana exemplify the American recovery and success story.

For the last three years in a row, U.S. Census figures indicate Louisiana's population has grown at a faster rate than the U.S., and the state has experienced four years consecutive years of net population in-migration. Additionally, Louisiana's unemployment rate has remained well below that of the South and the U.S. every month since January 2008, all of which indicate economic recovery and positive trajectory.

Moreover, Louisiana Department of Economic Development analysis concludes that the shrinking wage gap between the U.S. and China and declining natural gas prices will lead to a manufacturing renaissance throughout the United States that will particularly benefit Louisiana's significant manufacturing economy.

Other indicators of the economic resurgence of Louisiana and New Orleans have likewise been marked by extensive third-party validation as the state and metro area have moved up significantly in all major business climate ranking. Recent rankings include the following:

- In 2011, no other Southern state scored higher than Louisiana for jobs and investment. For the third straight year, *Southern Business & Development* magazine named Louisiana "State of the Year," beating 16 other Southern states in the annual SB&D 100 rankings. Several of Louisiana's major metropolitan areas - Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Monroe and New Orleans - also received recognition by SB&D in their respective categories.
- New Orleans tied with Charlotte, North Carolina as the 2011 Co-Major Market of the Year. *Business Facilities* Magazine named Louisiana as the 2010 "State of the Year" and ranked the state second in 2011 for economic growth potential.
- *Chief Executive* magazine's seventh annual "Best and Worst States for Business" report names Louisiana the most improved state overall for the past four years.

- At an inflection point in the city’s recovery, Greater New Orleans had the 8th best real GDP growth in the country according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.
- The ManpowerGroup identified New Orleans in 2011 as the #2 Employment Market in the Country, and CareerBuilder.com attributed New Orleans with the third fastest wage-growth in the United States.
- The University of Nebraska scored Louisiana as #6 on the 2011 State Entrepreneurship Index, a national barometer of business formation and innovation.³

The Southeastern United States is on Track for Dramatic, Sustained Growth

Significant Population Growth

The Southeastern United States is the fastest growing region in the country. Regional population growth from 2000 to 2010 indicates dramatic shifts to warmer climates, particularly the south.

REGIONAL POPLUATION GROWTH 2000-2010

South	14.3%
West	13.8%
Midwest	3.9%
Northeast	3.2%

SOURCE: Population Change, Regional Population Growth, 2010 Census
<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/index.php>

Among the Southern states Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Texas have experienced some of the fastest, largest population expansion in the country with 15-25 percent growth while Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Tennessee have kept pace with or exceeded the national average with 5-15 percent growth.⁴

Notably, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Texas have experienced consistent double-digit growth for at least the past forty years, a pattern consistent with the decades-long trajectory of inward migration throughout the Southeastern United States, and an indicator of persistent, dramatic growth in the region for the foreseeable future.⁵

Economic and Innovation Strength in the South

³ 2011 State Entrepreneurship Index, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research (July 2011)

⁴ <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/index.php>

⁵ 2012 Statistical Abstract of the United States, Gross Domestic Product by State, Current Dollars 2008, US Census Bureau.

The population growth is fueling the innovation renaissance of the Southeastern United States and providing a foundation of strong economic stability. States in the Southeast continue to experience positive economic growth and are increasingly viewed as the preferred region for business development and entrepreneurial activity.

New Orleans is Accessible to Inventors

Air Accommodations

The data has demonstrated the positive economic growth and innovation trends in the Southeastern United States. Within this thriving region of the country, no location is more accessible and easily accommodating to the inventor and the region than New Orleans.

New Orleans is less than a two hour flight from virtually every significant metropolitan area in the Southeastern United States and approximately three hours or less from major innovation centers in the Great Lakes, Mid Atlantic and Northeast. In the time it takes an inventor to travel from Richmond to Alexandria, VA, a patent applicant from most of the innovation centers in the South can connect with an examiner in New Orleans.

Direct Flights to New Orleans



New Orleans is a very affordable option for air travel. Because service at the Louis Armstrong Airport in New Orleans (MSY) is designed for a leisure traveler, the

discretionary nature of leisure travel keeps the fares lower than the national average. Comparing the top one hundred airports with regard to enplanements, MSY's average fare for 2Q/2011 is \$343.71, which is lower than the national average of \$370. New Orleans is more cost effective than 73 other top airports, such as Raleigh Durham, San Antonio, Sacramento, Nashville, Seattle, Washington-National, Austin, and Dallas among others.⁶

MSY continues to add new destinations and has drastically reduced landing fees over the past two years. The airport also recently completed \$300 million in capital improvements and unveiled a plan for a new terminal expected to be completed in 2018. The airport is home to ten passenger carriers and two all-cargo carriers. The passenger carriers include: American, Air Canada, JetBlue, Continental, Delta, Frontier, AirTran, United, US Airways, and Southwest Airlines. Together, these carriers represent 123 daily departures to 37 non-stop destinations. The all-cargo carriers are FedEx and the United Parcel Service (UPS).

Southwest Airlines/AirTran is the largest carrier serving New Orleans, with ownership of 39 percent of total seats and service to 16 non-stop destinations. Delta is the second largest at 20 percent of seats and 11 non-stops (including New York's John F. Kennedy Airport - June 2012), followed closely by Continental/United at 18 percent and 8 non-stops. These carriers have made a substantial investment in New Orleans.

Rare among major airports, United/Continental provides non-stop service to all of the airline's eight hubs from New Orleans. Delta Airlines will soon initiate service to John F. Kennedy airport in New York. This is the second legacy carrier to have non-stop service to all of their hubs, making New Orleans even more attractive with an abundance of connectivity to the country and the globe.

On time performance is a key metric in the satisfaction of consumer travel. New Orleans ranks high, with 89.2% of on-time departures compared to Houston-Hobby – 80.6%, Nashville – 85.4%, New York JFK – 83.8%, Tampa – 87.3%, and Atlanta – 87.6% in October 2011 (DOT Consumer Report – December 2011).

Major airlines have seen the opportunity in New Orleans and have invested through the establishment of flights and seat capacity. MSY offers the United States Patent and Trademark Office seamless air transportation when the need for travel arises, with 37 non-stop destinations and connectivity through several major hubs.

⁶ Bureau of Transportation Statistics

New Orleans Is Ideally Suited to Accommodate Inventors

As a regional transportation hub in the Southeastern United States, inventors can expect to travel from their homes, conduct their business in New Orleans, and return home in one day. Should business require additional time, the city offers a wide variety of affordable accommodations.

There are more than 37,000 competitively priced hotel rooms available in the New Orleans metropolitan area, including a variety of boutique, bed and breakfast and major downtown hotel towers.

Travel + Leisure recognized New Orleans in 2011 as seventh among the Top 10 Cities in the United States and Canada. As a preferred convention and travel destination among domestic and international visitors, New Orleans is accustomed to hosting more than 7 million to 8 million visitors a year.

New Orleans Is Accessible and Accommodating for the USPTO

Abundant, Affordable Office Space

New Orleans office space is competitively priced to accommodate a USPTO satellite office. A survey of office space costs in major Southern markets, including Alexandria, VA, indicates that New Orleans is the most affordable location.

COST PER SF FOR CLASS A AND B OFFICE SPACE - QUOTED RATES

	Class A	Class B
New Orleans, LA	\$17.52	\$16.34
Alexandria, VA	\$38.20	\$29.09
Houston, TX	\$29.75	\$19.14
Austin, TX	\$29.25	\$21.57
Dallas-Ft Worth, TX	\$22.21	\$17.64
Atlanta, GA	\$21.59	\$16.52
Memphis, TN	\$20.28	\$15.98
Nashville, TN	\$21.37	\$17.95
Miami, FL	\$35.33	\$24.85
Charlotte, NC	\$22.46	\$17.32

Source: CoStar

Co-location Is an Attractive Option for USPTO

The General Services Administration, Department of Defense, and other federal entities own or lease a large inventory of office space in the New Orleans area.

Home to 32 agencies and nearly 8,500 permanent employees in the New Orleans area, the city hosts major regional offices of Washington, DC-based agencies:

- U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (both formerly the Minerals Management Service), Gulf of Mexico Regional Office – by far the largest regional offices of both bureaus
- United States Coast Guard, Eighth District Headquarters – the largest Coast Guard district in the United States
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District – manages the largest civil works budget and construction responsibility of any district in the Army Corps of Engineers
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Michoud Assembly Facility – assembly site of every human space flight heavy lift vehicle from Apollo/Saturn to Space Shuttle to next generation heavy lift
- Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North Headquarters – the command for all U.S. Marine Reserve Forces and North American protection forces

New Orleans area federal agencies occupy many locations, though most are concentrated in two sites with another under development:

- U.S. Customs House – Uniquely positioned among New Orleans properties as the capstone to the Central Business District and French Quarter, and within close proximity to the Warehouse/Convention District, the U.S. Customs House hosts the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol New Orleans District Office, the Minority Business Development Administration, Small Business Administration, and International Trade Administration.
- Hale Boggs Federal Building and Courthouse – Centrally located in the Central Business District, Hale Boggs accommodates the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana and various other federal offices.
- Federal City – Located on New Orleans' westbank, Federal City is home to the U.S. Coast Guard Sector New Orleans, U.S. Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North. In its early stages of development, Federal City is a planned mixed-use development that, when fully developed, will consist of over 1,000,000 square feet of office space, 375,000 square feet of retail space, 350,000 square feet of civil/municipal buildings, 150 hotel rooms and 1,400 dwelling units.

Notably, New Orleans is home to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, also located in the Central Business District.

Section 2: New Orleans Is Ideally Suited for Examiner Recruitment

The Southeast is a Brain Magnet and New Orleans is Number One

After decades of population loss and “brain-drain”, New Orleans has experienced three years of population in-migration.⁷ Praised for its culture and quality of life, New Orleans uses these assets to attract a young and creative class of workers. In 2011, Forbes magazine ranked New Orleans as the #1 Brain Magnet in the U.S.⁸, the #1 City for Information Technology jobs⁹, and the #2 City for Job Growth¹⁰. The population growth of talented professionals adds to an already robust workforce and university system. College graduates in the metropolitan area increased from 26% of the population in 2000 to 33% of the population in 2010.¹¹ Numbers two through seven of the Forbes list of “Brain Magnets” included Austin, TX; Nashville, TN; Kansas City, MO; and Birmingham, Al. Four of those five are in the Southeast region, and the fifth – Raleigh, N.C. – is just northeast of the region.

It is clear that the Southeastern United States is attracting an educated workforce as college graduates flock to the region. As the region’s innovation culture continues to grow, a centrally located office in this part of the country will be crucial to serve it. New Orleans has a strong track record of recruiting intelligent, skilled and talented individuals. This trend became obvious in 2010, when Tulane University received 43,468 applications for fall admission, the *most of any private university* surveyed by the New York Times. In 2011, after adding an additional essay to the application, Tulane University received 37,574 applications, only behind Northeastern University, New York University, Boston University and the University of Southern California for number of applicants.¹²

New Orleans is a Central Location for University Graduates

Despite the Southeastern U.S.’s emergence as a brain magnet, the region is graduating a higher percentage of science and engineering doctorates than are employed in the region. As seen in the table below, in 2008, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas graduated approximately 16% of the nation’s doctorates, but only employed approximately 13% of the nation’s doctorates. As technology development and innovation grow in the region, more educated workers will remain in the Southeast.

⁷ GNO Community Data Center analysis 2011

⁸ <http://www.forbes.com/2011/02/10/smart-cities-new-orleans-austin-contributors-joel-kotkin.html>

⁹ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/joelkotkin/2011/05/16/is-the-information-industry-reviving-economies/2/>

¹⁰ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/joelkotkin/2011/05/02/the-best-cities-for-jobs/2/>

¹¹ [http://www.business-opportunities.biz/2011/10/27/new-orleans-attracting-young-entrepreneurs/;](http://www.business-opportunities.biz/2011/10/27/new-orleans-attracting-young-entrepreneurs/)

<http://www.bestofneworleans.com/gambit/the-young-entrepreneurs/Content?oid=1898693>

¹² [http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/01/31/total-apps-2011/;](http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/01/31/total-apps-2011/)

http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2010/10/tulane_university_gets_record.html

The cumulative effect will be better economic outcomes for Southern states and valuable strategic growth for our nation in energy, biomedical, and chemical industries.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STATE PROFILES

	AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, TX	United States	Percent
All Employed Science, Engineering, Health doctorates, 2008	86,500	649,800	13.31%
Science and Engineering doctorates awarded, 2008	5,283	32,827	16.09%
Population, 2009 (thousands)	65,302	310,974	21.00%
Civilian labor force, 2009 (thousands)	31,370	155,358	20.19%
Academic R&D, 2009 (\$millions)	9,064	54,935	16.50%
SBIR awards, 2008 (\$millions)	564	5,491	10.27%
Utility patents issued to state residents, 2009	10,232	82,380	12.42%
Gross domestic product, 2008 (\$billions)	2,826	14,437	19.57%
All Federal agencies	15,558,142	124,767,924	12.47%

Source: <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/states>

The USPTO in the Greater New Orleans region would have access to graduates from the following excellent programs throughout Louisiana and Mississippi:

Science and Engineering Schools and Colleges in Louisiana

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA
Louisiana Tech University, West Monroe LA
McNeese State University, Lake Charles LA
Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge LA
Loyola University, New Orleans LA
Tulane University, New Orleans LA
Xavier, New Orleans LA
University of New Orleans, New Orleans LA
Centenary College of Louisiana, Shreveport LA

Science and Engineering Schools and Colleges in Mississippi

Mississippi State University, Starkville MS
University of Mississippi, University MS
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg MS

Each of the universities provide significant resources for the region and high quality graduates in the life sciences, physical sciences, computer sciences, and applied sciences – such as medicine and engineering.

For example, Louisiana State University comprises a flagship campus, two health sciences centers, a biomedical research center, a law school, and an agriculture center, as well as a health care services division with multiple hospitals. Together these entities conduct over \$400 million in research annually, and in 2011 filed approximately 50 new patents and generated nearly 100 invention disclosures. Typically, at least two new companies are launched each year based upon LSU System inventions. Because of this extensive system, LSU is in the top 10 percent of number of engineering graduates.¹³

Similarly, Tulane University places a significant focus on the life sciences and engineering. In addition to the School of Science and Engineering and the School of Law, Tulane also has its Health Sciences Center, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and the Tulane National Primate Research Center. The Tulane National Primate Research Center is only one of nine such facilities in the country.¹⁴ Tulane's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is the oldest school of public health in the country and the only American school of tropical medicine."¹⁵ The university conducts between \$130 million to \$172 million in research annually, has almost tripled its patents filed in the past year, and has tripled its licenses and options executed in the past year.

Louisiana Tech University has done an excellent job with commercialization in north Louisiana. In addition to having one of the top nanotechnology and nanoscience programs in the country, Louisiana Tech has been ranked second in the U.S. for number of inventions per research dollar.

Beyond the universities, the private Pennington Biomedical Research Center houses 53 laboratories that span the Center's three programs in Basic Research, Clinical Research, and Population Science. It boasts nineteen Core Service laboratories, inpatient and outpatient clinics, a research kitchen, an administrative area, and more than \$20 million in technologically advanced equipment. More than 80 faculty members and over 600 physicians, scientists, and support personnel are employed in the following research areas: Epidemiology and Prevention, Physical Activity and Health, Cancer, Diabetes, Obesity, Neurodegeneration, Genomics and Molecular Genetics, Stem Cell and Developmental Biology, Neurobiology, and Nutrient Sensing and Signaling.¹⁶

¹³ <http://www.lsu.edu/departments/gold/2011/08/engineering.shtml>

¹⁴ http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/comparative_medicine/resource_directory/primates.asp#centers

¹⁵ <http://www.sph.tulane.edu/publichealth/about/index.cfm>

¹⁶ <http://www.pbrc.edu/the-center/>

The Greater New Orleans area also offers ample access to future patent attorneys. In addition to science and engineering, there are a significant number of law school graduates in the region. Similar to science and engineering, there is a surplus of graduating law students to attorney employment opportunities. In 2009 in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas there were 2,719 more attorneys who passed in the bar than there were jobs for them.¹⁷ The following is a list of law schools in Louisiana and Mississippi:

Law Schools in Louisiana

Tulane University Law School, New Orleans LA
Loyola University of New Orleans - College of Law, New Orleans LA
Louisiana State University - Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Baton Rouge LA
Southern University Law Center, Baton Rouge LA

Law Schools in Mississippi

Mississippi College School of Law, Jackson MS
University of Mississippi School of Law, University MS

State and Local Efforts are Attracting Professionals to New Orleans

New Orleans has established a 1,500 acre BioDistrict spanning the Downtown and Mid-City areas of New Orleans. The district is centered on the development of a biosciences industry in New Orleans, providing world-class biosciences research and development, local/regional/global healthcare delivery, and high-paying jobs for numerous professionals. The BioDistrict will be anchored by the \$90 million, 150,000 sf, Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium, the new \$800 million Veterans Affairs medical complex, and the \$1.2 billion, 424 bed, Louisiana State University Medical Center. It is estimated that this initiative will create 19,036 new jobs for the City over the next ten years, not only in the biosciences, but also in banking, law, construction, and other service industries.

The New Orleans BioInnovation Center is located in this new BioDistrict and offers 66,000 square feet of state-of-the-art wet-lab, office and conference space. It is four stories of modern lab space designed to commercialize technologies that emerge from local universities. Currently the center houses sixteen start-ups and two private equity funds, and is analyzing over 20 new scientific discoveries. However, the center has room to grow as it can hold more than 80 companies and employ nearly 200 people.

¹⁷ <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/06/27/the-lawyer-surplus-state-by-state/>

New Orleans and Tulane University have also established Riversphere, a research center, education facility, exhibition space and business incubator focused on water sustainability and renewable energy. The facility is located on the Mississippi River approximately one mile upriver from the French Quarter and is being constructed with an award of \$3 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The project's business incubator will be a catalyst for the creation and support of "green" energy jobs and will help make New Orleans an exporter of sustainable energy technologies and intellectual capital throughout the country. Floating barges will allow private companies to test prototypes of power turbines capable of generating electricity using river currents. Initially research will focus on in-stream hydrokinetic technologies that harness the power of the Mississippi River to generate carbon-free electricity.

New Orleans has been reinventing itself to attract early and mid-career professionals. With over \$2.5 billion in investments in public facilities such as state of the art libraries, schools, parks and community centers, New Orleans offers attractive amenities that high-skilled workers seek. New Orleans placed 10th on a Next Cities ranking of the Best Places to Live and Work for Young Professionals¹⁸ and ranked 16th on the 2011 Best Cities for Families.¹⁹

Section 3: New Orleans Is Ideally Suited for Examiner Retention

New Orleans Employment Needs Match USPTO Retention Needs

The USPTO's mission requires a skilled workforce and its employees are highly marketable throughout the private and public sectors. USPTO faces the incredible challenge of recruiting, hiring, developing, and retaining a sufficient number of patent examiners to clear the backlog and increase the quality of patent review. USPTO patent examiner attrition rates in recent years have been between 4% and 8%, occurring primarily among those on their first or second job. A significant 40-50% of attrition occurs in the first four years of employment with USPTO.

Decades ago, New Orleans experienced a brain drain of young, educated resident workforce, as well as the departure of non-residents who attended regional universities. While New Orleans is now considered a center of innovation and entrepreneurship in the South, employment opportunity growth is critically needed in biomedical, biotechnology, telecommunications, and digital media to meet the demands of the highly educated workforce raised in the region, graduating from the regional universities, and moving to New Orleans due to its attractive quality of life.

¹⁸ Next Generation Consulting Magazine.

¹⁹ Parenting.com

New Orleans needs quality jobs for high-skilled workers, while USPTO needs a high-skilled workforce with less motivation to change jobs. The New Orleans region offers a high quality of life at a low cost and has less employment competition for skilled workers.

Outstanding Quality of Life Will Help Retain Talent

LA Residents Stay in LA

Louisiana is the happiest state in the nation²⁰ and employees living in Louisiana prefer to stay in Louisiana.²¹ In recent years New Orleans has experienced an economic renaissance, making it one of the best places in America to live, stay, and raise a family. It has also been ranked as the best city for young entrepreneurs,²² is one of the best food cities in the world,²³ and was voted the best city for live music in North America.²⁴ However, unlike larger and more mature urban areas, New Orleans is virtually free from long commutes, congestion and high prices. New Orleans enjoys a great climate, an abundance of green and outdoor public spaces, a unique culture, alternative transportation options, a strong sense of community and belonging, and a low cost of living.

Among the alternative transportation options, the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (NORTA) and Jefferson Transit provide highly effective buses and streetcars that transport people throughout the city.²⁵ In addition to public transit, biking has become an extremely popular way of getting around New Orleans. NORTA has equipped all of its buses with bike racks.²⁶ Further, organizations like Bike Easy provide biking maps and advocate for more, safe bike paths.²⁷ Just as with everything else in New Orleans, even biking tacks on to local culture as Bike Easy sponsors a semi-annual bicycle second-line – a traditional New Orleans musical parade.²⁸

Public Transit & Walkabilty (should the paragraph above be put under this header?)

Innovation occurs all around the Greater New Orleans area, but the highest concentration of USPTO examination activity will likely occur in the Central Business District. This area is highly accessible and easily walkable. Beyond that, there are

²⁰ Oswald, A. and Wu, S. Objective Confirmation of Subjective Measures of Human Well-Being: Evidence from the U.S.A. Journal of Science, December 17, 2009.

²¹ Lifetime Mobility study: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acsbr10-07.pdf>

²² <http://under30ceo.com/top-10-cities-for-young-entrepreneurs-2011>

²³ <http://www.foodandwine.com/articles/20-best-food-cities>

²⁴ http://www.nola.com/music/index.ssf/2009/09/travel_writers_vote_new_orlean.html

²⁵ http://www.norta.com/RTA_System/SystemMap/index.html; <http://www.jeffersontransit.org/maps.htm>

²⁶ http://www.norta.com/getting_around/Bike___Ride/index.html

²⁷ <http://bikeeasy.org/about/>; http://lphi.org/LPHIadmin/bike_status_April2011.pdf

²⁸ <http://bikeeasy.org/projects/bicycle-second-line>

numerous public transportation options that facilitate efficient navigation throughout the city.

Public transportation is operated by the New Orleans with the Regional Transit Authority (RTA), which provides streetcar and bus options throughout every neighborhood in the city. RTA boasts:

- 15 million passenger trips per year and growing
- A bus system of 80 vehicles, each averaging less than 1 year in age, operating on 32 bus routes
- 66 streetcars running 13 miles of track on three lines
- Continued transportation investment with a \$52 million USDOT TIGER Grant that will extend the streetcar line to the bus and train terminal and local bond financing of over \$100 million in streetcar expansion through the historic downtown neighborhoods.
- Paratransit fleet of 34 vehicles is among the newest in the United States

Fares are flat and consistent, priced at \$1.25 for any destination in the city, allowing for predictable and efficient mobility.

New Orleans is a compact city comprised of tightly knit neighborhoods, each of which are very walkable. Walk Score, a firm designed to promote walkable neighborhoods, ranks half of New Orleans neighborhoods as on par or exceeding an ideal walkability rating of 84 out of 100, and scores the Central Business District at 91 and the adjacent French Quarter at 94.

CBD and French Quarter Map



New Orleans is the National Epicenter of School Reform

As previously mentioned, New Orleans was named “America’s Best City for School Reform” by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute. U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan has referred to the reforms to New Orleans public primary and secondary schools as “stunning.” Deep structural changes were made possible by the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans has inspired education systems nationwide to model their transformation strategies. Hundreds of millions in philanthropic dollars have been committed to New Orleans education and over \$1.6 million is being invested in facilities and recreation on school campuses. By 2016, every public school student will attend school in a brand new or significantly remodeled building.

New Orleans is Attracting the Creative Class

The USPTO will have partners in the region to ensure its success. Agencies and employers in the New Orleans region are already working to support efforts to train, develop, and retain a high-skilled workforce. The New Orleans Downtown Development District recently conducted a nationwide study on attracting creative class workers to the region, providing a snapshot of those high-skilled workers in Digital media, Biosciences (including Bio Technology and Life Sciences), and Telecommunications.

The study examined the characteristics of a place that most attracts the creative class. 44% of the survey respondents indicated that they chose their location based on the lifestyle the city provided, whereas just over one-third based their location on the particular job. Respondents also focused more on the livability of their location, such as whether they could grocery shop on their walk home from work or whether it would be easy to walk from work to meet friends at a restaurant before heading home. These experiences were noted to provide a sense of belonging and community. The participants described interest in mixed-use neighborhoods where they are able to live, work, and shop such as those existing in the New Orleans region.²⁹

In order to remain competitive and retain employees, it will be important to locate the satellite office in areas with strong lifestyle assets such as accessibility, green and outdoor space, community, population density, and belonging, good climate, and a low cost of living. New Orleans encompasses all of those elements.

Low Cost of Living Will Benefit Employees

Patent examiner attrition sharply declines after the third year of employment at USPTO. The USPTO Human Capital Strategic Plan found that if employees can be retained through their third year, it is more likely that they will stay on even longer. A location that offers both a lifestyle that appeals most to workers in their first five years of employment and a community-oriented low cost place to raise a family can help USPTO to bridge that attrition precipice.

Perhaps the greatest physical asset of New Orleans for employees is the large supply of architecturally significant historic and affordable homes. Home ownership would be an attractive option to patent examiners earning between \$69,899 and \$90,866. The average prices of a single family housing unit in metropolitan New Orleans are as follows:

AVERAGE HOME PRICES IN THE REGION

Metropolitan Area (weighted)	\$185,000
New Orleans	\$215,000
Jefferson Parish	\$180,000
St. Bernard Parish	\$90,000
St. Tammany Parish	\$205,000

Source: New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors

²⁹ Creative Class Market Research, Downtown Development District Report, February 15, 2010

The average monthly apartment rents in metropolitan New Orleans in 2010 were as follows:

AVERAGE RENT IN THE REGION

Metropolitan Area (weighted)	\$1,000
New Orleans	\$1,200
Jefferson Parish	\$900
St. Tammany Parish	\$950

Source: UNO Real Estate Center Surveys

The region’s cost of living is lower on nearly every metric when compared with (1) other emerging and established and emerging hubs of innovation and (2) key regions in the South. The ACCRA Cost of Living Index produced compares metro areas in the United States. Below is a comparison of the New Orleans region.

COST OF LIVING COMPARISON WITH NEW ORLEANS

	New Orleans	Alexandria VA / Washington DC	Dallas/ Ft. Worth	Austin	Atlanta	Miami	Orlando
Cost of Living Composite Index (MSA)	95.6	147.5	96.4	93.3	98.8	108.3	97.2

Source: Accra Cost of Living Index

Federal Salaries Outpace Local Salaries, Making Patent Examiner Positions Desirable

Employees will be more likely to stay in positions at a new patent where there is a limited local supply of high skilled jobs and higher federal salaries than local salaries. The 2011 unemployment rate in New Orleans was 6.5% compared with the 4.2% rate of unemployment in the Alexandria – Washington DC metro area.³⁰ The median household income in the New Orleans region is \$45,224.³¹ Federal salaries in 2011 were in the top 8% in the region and exceeded local and state salaries by \$48,283 on average.³²

The USPTO would not be the first to have success recruiting skilled workers to the Greater New Orleans region. From 2001 to 2011, Greater New Orleans saw a 6.9%

³⁰ Bureau of Labor Statistics, data accessed on January 24, 2012.

³¹ American Community Survey, 3-year (2008-2010)

³² Louisiana Department of Labor, data accessed using EMSI on January 24, 2012.

growth of high tech jobs when the national average was -2.8%. However, New Orleans is in a particularly advantageous position to retain those workers because the cost of living is so low. This is beneficial to employers who can offer lower salaries, and to employees who can get more for their money. In Greater New Orleans in 2011, the average salary of a technology job was \$84,967, while the national average was \$102,042. This would put the USPTO salaries closer to the competition of industry salaries.³³

Summary

New Orleans and the Gulf Coast want to work together with the USPTO to develop a long-standing partnership that will benefit the entire country in promoting and driving innovation. We feel our distinct advantages of a central and accessible location in the South, population growth, a robust university system, talent attraction and retention, industry growth, and an emerging entrepreneurship eco-system will lay the foundation for success. A USPTO satellite office in New Orleans would validate all the progress of the region and city, as well as the investment the Federal government has made to our region. The new office can be a catalyst to move the community forward and continue the path to be a technology and innovation center for the country. We are committed to working together in such capacities as facilitating needed relationships with universities to develop a clear pipeline of future employees, continuing to enhance our outstanding airline accessibility and capacity, and supporting pro-business and educational policy initiatives to grow industry innovation and talent.

We do know New Orleans and the region are not without its challenges. An influx of federal dollars over the past six years, as well as the construction jobs tied to the rebuilding effort, have helped to insulate New Orleans from the full impact of the global recession. These monies are starting to wind down and it is important to continue to attract new talent and industry to the region. New Orleans has also suffered from a perception that it is still negatively affected by Katrina and the BP oil spill. The USPTO would provide a powerful statement that Greater New Orleans is not only back, but thriving.

USPTO's locations in Alexandria, Virginia and Detroit, Michigan will serve the East Coast and Midwest regions well. A satellite office in New Orleans would be an efficient and effective hub centered on innovation in the Southeast region, where technology advancements and patents are strong and need to grow further. USPTO would benefit from recruiting and retaining a high-skilled workforce and would have a significant economic impact on the New Orleans region. A USPTO satellite office in the Southeastern United States will play a major role in reducing the agency's overall application backlog, address the existing and growing backlog in the fastest growing

³³ RPC, High Tech Employment in Greater New Orleans Area, Jan 18, 2012.

region of the United States, and set the conditions for a more efficient examination process in a region that can expect higher and higher volumes of pendency.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to advancing the conversation on why New Orleans is the right choice for the new USPTO field office.

January 18, 2012

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Justin Levy, J.D. – Licensing Associate
Tulane University, Technology Transfer Office
1440 Canal Street, Suite 1400
New Orleans LA 70112

Re: Letter of Support for New Orleans Site, USPTO Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Levy:

The Association for Corporate Growth Louisiana (“ACG”) facilitates the networking of business professionals in Louisiana and the surrounding areas. It is committed to support successful commercial efforts of businesses, including companies and entrepreneurs that generate, patent and commercialize new technologies throughout Louisiana and the Upper Gulf Coast region. The ACG recognizes the value of supporting the technology development community for the economic benefit of the region.

It is in that capacity that the ACG is pleased to enthusiastically join with the Gulf Coast Patent Association’s initiative to secure a USPTO satellite office in this Region. The addition of an office in New Orleans would accelerate the bringing of life science and other technological advances to commercialization. The Region is fortunate to have strong local technical skills for a USPTO office staff; further, the Region has many universities that will not only provide support for patent investigation, but will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurial collaboration with academia and the private sector.

As the UPSTO continues to pursue ways to improve its implementation performance, ACG believes that the selection of New Orleans as a satellite office site will greatly contribute to that objective, as well as provide a catalyst for the much needed economic recovery of this area.

The ACG urges USPTO to select New Orleans as the site for its next satellite office.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Scott T. Whittaker
President

STW:daj

BEN C. ADAMS
Direct Dial: 901.577.2307
Direct Fax: 901.577.0714
E-Mail: badams@bakerdonelson.com

January 25, 2012

**Via Electronic Mail to:
satelliteoffices@uspto.gov**

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

Re: Proposed USPTO Satellite Office for the Greater New Orleans Area

Dear Mr. Khan,

Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC would like to express its support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. Baker Donelson 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 CommerceConnect, 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.

Baker Donelson is the 73rd largest law firm in the United States, with over 600 attorneys in 18 offices throughout the southeastern United States, including New Orleans and Washington, D.C. Baker Donelson also has more than 20 attorneys who are registered to practice before the USPTO. Clearly, the location of a USPTO office within the greater New Orleans area 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.

Azam Khan
January 25, 2012
Page 2

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.

Baker Donelson looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urges the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben C. Adams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Ben C. Adams
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

BCA/jhd

VIA Email: satelliteoffices@uspto.gov



January 10, 2012

Mr. 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

Dear Mr. Khan,

BioDistrict New Orleans would like to express our support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. BioDistrict New Orleans knows that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO and support Departmental objectives including CommerceConnect and increase collaborations among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states of the Austin and Atlanta Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration regions.

The BioDistrict is dedicated to promoting and developing the bioscience industry throughout the state of Louisiana, and in particular showcasing New Orleans as a premier location for bioscience research, education and industry development. To that end, BioDistrict New Orleans is focused on building alliances across regions and industry sectors to educate the public and advocate for sound policies to strengthen the growth of Louisiana's bioscience industry. 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.

I look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

BioDistrict New Orleans

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James P. McNamara', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

James P. McNamara, President & CEO

CARVER, DARDEN,
KORETZKY, TESSIER, FINN,
BLOSSMAN & AREAUX LLC

RAYMOND G. AREAUX

Registered Patent Attorney
(504) 585-3803
areaux@carverdarden.com

January 27, 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,

I write to you express my support for the Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. I recognize 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 CommerceConnect, 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.

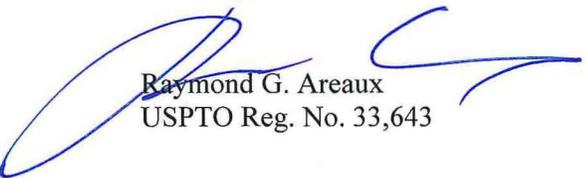
Clearly, the location of a USPTO satellite branch within greater New Orleans will help our firm accomplish its goals, allow for increased workflow, stimulate the development of higher quality technologies, and greatly enhance the commercialization of those technologies throughout our region. Moreover, I believe that the greater New Orleans area is well suited to fit the needs of the USPTO. Specifically, the region is centrally located along the Interstate 10 corridor, has a comparatively low cost of living, several well-respected universities (including medical and pharmacological schools), a moderate climate, and rich cultural traditions, all of which help regional businesses attract and retain employees.

I have been a Registered Patent Attorney practicing in New Orleans for more than twenty years. Having assisted my clients in protecting their intellectual property rights, I have observed the significant growth of innovation in this region, as well as the strong desire many have for living in this area. This positive trend is exemplified by the three very bright younger registered patent attorneys who practice with me. I ask you to seriously consider this region for selection as a location of a USPTO satellite office.

A USPTO satellite office in any location within the greater New Orleans area would provide easy access to our firm 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.

I look forward to your review of all of the comments and strongly urge the USPTO to support this comment and locate the USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans area.

Sincerely,


Raymond G. Areaux
USPTO Reg. No. 33,643



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January 27, 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,

Cohabitat Foundation 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. Cohabitat 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 CommerceConnect, 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.

CoHabitat Foundation was founded to establish a community-driven workspace geared towards entrepreneurial activities and developing the creative economy of North Louisiana. Our amazing facility offers cost effective workspace, business services, and educational and networking opportunities for our members and the community at large. These businesses thrive on intellectual property and a USPTO office in our state would be a big win for our state.

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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Grindley III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

John Grindley
Executive Director
Cohabitat Foundation

January 5, 2011

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:

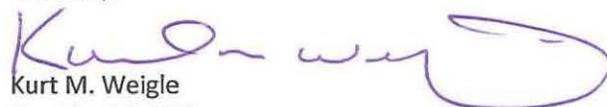
The Downtown Development District (DDD) would like to express its support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages to the United States Patent and Trademark Office of locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The DDD is a key economic development partner in expanding Louisiana's biotechnology cluster. Our mission is to make Downtown New Orleans one of the most competitive environments in the nation for attracting *Industries of the Mind* such as digital media, biosciences and arts-based businesses. 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.

Having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO and support Departmental objectives including CommerceConnect 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.

A USPTO satellite office in any location of greater New Orleans would provide easy access for Downtown's burgeoning slate of knowledge based businesses and similar businesses from Texas to Florida. New Orleans has been ranked on the Kauffman's index as the #4 city for entrepreneurship. Also Forbes picks the city as the 2nd Best City for Jobs and as the #1 Brain Magnet in America. In addition, with rapidly increasing infrastructure, excellent tax incentives for businesses, and dramatically improving quality of life indicators, the greater New Orleans region is a logical choice for a USPTO satellite office.

I look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,



Kurt M. Weigle
President & CEO



Research and Economic Development

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,

I enjoyed meeting you at the National SBIR Fall Conference in New Orleans this past November. I found your presentation update on the recent patent legislation very informative. I was particularly happy to hear that the USPTO was going to be setting up some satellite offices to better serve its customers and improve its hiring of examiners.

I, on behalf of the University of New Orleans, would like to express my support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment stating the strong advantages of the USPTO locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. I am confident 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 CommerceConnect, 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 also provide a positive impact to the greater New Orleans region still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

The University of New Orleans is the major public, urban research university in the region. Although reduced due to the effects of Katrina, our research expenditures have been growing and in FY 2011 exceeded \$35 million. This has led to a growing number of invention disclosures and patent filings. Some of our major research strengths include advanced materials, advanced manufacturing, naval architecture and marine engineering, coastal protection/restoration and cyber security. I strongly feel the location of a USPTO office within the greater New Orleans region will help our university accomplish its research and technology commercialization goals, allow for increased workflow, stimulate the development of higher quality technologies, and 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 university, other universities in the area which we routinely collaborate and numerous other organizations in the Southeast from Texas to Florida. In addition, with rapidly growing infrastructure, excellent tax incentives for businesses in Louisiana and high quality of life indicators, the greater New Orleans region is a logical choice for a USPTO satellite office.

I look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support the Gulf Coast Patent Association comment and establish a USPTO satellite office in the New Orleans area.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'George Harker'.

Dr. George G. Harker III
Senior Associate Vice President – Research and Economic Development



January 18, 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

Dear Mr. Khan,

The Idea Village would like to express our support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The Idea Village knows that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO, support Departmental objectives including CommerceConnect, and increase collaboration among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states of the Austin and Atlanta Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration regions. In addition, 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.

Founded in 2000, The Idea Village is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization with a mission to identify, support and retain entrepreneurial talent in New Orleans. To date, The Idea Village has provided direct support to 1,101 local entrepreneurs by engaging 1,746 professionals to allocate over 42,000 consulting hours and \$2.7 million in capital. Collectively, this portfolio generates over \$82 million in annual revenue and has created nearly 1,006 jobs for our community. 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.

The Idea Village looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urges the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

Tim Williamson, Co-Founder, CEO
The Idea Village



January 18, 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

Dear Mr. Khan,

The Idea Village would like to express our support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The Idea Village knows that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO, support Departmental objectives including CommerceConnect, and increase collaboration among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states of the Austin and Atlanta Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration regions. In addition, 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.

Founded in 2000, The Idea Village is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization with a mission to identify, support and retain entrepreneurial talent in New Orleans. To date, The Idea Village has provided direct support to 1,101 local entrepreneurs by engaging 1,746 professionals to allocate over 42,000 consulting hours and \$2.7 million in capital. Collectively, this portfolio generates over \$82 million in annual revenue and has created nearly 1,006 jobs for our community. 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.

The Idea Village looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urges the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

Tim Williamson, Co-Founder, CEO
The Idea Village



Keaty Law Firm, L.L.C.

Patents, Trademarks & Copyrights

Thomas S. Keaty*†
Bella I. Safro**
Thomas S. Keaty, III

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New Orleans, LA 70130

12 Greenway Plaza, Suite 101
Houston, Texas 77046
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*Registered Patent Attorney
† Admitted LA and TX
**Admitted TN only

January 24, 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,

I, Thomas S. Keaty, of Keaty Law Firm would like to express my support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The Keaty Law Firm 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 CommerceConnect, 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 Keaty Law Firm has been helping inventors in obtaining their patents for more than 30 years. Many of our clients, particularly independent inventors often express a desire to visit with the examiners of the Patent Office or have us, as their representatives, discuss their inventions face-to-face with the examiners. Unfortunately, for many such inventors, traveling to Washington, D.C. is cost prohibitive. 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.

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
January 24, 2012
Page 2

We at Keaty Law Firm look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

Keaty Law Firm, L.L.C.

/s/Thomas S. Keaty
Thomas S. Keaty

TSK:pg



January 25, 2012

Mr. 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:

On behalf of the Louisiana Technology Council (LTC) and our 270+ member companies, we 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. The LTC 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 CommerceConnect, 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 Louisiana Technology Council is the premier advocate for the advancement of both existing and emerging technologies across all industry sectors in the state of Louisiana. The LTC provides value and support to its stakeholders by serving as the primary resource for the strategic direction of the state's technology agenda; including industry-university interactions, workforce development, educational programs, networking connections and the global promotion of Louisiana's rich technological environment. 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. In fact, and according to Forbes Magazine, New Orleans was #1 in the country in information technology job growth in 2010.

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 our 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.

The LTC looks forward to your review of our request and along with all the others who support this initiative. It would make good business sense for us and our members.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Lewis".

Mark S. Lewis, President

1215 Prytania St. – Suite 301
New Orleans, LA 70130
504.304.2910 (v) 504.304.2905 (f)
www.LTC-LA.org



LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT
FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

January 9, 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,

Louisiana Tech University would like to express our support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. Louisiana Tech University 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 CommerceConnect, 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.

Louisiana Tech University is a research university located in northern Louisiana. It has a strong reputation among its peers for its engineering and business educational programs. For example, it was the first university in the country to offer an accredited degree in nanosystems engineering, and in fact graduated the world's first nanosystems engineer. In 2007, Louisiana Tech University was ranked third nationally in nanoscience education.

Furthermore, faculty scientists at the institution are some of the most innovative and productive researchers in the country. It consistently ranks in the top tier in terms of innovation productivity. For example, in 2008 we were ranked tenth nationally in nanotech commercialization by *Small Times Magazine* and ranked second in Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) annual licensing survey in the number of new inventions produced per R&D dollar expended. 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.

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

Sincerely,

Leslie K. Guice
Vice President for Research & Development

A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 8577 • RUSTON, LA 71272-0034 • TEL: (318) 257-3056 • FAX: (318) 257-3142

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1/19/2012

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,

The Louisiana Business & Technology Center (LBTC), part of the E. J. Ourso College of Business at Louisiana State University, would like to express our support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The LBTC 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 CommerceConnect, 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 LBTC endeavors to enhance economic development in Louisiana through the support of existing small businesses and the development of new businesses. The LBTC and the incubator it manages, acting as a proving ground for technology applications, serves to stimulate small business formation, growth, and survival. The LBTC also works closely with LSU Intellectual Property offices to enhance commercialization of university technologies. 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.

8000 GSRI Ave. • LBTC Building 3000 • Baton Rouge, LA 70820
225-578-7555 • Website: www.lbtc.lsu.edu



The Louisiana Business & Technology Center looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urges the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason Boudreaux'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' and 'B'.

Jason Boudreaux
Technology Business Consultant
Louisiana Business & Technology Center
LSU Innovation Park



Louisiana State University System

3810 West Lakeshore Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

January 12, 2012

Office of the President

225 / 578-2111

225 / 578-5524 fax

Mr. Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Undersecretary and Director
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

Dear Mr. Khan,

The Louisiana State University System would like to express its support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana/Southwest Mississippi. Having a USPTO satellite office in the Greater New Orleans region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO, support Departmental objectives including CommerceConnect, and increase collaborations among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states. 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.

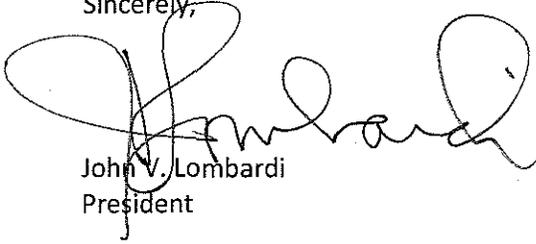
The Louisiana State University System is comprised of nine academic campuses, including a flagship university, two health sciences centers, a specialized biomedical research center, a law school, and an agriculture center, as well as a health care services division with multiple hospitals. Together these entities conduct over \$400 million in research annually, generated nearly 100 invention disclosures in FY2011 and filed about 50 new patents. Typically, at least two new companies are launched each year based upon LSU System inventions. Clearly, the location of a USPTO office within the greater New Orleans region 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.

Mr. Azam Khan
Page 2
January 12, 2012

The Louisiana State University System looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urges the USPTO to support the location of a satellite office in the Central Gulf Coast Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lombardi", written in a cursive style.

John V. Lombardi
President

JVL/km



January 12, 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

RE: Support for Greater New Orleans Area a USPTO satellite office

Dear Mr. Khan:

On behalf of the Magnolia Business Alliance and our 53 member companies I, Craig Harvey, would like to express our support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The Magnolia Business Alliance 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 CommerceConnect, 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, Ike, and Gustav and the BP oil spill.

The Magnolia Business Alliance (MBA) is a 501(C)6 not-for-profit corporation acting as a support organization and forum for the advancement of small and medium businesses (SMB) in the southeastern US. MBA consists entirely of business leaders providing mentorship, training, logistics, and other support as needed to facilitate the development of new companies, a better environment for existing companies, and foster community and national awareness of issues affecting small businesses. The MBA functions as the State approved Steward of the GeoSpatial Industry cluster and its 40 plus Mississippi companies. In addition the Magnolia Business Alliance is a recipient of the largest Regional Industry Cluster Contract from the SBA to support MBA's 50 plus member companies, and most recently the State of Mississippi Granted MBA support for MBA's Minority Enterprise (MBA ME) program providing support for over a hundred minority business in south Mississippi. The mission of the Magnolia Business Alliance is to improve the vitality and competitiveness of businesses in our region and to improve the

overall business environment in the south east region.

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 (Mississippi or Louisiana) 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.

We at Magnolia Business Alliance look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support the selection of the Greater New Orleans area at the logical and best choice for a USPTO satellite office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig A. Harvey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Craig A. Harvey
President, CEO, Magnolia Business Alliance
Direct: 228.242.0015
Mobile: 228.342.8395
Email: charvey@magnolia-ba.biz



Winner of the MEP Medallion Award

January 25, 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,

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPOL) 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. MEPOL understands 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 CommerceConnect, 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.

MEPOL is part of a nationwide network of not-for-profit centers in over 400 locations nationwide, whose sole purpose is to provide small and medium sized manufacturers with the help they need to succeed. The centers, serving all 50 States and Puerto Rico, are linked together through the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. Centers are funded by federal, state, local and private resources to serve manufacturers. That makes it possible for even the smallest firms to tap into the expertise of knowledgeable manufacturing and business specialists all over the United States. 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.

I look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

Director

Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana
UL Lafayette / P. O. Box 44172 / Lafayette, LA 70504 / (337) 482-6767 / (800) 433-6965 / Fax: (337) 262-5472
email: mepol@louisiana.edu / www.mepol.org

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**Mississippi
Enterprise for Technology**

January 10, 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,

On behalf of the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology, Inc. (MSET), I would like to express my support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. MSET 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 CommerceConnect, 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.

MSET is a non-profit corporation that facilitates regional economic development by leveraging the resources of Stennis Space Center, the State, and the region to foster business opportunities among public and private entities. 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.

We look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Beasley", written in a cursive style.

Charles E. Beasley
President & CEO

January 17, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan – Deputy Director
USPTO Headquarters - Main Campus Address
Madison Buildings (East & West)
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria VA 22314

RE: Letter of Support for New Orleans Site, USPTO Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Khan,

The Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region (“Business Council”) strives to ensure a highly competitive business environment that attracts productive companies, individuals and families to our community. It is committed to supporting an environment which fosters successful commercial efforts of businesses, including companies and entrepreneurs that generate, patent and commercialize new technologies. The Business Council recognizes the value of supporting the technology development community for the economic benefit of the entire region.

The Business Council is pleased to enthusiastically join with the Gulf Coast Patent Association’s initiative to secure a United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) satellite in Greater New Orleans. The addition of an office in New Orleans would accelerate the trajectory in which life science and other technological advances are brought to commercialization. The many universities throughout the region will provide support for patent investigation as well as the opportunity for entrepreneurial collaboration between academia and the private sector. Additionally, the New Orleans area is fortunate to have a strong, local technical skills workforce for a USPTO office staff.

The selection of New Orleans as a satellite office site will greatly contribute to the USPTO’s goal of improving its implementation performance. The Business Council urges the USPTO to select New Orleans for its next satellite office.

Best regards,



Suzanne T. Mestayer
Chairman
The Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region



New Orleans Chamber of Commerce

1515 Poydras Street • Suite 1010
New Orleans, LA 70112

January 6, 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

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Michael Tubbs
Joel Vilmenay
Mullady Voelker Alford
James M. Williams
Maggie V. Woodruff

* Past Chairman

Dear Mr. Khan,

The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce strongly supports The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce knows that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO and support Departmental objectives including CommerceConnect 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 New Orleans Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization whose purpose is to enable its members to increase their profitability both in the short term and in the long term. 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 of greater New Orleans would provide easy access to our member organizations and any organization from Texas to Florida. In addition, with rapidly increasing 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.

The New Orleans Chamber of Commerce looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

G. Ben Johnson
President & CEO

January 24, 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,

I would like to express the New Orleans BioInnovation Center's support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. We at the BioInnovation Center know 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 CommerceConnect, 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 New Orleans BioInnovation Center has been a key asset in the development of a life science community here in the Greater New Orleans region. Our work in development local university life science technologies has led to the development of a significant number of companies that are currently developing here in town. We help our clients to help cope with a variety of issues including license agreements, clinical trials processes, grant applications, and IP issues. 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.

The New Orleans BioInnovation Center looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,



Aaron Miscenich
President, New Orleans BioInnovation Center, Inc.



LSU Libraries
Troy H. Middleton Library
Reference and Collection Development

January 27, 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

Dear Mr. Khan,

Louisiana State University (LSU) Libraries would like to express support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The LSU Libraries know 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 CommerceConnect, 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 LSU Libraries comprises several distinct collections totaling over three million volumes and provide foundational support for the academic core of Louisiana State University. The LSU Libraries is a regional federal depository library and additionally serves as a patent and trademark resource center. The LSU Libraries collaborates with campus faculty as well as business and industry leaders while working with other libraries and organizations to share resources for the benefit of the community of library users. 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.

The LSU Libraries look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Hires", written over a horizontal line.

Will Hires, Assistant Librarian, Interim Patent and Trademark Librarian

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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JAMES SMITH

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
AND DEVELOPMENT
SHERRI LeBAS
Secretary

WALTER R. BROOKS
Executive Director, RPC

January 26, 2012

Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Undersecretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Khan,

The Regional Planning Commission extends unequivocal support for the establishment of a satellite U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the greater New Orleans area to serve the Central Gulf Coast region. A facility of this caliber would be a significant asset to bolster the region's rapidly growing entrepreneurial community. From 2008 – 2010, 427 of every 100,000 adults started a business in the New Orleans metro, compared to 333 of every 100,000 adults nationally. This is a trend which has caught national attention.

Additionally, the New Orleans region is home to ten universities and community colleges, including the University of New Orleans and Tulane University which harbor exceptional engineering programs in a variety of disciplines. The engineering departments of these universities and Louisiana State University, located in nearby Baton Rouge, have developed strong working relationships with federal partners such as NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility and Stennis (where NOAA has a presence) as well as SPAWAR Atlantic. The location of a U.S. Patent and Trademark Satellite Office would greatly complement these institutions, and provide accessibility for any organization from Texas to Florida.

The greater New Orleans boasts a unique entrepreneurial culture, exceptional research talent, access to other federal governmental partners, and an attractive overall quality of life. The Regional Planning Commission looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urges the USPTO to strongly consider the greater New Orleans region as a location for a satellite office.

Sincerely,

Walter Brooks
Executive Director

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE (MPO) Full RPC Membership

IFTIKHAR AHMAD, *Director, Louis Armstrong N. O. International Airport*
RYAN BROWN, *Director, Transit Administration, Jefferson Parish*
MIKE COOPER, *Mayor, City of Covington*
FREDDY DRENNAN, *Mayor, City of Slidell*

CARLTON DUFRECHOU, *Gen. Mgr., Greater N. O. Expwy. Comm.*
PAT GALLWEY, *Chief Operating Officer, Port of New Orleans*
CATHY F. GAUTREAUX, *Ex. Dir. Louisiana Motor Transport Association*
BARBARA MAJOR, *Chairwoman, Regional Transit Authority*

JOHN MORROW, *Interim General Manager, NO Public Belt Railroad*
NATALIE ROBOTOM, *Parish President, St. John the Baptist Parish*
V.J. ST. PIERRE, JR., *Parish President, St. Charles Parish*
DONALD VILLERE, *Mayor, City of Mandeville*

SouthCoast ANGEL FUND

January 23, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan – Deputy Director
USPTO Headquarters - Main Campus Address
Madison Buildings (East & West)
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Letter of Support for New Orleans Site, USPTO Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Khan,

The South Coast Angel Fund ("SCAF") was formed to foster entrepreneurial endeavors throughout Louisiana and the Upper Gulf Coast. SCAF recognizes the value of supporting the entrepreneurial community for the economic benefit of the entire region. SCAF supports the entrepreneurial and business environment in Louisiana and the greater Gulf Coast community through many cooperative initiatives including informative seminars, mentoring start-up companies and early stage capital. It has been a critical component of the post-Hurricane Katrina economic recovery.

It is in that capacity that SCAF is pleased to enthusiastically join with the Gulf Coast Patent Association's initiative to secure a USPTO satellite office in this Region. The addition of an office in New Orleans would accelerate the bringing life science and other technological advances to commercialization. The Region is fortunate to have strong local technical skills for a USPTO office staff; further, the Region has many universities that will not only provide support for patent investigation, but will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurial collaboration with academia and the private sector.

As the USPTO continues to pursue ways to improve its implementation performance, SCAF believes that the selection of New Orleans as a satellite office site will greatly contribute to that objective, as well as provide a catalyst for the much needed economic recovery of this area.

SCAF urges USPTO to select New Orleans as the site for its next satellite office.

Best regards,



Clayton J. White
South Coast Angel Fund, LLC
cjwhite@southcoastangelfund.com



January 10, 2012

Attn: 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

Subject: Establishment of USPTO Satellite Office per Federal Register/Vol. 76, No. 229, Tuesday, November 29, 2011 / Notices

Dear Mr. Khan:

Jacobs Technology Inc. would like to express our support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. I know 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 CommerceConnect, 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.

Jacobs holds operating contracts at both NASA facilities in this greater New Orleans region – Stennis Space Center and Michoud Assembly Facility. We directly support the advanced aerospace development, manufacturing, and test workload at these two government facilities. Part of our charter is to help NASA leverage excess facility capacity to other Agency and commercial users in a way to help offset infrastructure operations and sustainment costs. At Stennis Space Center alone, there is nearly 1 million square feet of office, laboratory, and warehousing (both conditioned and unconditioned) space available for other government agency and commercial aerospace user occupancy. In excess of 30 Resident Agencies and tenants currently capitalize on the unique infrastructure and institutional services available on site within the "Federal City" environment which was established in December 1971 by Public Law 91-556 at SSC. A similar environment exists at Michoud Assembly Facility, in East New Orleans as well. We believe that USPTO's selection of a Satellite Office in this region would further enhance both the Technology Transfer and increase the attractiveness of the Federal City environment to high technology entrepreneurial ventures capitalizing on aerospace related technology transfers. 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel J. Pierre".

Daniel J. Pierre
Jacobs Technology Inc.
FOSC VP and General Manager

January 5, 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

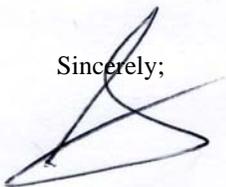
Dear Mr. Khan,

The Innovation Center would like to express my support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages of the United States Patent and Trademark Office locating a satellite office in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi. The Innovation Center 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 Innovation Center is a business incubator that assists small businesses to launch new firms which create new jobs and new wealth. 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. The Innovation Center looks forward to your review of all of the comments and urges the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely;



Stephen Whitt
Executive Director

Turnaround Management Association LA Chapter, Inc.

111 North Causeway Boulevard, Suite 200
Mandeville, Louisiana 70448
Phone 985-727-7300
Fax 504-910-9175

January 25, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan – Deputy Director
USPTO Headquarters - Main Campus Address
Madison Buildings (East & West)
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: Letter of Support for New Orleans Site, USPTO Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Khan,

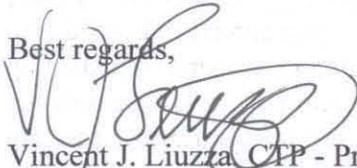
The Louisiana Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association – Louisiana (“TMA-LA”) is the only international non-profit association dedicated to corporate renewal; the Louisiana chapter covers both Louisiana and Mississippi and is comprised of business experts, who are dedicated to successful commercial efforts of businesses, including companies and entrepreneurs that generate, patent and commercialize new technologies throughout Louisiana and the Upper Gulf Coast region. TMA-LA recognizes the value of supporting the technology development community in many ways but especially for the economic benefit of the entire region.

It is in that capacity that TMA-LA is pleased to enthusiastically join with the Gulf Coast Patent Association’s initiative to secure a USPTO satellite office in this Region. The addition of an office in New Orleans would accelerate the bringing life science and other technological advances to commercialization. The Region is fortunate to have strong local technical skills for a USPTO office staff; further, the Region has many universities that will not only provide support for patent investigation, but will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurial collaboration with academia and the private sector.

As the UPSTO continues to pursue ways to improve its implementation performance, TMA-LA believes that the selection of New Orleans as a satellite office site will greatly contribute to that objective, as well as provide a catalyst for the much needed economic recovery of this area.

TMA-LA urges USPTO to select New Orleans as the site for its next satellite office.

Best regards,


Vincent J. Liuzza, CFP - President
Turnaround Management Association – Louisiana Chapter



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St. John the Baptist
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington

January 30, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Under Secretary and Director
United State Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Mr. Khan:

We are pleased to offer our support for a new United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in the City of New Orleans. The Nationwide Workforce Program is a positive step in reducing the patent backlog and will allow for entrepreneurship activity and innovation across the country.

Over the past six years, New Orleans has experienced unprecedented growth and positive momentum like no other city in the country. The regional leadership has dramatically improved the educational system, enhanced the infrastructure, and improved the business environment in our communities. These efforts have proven to be the recipe for an economic renaissance in New Orleans and the entire region.

The revitalization happening right now in New Orleans provides the USPTO with an exciting environment for a new satellite location.

A growing population and robust university system will supply USPTO with needed talent

The Greater New Orleans region is experiencing significant “brain gain,” enjoying three years of net immigration for the first time in decades. Praised for our culture and quality of life, New Orleans has leveraged these assets to attract the young and creative class of workers. *Forbes* magazine recently ranked New Orleans as the #1 Brain Magnet in the U.S., #1 City for IT Jobs, and #2 City for Job Growth. The population growth of talented professionals adds to an already robust science and engineering workforce. The New Orleans region has over 22,000 Science and Engineering graduates¹ and 20,400 Math, Architecture, Engineering, and Life and Physical Sciences employees in the Greater New Orleans region². The region has also seen positive growth numbers in our university systems; Tulane University had more applications last year, 44,000, than any other private school in the country. The Levy-Rosenblum Institute of Entrepreneurship at Tulane was also ranked #4 in Graduate Programs by *Entrepreneur* Magazine. Currently, there are 125,000 students in the 16 four-year and 13 two-year higher education institutions located in the region and they are producing 26,000 graduates annually. We work closely with these college and universities to facilitate internships and develop needed

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey

² Bureau of Labor Statistics



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curriculum for our businesses and industries to grow. We can do the same to help USPTO develop a clear pipeline of future employees.

Entrepreneurship and emerging industries combine with existing businesses to drive economy

New Orleans has always had a strong business foundation in the energy and advanced manufacturing sectors. Companies such as Dow Chemical, Marathon Oil, and Shell continue to grow their regional operations. Stennis Space Center and NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility also provide a strong manufacturing presence. There has recently been a focus to diversify the area's economic landscape by attracting new and emerging sectors. Lucrative financial incentives targeting software development have helped attract digital media companies to locate operations in New Orleans. The New Orleans BioInnovation Center and the New Orleans BioDistrict are also two new assets located in downtown New Orleans, offering a future economic impact of \$6 billion. On top of these new investments, we have seen New Orleans emerge as hub of entrepreneurship. A recent Brookings Institute Report cited New Orleans' entrepreneurial activity as 40 percent above the national average, after trailing the national average by 25 percent just five years ago. With a low cost of living and a pro-business environment, the entrepreneurial eco-system has evolved to foster innovation and growth. The pro-business environment has also been validated by third party sources with recent rankings such as *Southern Business & Development* magazine naming the New Orleans region "Major Market of the Year" and *Business Facilities* magazine naming Louisiana the #1 State of the Year in 2010 for business conditions.

A central Southeast location and growing airport provide ease of access to Southern U.S.

New Orleans sits halfway between each coast of the United States providing ease of access to other major Southern markets. Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY) has ten airline carriers, providing almost 40 non-stop flights to major cities around the country. All of the major markets in the Southeast, as well as select markets across the country, are available via direct flight with one of the ten carriers at MSY. Under new management, the airport continues to add new destinations, as well as drastically reducing landing fees over the past two years. The airport also recently completed \$300 million in capital improvements and unveiled plans for a new terminal, a project which is expected to be completed in 2018. As the third most traveled tourist destination in the country, New Orleans offers significant hotel and convention services. This central location and service-oriented infrastructure has proven to be important to other federal agency locations, such as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Hale Boggs Federal Building tenants, and the Marine Forces Reserve headquarters.

Cultural assets and low cost of living offer unmatched quality of life for USPTO employees

In a world of increasing homogeneity, New Orleans stands out for its authenticity and unique culture. Cultural and entertainment offerings include year-round outdoor festivals, Mardi Gras, the French Quarter, world-famous dining, unparalleled nightlife, ample live music, top-notch shopping, countless museums and galleries, several professional sporting teams, and world-class outdoors activities. Locals, tourists, and business travelers can all take advantage of what the city and region has to offer. The



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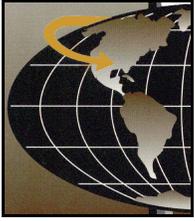
region also offers a wide range of suburban and urban lifestyle options. Each of the individual communities in the area offer a variety of housing options with their own cultural amenities, while also being in close proximity to New Orleans. The cost of living in Greater New Orleans also continues to fall below the national average for a major metropolitan city. Recently, *Parenting Magazine* ranked New Orleans as the 16th best city to raise a family.

The Greater New Orleans region has seen a renaissance post-Katrina. Population gains, a robust university system, an entrepreneurship eco-system, and the recruitment and retention of industry have combined to generate positive growth and momentum. However, New Orleans and the region are not without its challenges. An influx of federal funding over the past six years, as well as the construction jobs which have been tied to the rebuilding effort, have helped to insulate New Orleans from the full impact of the global recession. These monies are starting to wind down and it has become a critical time to continue to attract new talent and industry to the region. New Orleans has also suffered from a perception that it is still negatively affected by Katrina and the BP oil spill. The USPTO would provide a powerful statement that Greater New Orleans is not only back, but thriving.

Thank your for your consideration in opening a new USPTO office in New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Michael Hecht
President and CEO



ARK-LA-TEX REGIONAL
Export & Technology Center

Metro/Regional Business Incubator
7100 West Park Road, Shreveport, LA 71129
Phone: 318/671-1050 ■ Fax: 318/671-9032 ■ E-Mail: dsimek@shreve.net

January 30, 2012

Mr. 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

Re: Location of a USPTO Satellite Office in New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Khan:

Through this letter, the Ark-La-Tex Regional Export and Technology Center (ARETC) is expressing our organization's support for a satellite office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to be located in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi.

ARETC understands that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO for the clients we work with, as well as supporting DOC's departmental objectives including CommerceConnect, and increase collaborations among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states of the Austin and Atlanta Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration regions. Additionally, 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.

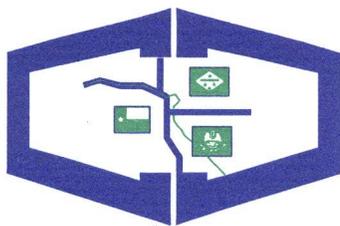
ARETC works with scores of start-up and existing small and mid sized businesses. Over the past several years, we have worked hard to encourage of our businesses to participate in the federal government's advanced technology research programs, most especially the SBIR and STTR programs. Working with the Louisiana Technology Transfer Office, we have been successful in increasing the number of applications submitted -- and several grants have been secured -- under these programs, especially the SBIR program. Having a USPTO satellite office in the New Orleans area would provide our technology-based companies with easier access to information and services from the USPTO than they currently have.

The establishment of a USPTO satellite office would not only aid our high tech companies in their efforts to secure new patents, but would build upon excellent existing resources in New Orleans, and the State of Louisiana, thus providing this region with a much needed USPTO presence in the coming years.

For the reasons cited above, ARETC asks that the USPTO please give serious consideration to the establishment of a USPTO satellite office in the New Orleans area. Thank you in advance for your consideration to this request.

Sincerely


Diana M. Simek
Vice President



THE
COORDINATING & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
5210 Hollywood Avenue • P. O. Box 37005 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71133-7005
Phone/TDD: (318) 632-2022 • Fax: (318) 632-2099 • E-mail: info@cdconline.org
Internet: www.cdconline.org

M. D. LeComte, CED, ED
President & CEO

January 30, 2012

Mr. 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

Re: Location of a USPTO Satellite Office in Louisiana

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am writing on behalf of The Coordinating and Development Corp. (CDC) to express our agency's 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. We know that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO, support Departmental objectives, 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 will provide a positive impact to the greater New Orleans region still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

CDC is a private, member supported economic development organization that works with numerous federal and state agencies, including the EDA, DRA, and HUD, through Louisiana's Community Development Block Grant program. Our mission is to create new jobs and diversify the economy in our region, which is composed of 10 parishes in northwest Louisiana, five counties in southwest Arkansas, and nine counties in northwest Texas. The location of a USPTO office within greater New Orleans will help our organization accomplish its goals, allow for an 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 businesses from the Ark-La-Tex. CDC looks forward to your review of all comments from our area, and urges the USPTO to support a regional office in the New Orleans area.

Sincerely,

M. D. LeComte
President and CEO



January 27, 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

Dear Mr. Khan,

It is our pleasure to express support for The Gulf Coast Patent Association's comment proving the strong advantages for a new satellite location of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in the City of New Orleans.

Six years after Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans feels both familiar and reborn. It continues to transform daily with the influx of new companies, new talent, and new high-growth industries. The *New Orleans Business Alliance* is the official non-profit organization tasked with leading economic development initiatives for the City of New Orleans. We look to reposition New Orleans as the next great American city for business investment, quality of life and economic opportunity by uniting a diverse community of stakeholders to catalyze job growth, create wealth, and build an equitable and sustainable economic future for the *new* New Orleans.

We seek to build on the strong foundation provided by traditional industries like our strong logistics infrastructure, petrochemical competencies, and cultural heritage by promoting emerging opportunities in digital entertainment and the biosciences, and supporting our burgeoning entrepreneurial sector. With talent, capital, and innovation, *new* New Orleans is quickly becoming a hub for vibrant companies, creative capital, and entrepreneurial business leaders who understand the value to be found in collaborating within a thriving creative culture. A local USPTO presence would give overdue recognition to this unprecedented renaissance.

New Orleans has always had an open, creative and dynamic identity. It is this creative capital that is now viewed as a core asset that no amount of invested capital can replicate. Beyond these unique competitive advantages, the city boasts unparalleled tax incentives for businesses, a high quality of life, and rapidly increasing infrastructure. Furthermore, New Orleans is centrally located between the US South and Southwest regions, which will allow for improved access to USPTO services and drive collaboration across diverse federal and regional commerce bureaus and economic development entities. In short, New Orleans is the logical choice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rodrick T. Miller
President and CEO

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 30, 2012

The Honorable David Kappos
Director
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: Comments --- USPTO Satellite Offices [Docket Number PTO-C-2011-0066]

Dear Director Kappos:

It is our understanding that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is seeking public comments on potential locations for future USPTO satellite offices. These comments will assist the USPTO in establishing at least two more satellite offices, as directed by the America Invents Act of 2011. Like you, we believe that these satellite offices will reduce pending patent applications, enhance USPTO outreach to the patent applicant community, and assist USPTO in recruiting a highly skilled workforce. With this in mind, we write to respectfully request that you consider opening a satellite office of the USPTO in New Orleans, Louisiana. The establishment of a USPTO satellite office would build upon excellent existing resources in New Orleans, the State of Louisiana, and the Gulf South region – providing this growing region with a much needed USPTO presence in the coming years.

As you know, New Orleans and south Louisiana have made significant progress in their recovery from the 2005/2008 hurricanes and the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster in 2010. Despite these challenges, south Louisiana's economy has largely rebounded and New Orleans is seeing growth in many key areas. In locating a satellite office in New Orleans, USPTO has the unique opportunity to serve as a key driver of this historic economic recovery. A few of the recent developments in New Orleans include:

- The creation of a 1,500 acre BioDistrict spanning the Downtown and Mid-City areas of New Orleans. This district is focused on the development of a biosciences industry in New Orleans that will provide world-class biosciences research and development, local/regional/global healthcare delivery, and high-paying jobs for numerous professionals. It is estimated that this initiative will create 22,000 new jobs for the City over the next eight to ten years, not only in the biosciences, but also in banking, law, construction, and other service industries.
- The New Orleans BioInnovation Center, located in this new BioDistrict, offering 66,000 square feet of state-of-the-art wet-lab, office and conference space. It is four stories of modern lab space designed to commercialize technologies coming

out of local universities. Currently the center houses seven start-ups and two private equity funds, in addition to analyzing over 20 new scientific discoveries. However, the center has room to grow as it can hold more than 80 companies and employ almost 200 people.

- Because of State and local efforts, New Orleans has become a nationally recognized leader in entrepreneurship and nurturing startups. *Forbes* ranked the city #1 on the list of “America’s Biggest Brain Magnets” for attracting people under 25 with college degrees and also named New Orleans the #1 Metro for Information Technology Growth in the country. Under30CEO.com also ranked New Orleans the Top City for Young Entrepreneurs in 2011. New Orleans now beats the national startup average by 40 percent, after trailing this same statistic by 25 percent just five years ago.
- Tulane University and other New Orleans-area colleges and universities continue to attract the best and brightest students from around the world. Last year Tulane alone had 44,000 applications – more than any other private school in the country. The university was ranked by the *Princeton Review* as the #4 business school in the nation for entrepreneurship. Tulane is also the only highly research intensive school in the country that includes public service as a graduation requirement.

It is our understanding that one of the key criteria for the new satellite offices is assisting USPTO with the attraction/retention of patent examiners. New Orleans and the State of Louisiana offer USPTO with fertile ground to grow its workforce:

- USPTO would join 32 Federal agencies with almost 8,500 permanent employees in the New Orleans area. Statewide in Louisiana, as of November 2010, there were over 56,500 Federal employees and retirees. This shows that Louisiana is not just a great place to work but it is also an attractive area to live and retire.
- The Thomas B. Fordham Institute named New Orleans “America’s Best City for School Reform” for its ground-breaking charter school reforms. Currently there are 65 public charter schools in the city – representing 77 percent of the city’s 41,779 students. This is a higher proportion than any other school system in the country.
- *Forbes* also ranked New Orleans both the #2 Best Big City for a Job and 8th on the list of Top Cities for Relocation. New Orleans was also included at #16 on the 2011 Best Cities for Families list by Parenting.com.
- Next Generation Consulting placed New Orleans 10th on a list of its “Next Cities” ranking of the Best Places to Live and Work for Young Professionals.

- Louisiana was named the #2 State for Economic Growth Potential by *Business Facilities* and the state has enjoyed three years of net in-migration for the first time in decades.

In Louisiana, 10 different schools currently offer doctoral programs in science and engineering. Across the state, there is also groundbreaking research and development occurring at Louisiana's universities and their affiliated centers:

- The Louisiana Immersive Technology Enterprise (LITE) is a \$27 million, 70,000 square-foot facility located at the Research Park of the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. LITE is a 3-D immersive visualization and high-performance computing resource center that hosts private sector clients, government staff, and university officials.
- The Cyber Innovation Center (CIC) located in Bossier City is the anchor of a 3,000 acre National Cyber Research Park. CIC serves as the temporary headquarters of the Eighth Air Force and is a catalyst for the development and expansion of a knowledge-based workforce throughout the region.
- The Louisiana Business and Technology Center at Louisiana State University is a nationally recognized technology incubator. Since 1989, 139 tenants have graduated and created 2,278 jobs. There are currently 28 tenant companies employing 126 people. Overall, the center has helped secure Small Business Innovation Research support for more than 2,000 companies.
- As the largest academic-based nutritional research center in the world, Pennington Research Center in Baton Rouge is a leader in the study of obesity and preventive medicine. Pennington is a 659,000 square-foot complex that contains 21 basic research laboratories, six clinical research laboratories, a metabolic kitchen, an inpatient unit, and an outpatient clinic. The State of Louisiana estimates that obesity and diabetes research/treatment alone at the center could result in the creation of 4,000 new direct jobs over the next 20 years.
- Lastly, the Association for University Technology Managers (AUTM) ranked Louisiana Tech University in Ruston #2 in the nation among academic institutions in terms of reports of invention per \$10 million in research and development expenditures. The University was also ranked #2 by AUTM for the number of startup companies formed per \$100 million in research and development expenditures. Louisiana Tech's College of Engineering and Sciences has graduated more than 300 students annually for the last 5 years. Lastly, over this time, the university has seen 132 reports of invention, 76 patent applications, and 25 patents issued.

In addition to the positive impact that opening a satellite office would have on Louisiana, the USPTO presence would have a significant impact on the other Gulf South

states of Alabama and Mississippi as well. Examples of the Gulf South's current economic activities include:

- A growing aerospace corridor across the region that boasts three world class manufacturing and research facilities supporting the National Aeronautic and Space Administration. First, the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans East employs 1,000 workers at one of the world's largest manufacturing plants, with 43 acres under one roof and a port with deep water access. Michoud has been the birthplace of every large rocket program from Apollo, to the Space Shuttle, to the next generation of Heavy Lift Vehicles. The aerospace sector contributes more than \$656 million to the state's economy and over \$120 million to the New Orleans and Baton Rouge economies alone.
- Only 35 miles next door in Mississippi, the Stennis Space Center is home to the largest rocket engine test complex in the United States and serves as a the premier rocket-propulsion testing facility in the country. It is also an economic engine for both states that generates over 5,000 jobs, provides a global economic impact of \$875 million and a direct impact of \$616 million within a 50-mile radius.
- Further east in Alabama, the Marshall Space Flight is the world leader in space propulsion and transportation systems. In 2009 alone, Marshall contributed a total of 8,549 jobs and \$526.3 million in earnings including 2,590 civil servant jobs and 5,959 indirect jobs with total earnings of just over \$260 million. The total economic impact of Marshall on the state, considering all other factors, was almost \$2.88 billion. Overall, the hundreds of aerospace companies in Alabama have created more than 73,000 direct jobs with an annual payroll of more than \$3 billion.

In closing, we note that currently the USPTO has locations in Alexandria, Virginia and Detroit, Michigan. A satellite office in New Orleans would be a logical and efficient hub focused on innovation and commerce in the Gulf South region. Furthermore, it would not only assist the USPTO in attracting and retaining quality employees, but would position USPTO as a key economic driver in a critical time for a region hard hit by recent natural/manmade disasters.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator



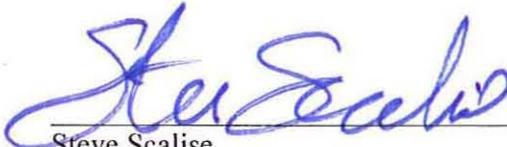
David Vitter
United States Senator



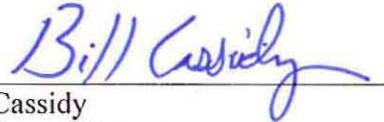
Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



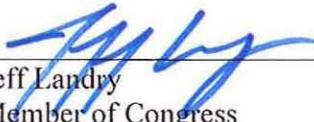
Charles W. Boustany, Jr.
Member of Congress



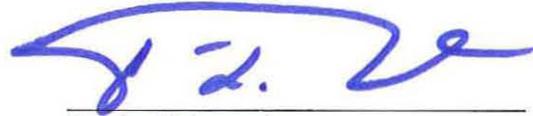
Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress



Jeff Landry
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond
Member of Congress

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,

The Office of Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Development at Tulane University would like to express its 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. Our office 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 CommerceConnect, 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.

Tulane has received more applications to attend the institution than ever before. This is in conjunction with a big administrative push for social entrepreneurship and creating a public benefit through the use of high technology. In addition to the School of Science and Engineering, the Law School, and the Health Sciences Center, the Tulane National Primate Research Center is only one of nine such facilities in the country and the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine is the oldest school of public health in the country and the only American school of tropical medicine. Our campuses filed 42 patent applications during our 2011 fiscal year and have seen a continual rise in these applications. 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.

I will look forward to your review of all of the comments and urge the USPTO to support this comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Christie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

John Christie
Executive Director

January 18, 2012

Justin Levy, J.D.- Licensing Associate
Tulane University, Technology Transfer Office
1440 Canal Street, Suite 1400
New Orleans, LA 70112

RE: Letter of Support for New Orleans Site, USPTO Satellite Office

Dear Mr. Levy:

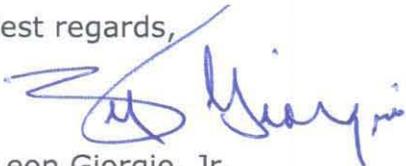
The Jefferson Business Council is an organization, comprised of leading business men and women from Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, which seeks to improve the Parish business environment in order to attract and retain productive companies, individuals and families to our community. It is committed to support successful commercial efforts of businesses, including companies and entrepreneurs that generate, patent and commercialize new technologies throughout the Parish. However, the Jefferson Business Council recognizes the greater value of supporting the technology development community for the economic benefit of the region.

It is in that capacity that the Jefferson Business Council is pleased to enthusiastically join with the Gulf Coast Patent Association's initiative to secure a USPTO satellite office in this Region. The addition of an office in New Orleans would accelerate the efforts in bringing life science and other technological advances to commercialization. The Region is fortunate to have the strong local technical skills needed for a USPTO office staff; further, the Region has many universities that will not only provide support for patent investigation, but will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurial collaboration with academia and the private sector.

As the UPSTO continues to pursue ways to improve its implementation performance, the Jefferson Business Council believes that the selection of New Orleans as a satellite office site will greatly contribute to that objective, as well as provide a catalyst for the much needed economic recovery of this area.

The Jefferson Business Council urges USPTO to select New Orleans as the site for its next satellite office.

Best regards,



Leon Giorgio, Jr.
Chairman
Jefferson Business Council

WHEREAS: The Jefferson Business Council is a group of business leaders who embrace the mission to encourage, promote, and enhance the economic posture, social welfare, and environment of Jefferson Parish & the River Region; and

WHEREAS: The Jefferson Business Council seeks to improve the Parish business environment in order to attract and retain productive companies, individuals and families to our community, and is committed to supporting successful commercial efforts of businesses, including companies and entrepreneurs that generate, patent, and commercialize new technologies throughout the Parish; and

WHEREAS: The Jefferson Business Council recognizes the greater value of supporting the technology development community for the economic benefit of the region; and

WHEREAS: The Gulf Coast Patent Association has undertaken an initiative to secure a USPTO satellite office in this Region; and

WHEREAS: The addition of a satellite office in New Orleans would accelerate the efforts in bringing life science and other technological advances to commercialization; and

WHEREAS: The Region is fortunate to have the strong local technical skills needed for a USPTO office staff, and further the Region has many universities that will not only provide support for patent investigation, but will provide an opportunity for entrepreneurial collaboration with academia and the private sector; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Jefferson Business Council strongly supports the efforts of the Gulf Coast Patent Association to secure a USPTO satellite office in the New Orleans Region.

This resolution was declared to be duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Jefferson Business Council on January 18, 2012.