

**BUSINESS COUNCIL** OF NEW ORLEANS  
& THE RIVER REGION

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

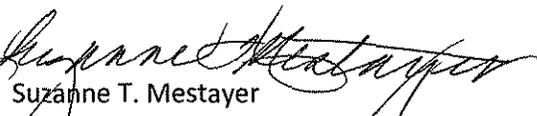
Dear Mr. Khan,

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

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