



James E. Shepard, Founder

School of Law, Office of the Dean

November 21, 2011

Mr. David Kappos
Under Secretary for Intellectual Property
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
Department of Commerce
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

My name is Raymond C. Pierce and I am the Dean of the School of Law at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). I am writing to express my strong support on behalf of the State of North Carolina's request for the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to locate a Satellite Patent Trademark Office (SPTO) in our state. I understand you have received other letters endorsing this request which present the tremendous assets of North Carolina that would support a SPTO. NCCU School of Law provides yet another major asset that argues strongly on behalf of the request.

I actually have communicated with you in the past in support of this law school's 2010 application to participate in the USPTO Trademark Law School Clinic Pilot Program. Our law school was successful in that very competitive selection process and our students now have limited recognition to practice before the USPTO to represent clients in trademark application matters. Our law school's ability to receive the designation was in part based upon our strong connection to the intellectual property legal community which in large part is a product of our evening program. NCCU School of Law operates the only evening law program in the area and would be an ideal location for the training of patent examiners following normal work hours. The evening program at NCCU School of Law is highly regarded and continually receives high national rankings amongst law school evening programs in the country. A significant percentage of students enrolled in our evening program are employed in the Research Triangle Park with a significant number of them at the mid to upper level executive level. The program also regularly enrolls persons from the Duke University Medical establishment many of whom are involved in clinical trial operations. This concentration of technical, scientific, medical and business professionals in a law school evening program which includes an impressive catalogue of intellectual property and related courses presents great potential for support of and collaboration with a SPTO.

I will also note that during your recent October 18th visit to Duke University School of Law one of our law professors, Charles Smith, was an invited guest for the roundtable discussion with you. Professor Smith is a senior member of the faculty at NCCU School of Law and a registered patent attorney.

In addition, NCCU School of Law was the recipient of a 2010 grant from the US Department of Commerce to construct a telepresence operation that allows the law school to provide instruction in well over 60 remote locations simultaneously and synchronously in a virtual classroom environment. This impressive technology could be a benefit in the training of patent examiners and could also be made available to a SPTO for activities that would be of assistance to the operation.

I thank you for the support the USPTO has shown NCCU School of Law and I urge you to consider the assets of this law school in deciding on whether to locate a SPTO in North Carolina. If I may be of any assistance please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond C. Pierce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "P".

Raymond C. Pierce
Professor and Dean