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From: Lisa Bruno [e-mail address redacted]  
Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 4:15 PM  
To: SatelliteOffices  
Subject: Comments on Future Locations for USPTO Satellite Offices

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to the request for public comments on future locations for the USPTO Satellite Offices, I offer the following.

I am an attorney licensed to practice law in Arizona and I work in a community 100 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada. I first learned of the possibility of a Satellite Office in the Las Vegas, NV area as a result of an article in the Las Vegas Review Journal. I fully support the concept of satellite offices and think Las Vegas makes incredible sense. With the advent of satellite offices, the Patent Office should consider placing judges from the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences at each of the proposed satellite offices. Not only will this reduce costs for attorneys by offering less expensive options for travel to hearings, it could also expedite decisions and encourage positive interface with members of the local and regional bar and the Patent Office. Also, there is significant benefit to the law schools and the students located near satellite patent offices. Students could have the chance to not only see hearings, but law professors and judges could interface and thereby strengthen the bar's connection to the Patent Office.

Furthermore, having judges located at the satellite offices could act as a recruitment tool for the Patent Office and the interaction and interface with the public is beneficial for the whole office as well as the local community. A satellite office, staffed with judges, opens up the visibility of what the board does and may encourage more interest in the hearing process and the Patent Office in general. With satellite offices the Patent Office will most certainly increase the pool of candidates interested in being a judge, and such candidates may be more inclined to work for the Patent Office knowing she could work at a satellite office, with locations to include Las Vegas. With video conferencing capability, you could have one board, with some judges hearing cases from DC whereas others could be on site at a satellite office. Counsel could also opt to come to DC and have satellite judges or opt for a satellite office closer to their hometown and meet with a judge in person. Given the nature of what the patent office does, it should be a leader in the area of running a technologically advanced and streamlined office.

Satellite offices also reduce the "us" vs "them" mentality of housing judges in Washington, DC. The talent is moved out of the beltway and talent located elsewhere is recruited. Instead of housing all the judges in DC, which isn't even necessary anymore with so many judges working from home, move them to locations where they can interact with law schools and local bar and "spread the wealth" of the work done by the Patent Office.

Enhance productivity - judges who are relocated by the Patent Office or recruited will spend less time commuting to the Patent Office for hearings if they are located in less populated areas such as those proposed for satellite Patent Offices.

The Board should not worry about multiple boards - have the board operate as one, but mixing the panels of judges. Some judges working from DC, some judges on enhanced telework and others located as satellite offices.

Finally, Las Vegas makes so much sense for a satellite office location. First, for people that need to travel to the satellite office or commute back to DC will have zero threat of weather delays and a huge international airport with multiple flights to DC and the world for that matter. Las Vegas is the home to the International Computer Electronic Show, the world's largest consumer technology tradeshow- doesn't having a PTO footprint there make sense? You literally can't take 2 steps in Las Vegas without seeing the technological advancement that is the reason for the patent office's existence. Additionally, if a satellite office is opened in Pittsburgh or Boston, or anywhere on the eastern seaboard, with its proximity to DC it's not a true satellite office. The PTO needs to expand its footprint and Las Vegas is the

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perfect fit.

Thank you for your time and I hope that you will seriously considering opening a satellite office in Las Vegas that will include patent judges.

Sincerely,  
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