



CAROLYN G. GOODMAN
MAYOR

January 23, 2012

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

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

I was very pleased and excited to hear that Las Vegas is being considered for a United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) satellite office. Las Vegas offers numerous business and recreational amenities that make the area an exceptional place to locate a new office.

The city of Las Vegas has a history of cooperative developments with the federal government. A groundbreaking for a new Federal Justice Tower was held on November 21, 2011. This office development will house the executive and administrative offices of the Department of Homeland Security United States Immigration and the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada. Both federal and city governments emphasized the building will feature a sustainable design and be energy-efficient. The city also worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service to support their projects in Las Vegas

With the majority of today's patent and trademark submissions handled via electronic filings, Las Vegas is perfectly positioned to meet that need. The Southern Nevada area is considered a "safe-zone" from natural disasters. Nevada's early adoption of fiber optic technology, a highly sophisticated power grid, connectivity and cloud services are all available to provide uninterrupted service for quick and efficient transmittal of patent and trademark applications.

There are approximately 86 patent attorneys/agents practicing in Southern Nevada. Two of these attorneys were actively involved in an Amicus Brief to the United States Supreme Court in support of Respondent in *Bilski v. Kappos*. Their arguments were consistent with the ultimate holding of the court. Additionally, several talented Southern Nevada intellectual property attorneys have been named to the best lawyers list for the Southwest Region.

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Following the announcement that Zappos.com will soon be headquartered in Downtown Las Vegas, the city has seen an increase in interest from technology companies looking at the advantages of relocating to our area. Tony Hsieh, President of Zappos.com, is personally assisting and advising technology startups. These are the types of innovative companies that will require the services of the USPTO. This is in addition to the regions game technology companies who regularly file patents and trademarks.

The low cost of housing, mild winters, world class entertainment, fine dining, a new performing arts center and abundant recreational options provide an excellent quality of life for our residents. For business and leisure travel, McCarran International Airport is a state-of-the-art facility offering direct flights to all major U.S. markets and a growing number of international destinations. From the Las Vegas perspective, the satellite office will provide new job opportunities for a willing, available and underemployed Southern Nevada work force as well as new graduates from the Nevada System of Higher Education colleges/universities and the regions private post-secondary educational institutions.

It is my hope that you will give serious consideration to Las Vegas as a new home for a USPTO satellite office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn G. Goodman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C".

Carolyn G. Goodman
Mayor, City of Las Vegas

CGG:lk