



David J. Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

I wish to add my strong support for consideration of Las Vegas, Nevada, as the ideal location for a new U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

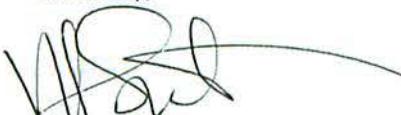
With the passage of Assembly Bill 449 in the Nevada Legislature's 2011 session, the State of Nevada, though a strong statewide network of partners, is committed to decisive economic development in seven core sectors that make sense for our state. Many of these sectors – identified in a November 2011 analysis by the Brookings Institution's Brookings Mountain West division located at UNLV – would directly benefit from the location of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Las Vegas, among them: Business IT Ecosystems, Aerospace and Defense, Logistics and Operations, and Health and Medical Services. The full report may be found at: http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2011/1114_nevada_economy.aspx

With respect to USPTO employees and their families, they would have an opportunity for continuing education through UNLV's nationally ranked Boyd School of Law, the Lee Business School, the College of Sciences, and the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. These and other academic colleges and professional schools at the University are also producing quality graduates who could supply the Patent and Trademark Office with a continuing, trained workforce.

Our community also offers many advantages in terms of low taxes and cost of living; affordable real estate; extensive entertainment and recreation opportunities; proximity to intermountain west markets, transportation routes, and population centers; a broad range of facilities for meetings and conventions, and access to an international airport with convenient connections to any city in the world. The airport and central business district are located within a half-hour's drive of any location in the valley and are connected by an efficient network of freeways.

These important assets, along with those provided by the university, make Las Vegas a strong contender for location of the new office. We at UNLV are committed to ensuring the success and well-being of your employees through our education programs, cultural activities, and community partnerships. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of these matters further, or if you would like a personal tour of our university, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Neal J. Smatresk
University President

Office of the President
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