



**KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP**  
PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS & LITIGATION • SINCE 1941

January 30, 2012

**VIA EMAIL ONLY:** [satelliteoffices@uspto.gov](mailto:satelliteoffices@uspto.gov)

Azam Khan  
Deputy Chief of Staff  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**WILLIAM D. NOONAN, M.D.**  
Attorney  
[william.noonan@klarquist.com](mailto:william.noonan@klarquist.com)

Re: USPTO Satellite Office in Portland, Oregon; Response to request for the Nationwide Workforce Program posted in Federal Register 76:76301 (November 29, 2011)

Dear Mr. Khan:

Klarquist Sparkman is the largest intellectual property law firm in the Pacific Northwest, with fifty-six patent attorneys and agents practicing from our Portland office. The professionals in our firm are engaged in both patent prosecution and litigation, and in 2011 our patent prosecutors filed over 1000 new patent applications on behalf of our clients. Fourteen of our patent prosecutors have doctorates in the biological and physical sciences.

We support the proposal submitted by the Portland Development Commission, and strongly urge the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to locate one of its satellite offices in Portland, Oregon. A Portland office would fulfill the purposes and goals the USPTO identified in its November 29, 2011 Federal Register Request for comments.

**Better Connecting Patent Filers and Innovators with the USPTO**

Portland is a national innovation hub that in recent years has attracted many technology companies seeking a high quality environment for their workers. Oregon's natural beauty, cultural diversity, progressive transportation policies, affordable cost of living, educated population, and vibrant arts and entertainment scene have been a natural magnet to technology companies and their employees. Oregon's innovative spirit through the decades has created iconic national companies, nationally prominent research universities, and vigorous start-up companies. A satellite office in Portland would connect this pioneering population with the USPTO, and the USPTO would benefit from its location in one of the country's most beautiful and intellectually vibrant locations.

The Portland region also has a distinguished intellectual property bar that has attracted patent and trademark clients from around the nation and the world because of the high quality and reasonable cost of legal work provided by Portland law firms. The city also has an unusually large number of intellectual property attorneys and agents, some of whom left behind successful legal careers in places such as New York City or Washington, DC to live and work in Oregon. The number of patent and trademark applications filed by Portland area firms is disproportionately high



and diverse for a city of its size, and a USPTO office in Portland would connect with patent applicants from far beyond Oregon.

Klarquist Sparkman's patent prosecution clients, for example, are predominantly located outside of Oregon and include Fortune 500 companies, mid-size corporations, start-ups, major research universities, and large government research laboratories. Federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Los Alamos National Laboratory send their patent prosecution work to us. Our firm files patent applications on mechanical, electrical, software, chemical, and biotechnology inventions. Many other firms in the Portland area have similarly diverse client bases, and a USPTO office in Portland would benefit from outreach to these diverse national clients.

**Enhancing Patent Examiner Recruitment and Retention  
to Decrease Patent Application Pendency**

Oregon has become a hub of creativity and technological excellence because of its people. Those people have been drawn here by Oregon's combination of natural beauty and human ingenuity that makes it a place where creative people want to live. Once they are here, those people seldom want to leave. The USPTO could take advantage of the creative magnetism of Portland to hire and retain an excellent examiner corps, which would more efficiently examine patent applications and reduce the time to final disposition of patent applications.

**Improve the Quality of Patent Examination**

Quality is the product of a cultural commitment to excellence. Portland has illustrated that commitment across the spectrum of achievement and is routinely named in surveys as one of the best cities in the world. Portland has been at the frontiers of human knowledge since the time Lewis and Clark first reached Oregon over two centuries ago. It has captured the pioneering spirit of the United States as the place where the Oregon Trail ended. It now embodies the aspirations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and it would be an ideal place for the USPTO satellite office to take advantage of the tradition of exploration and innovation that is the essence of Portland and Oregon. A satellite office here would attract and retain outstanding patent examiners who are critical to the USPTO's tradition of excellence as the leading Patent Office of the world.

Very truly yours,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

*William D Noonan*

William D. Noonan, M.D.

*william.noonan@klarquist.com*

WDN:nms