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From: Marian Silberstein [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 9:08 PM
To: SatelliteOffices
Cc: [e-mail address redacted]
Subject: Letter of support for Portland, Oregon Satellite USPTO

Dear USPTO,

I am writing to urge you to choose Portland, OR as the location for the next satellite office of the USPTO.

Now that the USPTO has a satellite office in Detroit, it makes sense to establish the next one on the west coast. (After all, two of the biggest patent filers are here in the Pacific Northwest - Microsoft and Intel. Together these two companies file about 4,000 patent applications annually.)

There are many reasons that it will be easy to recruit and retain patent examiners to work in Portland. I know this because I used to be a hiring manager at Intel, recruiting young PhD scientists and engineers, like myself, to move to the "Silicon Forest" from the east coast. Intel successfully established 15,000 (current) technical employees in the Portland area over the past decade, many of whom are technical professionals having similar profiles to those of patent examiners. Many who were brought here by the company no longer work there, but have remained in the area. Others were imported to work at smaller local companies that form the supply network of hardware and software for the local semiconductor industry. The pool of resident technical professionals generated by Intel alone, (not even including its suppliers), may provide enough qualified applicants to fill a substantial number of positions at the patent office, without even recruiting outside the state of Oregon.

Furthermore, the Portland metro area has attracted other innovative industries such as solar power (e.g., Solarworld), wind power, pharmaceuticals (e.g., Genentech), environmental (e.g., CH2M Hill), medical (e.g., OR Health Sciences University) and sports-related (e.g., Nike and Columbia Sportswear headquarters). We have a lot of inventors here, in the hottest fields.

The quality of life in Portland is a big selling point for recruiting high tech people like patent examiners. Seattle is too gloomy, San Francisco is too expensive, but Portland is just right. (Hence, the mass influx of Californians to Oregon in recent years.) Portland is located an hour east of the beach, an hour west of Mt. Hood (read "skiing"), and the cost of living is affordable. It's not too crowded, so the traffic's not bad and we have a safe and effective light rail system. The food and wine are great and we've got lots of performing arts. The city is family-, bike-, and eco-friendly, and has the largest city park in the nation. The central location between Seattle and Silicon Valley facilitates travel to most points of interest in the west, for both business and pleasure.

Another factor in retention of patent examiners is the availability of law school programs. Oregon has only two law schools: the University of Oregon, in Eugene, and Lewis and Clark, located in Portland. Lewis and Clark has a night program that would allow some patent examiners to study law while they are working. But, so far, it is the only convenient choice. Unlike Washington, D.C. which is a big center for legal education, options are limited in Portland, which means fewer patent examiners would be likely to leave their jobs at the USPTO to become patent attorneys.

In a nutshell, the USPTO would not have to worry about recruitment and retention of patent examiners here in Portland, which is the biggest factor for driving a reduction in the backlog of pending patent applications.

If I can be of assistance in answering any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Untitled

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