

Untitled

From: Maureen O'Connor [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2011 2:17 PM
To: SatelliteOffices
Subject: Comments on Additional US Patent and Trademark Satellite Offices

The Honorable David Kappos
Director
United States Patent and Trademark Office
1819 24th Street Northeast
Washington, DC 20002

December 28, 2011

Dear Mr. Kappos,

We strongly urge you to choose Memphis, TN as a regional satellite office for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as you look to select additional sites. Memphis is an important medical research center and home to nationally recognized hospitals, universities and medical device manufacturers.

Memphis is the proud home to a growing pediatric research community. Here at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in partnership with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, we currently have 44 clinical and research fellows, 11 patents and 5 patents pending. St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is also located in Memphis employing approximately 300 research fellows. They have received 14 patents within the last 2 years. With both facilities planning to expand research space in the coming year, Memphis is positioned to grow its highly educated workforce which will increase the number of patent submissions from our region.

There are many other reasons why Memphis will be an ideal location for a patent and trademark office. Medical device manufacturers Smith and Nephew, Medtronic and Wright Medical are located here, all conducting a high level of patent activity. Memphis is also a regional center for education with the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, the University of Memphis, the University of Mississippi and Arkansas State University in close proximity. With the global headquarters for FedEx, railway intermodal facilities and the country's 4 largest inland port, Memphis is considered a leading national and international transportation hub.

Memphis is a city on the move and continues to build on its reputation for medical research and entrepreneurship. We strongly urge you to select Memphis as a location for a regional patent office.

Respectfully,

Meri Armour
President and C.E.O., Le Bonheur Children's Hospital