



Intellectual Property Law Section: State Bar of Texas

January 30, 2012

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Re: Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices
for the Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Mr. Khan,

Texas is an excellent choice for a satellite office for the USPTO and should be on your short list of options. Texas is known for its innovation, technology, educated workforce, and low cost of living.

A large portion of the inventions examined by the USPTO originate from Texas residents. Texas inventors were granted 7,541 utility patents in 2010 – the *second-highest* number of all states in the country. A Texas USPTO location would be a very convenient location for in-person examiner interviews because it is proximal to inventors and their respective attorneys.

Texas is able to provide a pool of skilled people to work as Examiners. We are home to numerous world-class research universities which graduate some of the nation's finest science, computing, and engineering students. Our skilled workforce already sustains numerous large and sophisticated companies. Texas is among the top three states in the number of Fortune 500 corporate headquarters, with more than 10% of the total number of listed corporations within its borders.¹ In addition, many other

¹ See FORTUNE 500, available at <http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2011/states/TX.html>.

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corporations have significant operational, manufacturing, and research oriented activities in Texas. Texas comprises a diverse range of companies covering a variety of technology sectors, including conventional energy, green and alternative energy, refining, chemical, petrochemical, computer, semi-conductor, software, telecommunications, defense, aerospace, nanotechnology, medical, pharmaceuticals, fashion and many other technology sectors.

The state of Texas has many attractive options for USPTO personnel. For example, Texas has a low cost of living and has one of the lowest median home costs across the nation. Also, Texas has no state income tax, which has the practical effect of lowering the cost of living even more. Texas is centrally located in the country, making it an easily reachable destination for people on the East Coast, on the West Coast, and in the Midwest. Many of the destinations within Texas are only a three-hour, non-stop flight from any of the major cities within the United States. Additionally, Texas is home to major airline hubs that offer numerous flight options for both domestic and international visitors.

We sincerely ask that you consider a city in Texas to host a USPTO satellite office because Texas is conveniently reachable and technology-rich, and has many fine places to live and work.

Best regards,



Scott W. Breedlove
Chair Elect

Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of Texas

This comment is written on behalf of the Intellectual Property Section of the State Bar of Texas in response to USPTO request for comments and does not reflect positions held by the State Bar of Texas.