



Your Other Partner

January 20, 2012

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. 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

RE: PTO-C-2011-0066: Nationwide Workforce Program

Dear Mr. Khan:

I am writing to you as the 2011-2012 Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Intellectual Property Law Section. The PBA IP Law Section represents the interests of intellectual property practitioners state-wide. The purpose of this letter is to provide written commentary as requested by the USPTO on November 22, 2011. *See* 76 FR 73601. The PBA IP Law Section fully supports locating a satellite office of the USPTO in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, pursuant to section 23 of the America Invents Act. The PBA IP Law Section leadership has had the opportunity to review many of the materials being sent to you by other interested organizations, including the Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Law Association, and will not duplicate the data cited in that letter here.

However, it is worthy of note that the PBA IP Law Section separately offers a community whereby those interested in IP-related issues can participate and learn about new developments. Through our membership communications and monthly meetings, the PBA IP Law Section links practitioners from around the state who practice in disparate technological space and geographic locations. Indeed, a state-wide organization like the PBA IP Law Section could provide a conduit for a Pittsburgh satellite office to tap into a pool of highly educated and skilled professionals that extends beyond the wealth of what is available in Pittsburgh. As the number of patent applications continues to rise state-wide, the idea of having a satellite office located in Pittsburgh – a city that is roughly equidistant from the USPTO and the satellite office slated for Detroit, Michigan – would provide a convenient and accessible forum to IP professionals. Moreover, the quality of life, as reflected in the cost of living and accessibility to the wealth of activities offered in Pittsburgh and beyond in Pennsylvania, would make Pittsburgh an especially enticing locale for potential examiners.

Very truly yours,

Cecilia R. Dickson
Chair, Pennsylvania Bar Association
Intellectual Property Law Section