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

Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066

January 27, 2012

COMMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF A SATELLITE OFFICE IN BOISE

The University of Idaho College of Law submits these comments in support of locating a USPTO satellite office in Boise, Idaho. The University of Idaho College of Law is contributing to the State of Idaho's growing innovation economy by preparing lawyers to practice Intellectual Property (IP) Law. The College of Law offers a course of study in IP and Technology Law, which includes both an IP survey course and advanced courses in Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, and Internet Law.

The College of Law regularly graduates students with the Juris Doctor (JD) degree who sit for and pass the Patent Bar. They come to law school with undergraduate and, sometimes, graduate degrees in such fields as Electrical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Physics. Many of them are graduates of the University's own well-regarded programs in science and engineering.

The College of Law is engaged with the IP Section of the Idaho State Bar and offers externship opportunities for students interested in the practice of IP Law. These opportunities include ongoing placements in the Offices of Technology Transfer at the University of Idaho,

Boise State University, and Washington State University. These offices handle all patenting and patent licensing activity for their respective institutions.

In addition, over the last few years, several College of Law students have participated in the USPTO's unpaid summer Patent Experience Externship Program (PEEP). One of those students recently accepted a position as a full-time patent examiner in the electrical arts at the USPTO's headquarters in Virginia. University of Idaho College of Law graduates are both qualified and willing to fill positions as patent examiners and related positions with the USPTO that touch upon the PTO's core function as the gatekeeper to our nation's patent system. Our JD graduates could offer the PTO in Boise the combination of technical knowledge and legal expertise necessary to advance the PTO's goal of improving the overall quality of patent examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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