



December 7, 2020

Joe Biden
President-Elect
United States of America
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Kamala Harris
Vice President-Elect
United States of America
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect Harris,

Congratulations on your election to be the next President of the United States. I am writing to reacquaint you with Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) and to recommend that strong intellectual property (IP) law and policy be priorities in your administration.

IPO is an international trade association representing a "big tent" of diverse companies, law firms, service providers and individuals in all industries and fields of technology that own, or are interested in, intellectual property (IP) rights. IPO membership includes over 125 companies and spans over 30 countries. IPO advocates for effective and affordable IP ownership rights and offers a wide array of services, including supporting member interests relating to legislative and international issues; analyzing current IP issues; providing information and educational services; and disseminating information to the public on the importance of IP rights.

IPO members rely heavily on United States IP laws to provide reliable, effective, and efficient protection for their inventions via patents and trade secrets, as well as for their trademarks and copyrights. The intellectual property system is fundamental to the nation's economic growth and job creation. The importance of innovation is clearer than ever at this moment in our nation's history as we face challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic and related economic instability, the climate crisis, and the need to ensure diverse and inclusive representation of viewpoints in making policy.

Against this backdrop, we urge you to give careful attention to selecting a superb candidate to lead the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO). The IPO Board of Directors has prepared the enclosed recommendations concerning the experience and expertise that we expect of qualified candidates. We recognize that any candidate is unlikely to possess every qualification listed. Rather, we intend this document to communicate that the USPTO Director should be a top-caliber individual with strong organizational management and leadership skills and in-depth knowledge of patent and

President
Daniel J. Staudt
Siemens
Vice President
Karen Cochran
Shell Oil Company
Treasurer
Krish Gupta
Dell Technologies

Directors
Eric Aaronson
Pfizer Inc.
Brett Allen
Hewlett Packard Enterprise
Ron Antush
Nokia of America Corp.
Estelle Bakun
Exxon Mobil Corp.
Scott Barker
Micron Technology, Inc.
Thomas Beall
Corning Inc
Brian Bolam
Procter & Gamble Co
Gregory Brown
Ford Global Technologies LLC
Steven Caltrider
Eli Lilly and Co.
John Cheek
Tenneco Inc.
Cara Coburn
Roche, Inc.
Johanna Corbin
AbbVie
Robert DeBerardine
Johnson & Johnson
Buckmaster de Wolf
General Electric Co.
Anthony DiBartolomeo
SAP AG
Bradley Ditty
InterDigital Holdings, Inc.
Daniel Enebo
Cargill, Incorporated
Yen Florczak
3M Innovative Properties Inc.
Louis Foreman
Enventys
Scott M. Frank
AT&T
Darryl P. Frickey
Dow Chemical Co.
Isabella Fu
Microsoft Corp.
Gary C. Ganzi
Evoqua Water
Technologies LLC
Tanuja Garde
Raytheon Co.
Henry Hadad
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.
Bill Harmon
Uber
Heath Heglund
Dolby Laboratories
Thomas R. Kingsbury
Bridgestone Americas
Holding Co.
Laurie Kowalsky
Koninklijke Philips N.V.
William Krovatin
Merck & Co., Inc.
Michael C. Lee
Google Inc.
William Miller
General Mills, Inc
Kelsey Milman
Caterpillar Inc..
Jeffrey Myers
Apple Inc.
Ross Oehler
Johnson Matthey
KaRan Reed
BP America, Inc.
Paik Saber
Medtronic, Inc.
Matthew Sarboraria
Oracle Corp.
Manny Schecter
IBM, Corp.
Jessica Sinnott
DuPont
Thomas Smith
GlaxoSmithKline
John Stewart
Intellectual Ventures
Management, LLC
Gillian Thackray
Thermo Fisher Scientific
Joerg Thomaier
Bayer Intellectual Property GmbH
Mark Wadzyk
Qualcomm, Inc.
Stuart Watt
Amgen, Inc..
Ariana Woods
Capital One
General Counsel
Jeffrey Kachian
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Executive Director
Jessica K. Landacre

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

trademark law and practice. The Director must be able to balance the diverse viewpoints of its user community in making IP policy and should possess the ability and commitment to guide USPTO operations efficiently in the interest of spurring innovation and economic growth. In a 2014 speech at Washington's Creativity Conference, you said America's "true wealth is found in the creative minds of its people." We wholeheartedly agree and hope you keep that sentiment in mind when selecting the next USPTO Director.

Thank you for your attention to this matter that is so important to the nation's welfare. Please let us know what we can do to be of help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Staudt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent horizontal stroke across the middle.

Daniel J. Staudt  
President

Enclosure

**Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of United States Patent & Trademark Office**

**Responsibilities:**

- Advises the President, Secretary of Commerce, and the Administration on intellectual property (IP) matters.
- Administers the laws of granting patents and trademarks and the day-to-day management of the \$3 billion agency with about 10,000 employees.
- Develops and articulates Administration positions on intellectual property issues, both domestic and foreign.
- Promotes strong IP policy globally, including strategies to thwart the theft of U.S. IP around the world, and influences non-U.S. IP policy.
- Implements policies and initiatives to provide innovators with quality, timely, cost effective patent and trademark examinations.
- Advocates publicly for effective IP systems and their importance to innovation and economic development.

**Recommended Background, Qualifications, and Experience:**

**Intellectual Property Expertise**

- The Director should be a practicing IP attorney and must possess a thorough knowledge of patent and trademark law and procedures.
- The Director should have a minimum of 15 years IP/Patent experience, preferably within the USPTO or industry, with at least 5 years' experience in running a large organization requiring significant managerial and fiscal responsibility.
- The Director must understand the business aspects of IP, understand the importance of patents and trademarks in spurring innovation and economic growth, and be able to balance the views of various industry groups and other interested parties.

**Leadership and Management Experience**

- The Director should have strong leadership and management skills including experience in setting and communicating strategic direction, effective decision-making and execution, user/customer focus, and ability to inspire employees of a large organization.
- The Director must be willing to embrace and implement new technological solutions to address problems and improve efficiencies.

**Policy and Advocacy Experience**

- The Director must be capable of effectively taking the international stage in WIPO, EPO, JPO, and in other international agencies, and advocating for U.S. positions on international IP matters.
- The Director must be experienced in setting policy and have proven diplomacy skills. The Director should possess political acumen and have prior experience in working with government agencies in a highly charged political setting.