



December 11, 2024

Donald J. Trump
President-Elect, United States of America
The Mar-a-Lago Club
1100 South Ocean Boulevard
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Dear President-Elect Trump:

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 intellectual property 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 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; supporting and advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in IP and innovation; and disseminating information to the public on the importance of IP rights. IPO's vision is the global acceleration of innovation, creativity, and investment necessary to improve lives.

IPO members rely heavily on U.S. 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 need to maintain international competitiveness and security.

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 from qualified candidates. We recognize that any candidate is unlikely to possess every qualification—we intend the recommendations to communicate that any USPTO Director should be a top-caliber individual with strong organizational management and leadership skills and in-depth knowledge of patent and trademark law and practice. It is crucial that the Director 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.

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,

Krish Gupta (handwritten signature)

Krish Gupta
President

President
Krish Gupta
Dell Technologies

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Christine Lam
NetApp
David Lane
Johnson & Johnson
Hsin Lin
The Goodyear Tire &
Rubber Co.
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GE Aerospace
Ceyda Maisami
HP Inc.
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## **Recommended Qualifications for 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.