

From: Travis Hill (email redacted)
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 1:24 PM
To: WorldClassPatentQuality
Subject: In Person Interviews in the PTO -- Comments on Proposal 6

Dear Colleagues:

I do not agree that hoteling examiners should be required to travel to any PTO campus for an interview.

We live in an ever-increasing digital age, fueled largely by patents granted by the PTO. The technology exists—and is only improving—that facilitates “in-person” interviews over the Internet. Because hoteling examiners can live in any of the 48 states, and because PTO repositories are only located at limited locations, requiring an examiner to travel to said repositories would create an undue burden on the examiners. At their compensation level, the examiners cannot be expected to incur such high amounts of “non-billable travel time,” unlike the requesting attorneys earning double, triple, or more per year.

Thus, I cannot support “Proposal 6.” Instead, as the United States Patent and Trademark Office, I propose embracing technology.

In the alternative, I would propose a hybrid program. Perhaps hoteling examiners could agree to an in-person interview if they choose—but they should also receive appropriate compensation. This would include reasonable travel expenses, but also compensation for their time and inconvenience. Compensation could be in the form of quota credit and/or bonus pay.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best regards,

Travis J. Hill

Patent Counsel

858-707-4171 Direct

Knobbe Martens
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
five decades. one focus.

NOTICE: This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.